

Diocesan Migration Ministry Resources Annual Report October 2023 – September 2024

DMMR committee is a diocesan group dedicated to helping area asylees and refugees feel welcomed and supported as our neighbors. We provided funding and material resources to address the daily needs of resettled migrants and pursued opportunities to interact with local resettlement agencies and migrant organizations, such as Episcopal Migration Ministries, Church World Service Lancaster and CWS 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 Zoom meetings (2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM), we discussed refugee-related issues and the ways DMMR could help our newest neighbors. Two guest presenters informed us about resettlement efforts; Pa. Immigrant Resource Center (York) and CWS Harrisburg.

With support from Diocese Communications, we updated (before June 20th 'World Refugee Day') DMMR's webpage with material from Episcopal Migration Ministries. Added to the webpage was '*The Labyrinth Ahead*,' a guide to explain the immigration process from a refugee's perspective. Walk through a labyrinth and read about each step of the process.

We supported the Movement of Immigration Leaders in Pa.'s effort to enact Pa. House Bill 769, which would entitle migrants with work visas to obtain a Pa. Driver's License.

Committee members from All Saints Episcopal Church (Hershey) participated in CWSH's '*Street Fair*' by having an exhibit. St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral held its 3rd '*Welcome The Stranger Festival*', which gave refugee families a venue to sell artwork, apparel, and baked goods.

DMMR grants provided funds to help parishes resettle refugees into their communities; All Saints (Hershey) for furniture for incoming refugee families and separately for English Second Language instruction for twelve women arranged by PAIRWN.

Participated in EMM's '*Rainbow Initiative*' bimonthly Zoom meetings; advocates for LGBTQ+ forced migrants.

ACTIVE MEMBERS in 2024 were Gerry Garber (Chair), Rich Garon, Fred and Rosemary Hartman, Joan Horn, David Martin, The Rev. Dr. Gregory Welin, and Sam Ward. ADVISORS were The Rev. Amanda Knouse, and The Rev. Rebecca Myers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerry Garber