

## **DIOCESAN MIGRATION MINISTRY RESOURCES: 2023 Annual Report**

DMMR committee is a diocesan group dedicated to helping area asylees and refugees feel welcomed and supported as our neighbors. We take on efforts to provide supportive and material challenges to address the daily needs of resettled migrants, while pursuing opportunities to interact with local resettlement agencies and migrant organizations, including Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM), Church World Service Lancaster/Harrisburg, Catholic Charities Harrisburg, Jewish Family Services of Greater Harrisburg, International Service Center, Movement of Immigrant Leaders in Pa., and Pa. Immigration and Refugee Women's Network.

During monthly committee meetings, we discussed outlooks on refugee-related issues and ways by which DMMR could help our new neighbors. We had guest speakers inform us about their resettlement activities, often done by staff from Church World Service Harrisburg (CWSH).

Other committee endeavors included;

Advocated in support of Pa. House Bill 769 which will entitle migrants with work visas to obtain a Pa. Driver's License.

Participated in CWSH's '*World Refugee Day*' Street Fair by having an exhibit and becoming an event sponsor.

Partnered with St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral's '*Welcome The Stranger Festival*' to give refugees an outdoor venue to sell their handmade artwork, apparel, and baked goods.

Created DMMR grants for parishes to receive up to \$500 for assisting them to resettlement asylees and refugees into their communities.

Supported EMM's new '*Rainbow Initiative*' program to advocate on behalf of LGBTQ+ forced migrants. All Saint's Episcopal Church in Hershey became a founding Rainbow Initiative Congregation.

DMMR committee meets via Zoom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 1 PM. Observe a DMMR meeting by contacting Gerry Garber at [phillies75@comcast.net](mailto:phillies75@comcast.net) to receive the Zoom link.

ACTIVE MEMBERS in 2023 were David Castonguay, Gerry Garber, Rich Garon, Fred and Rosemary Hartman, Joan Horn, David Martin, The Rev. Dr. Gregory Welin, and Sam Ward.

ADVISORY MEMBERS were Sandra Elion, The Rev. Amanda Knouse, and The Rev. Rebecca Myers.

Report Submitted by Gerry Garber