

ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA SPONSORSHIP TEAM
For Eritrean Family Arriving in 2024-25
(as of February 2023)

Presiding Chairperson:

Father William Brennan

- chair meetings of the team.

COMMITTEES

Overall:

- Before arrival of the family, each team member must arrange for a background check by either the Fredericton City Police or RCMP Oromocto (unless you already have a recent check) and provide a copy to Holy Family. No charge if done with a letter from Holy Family. At least one visit to the City police or RCMP will be required (two visits may be required to complete this).
- Take advantage of training opportunities provided by the SAH (Sponsorship Agreement Holder, i.e. Diocese of Saint John) and MCAF (Multicultural Assn. of Fredericton) to prepare for the responsibilities of the team, including awareness of the stresses on newcomers to Canada.
- Identify a core team who will work more intensively with the family on a week-to-week (in some cases a day-to-day) basis, at least through the first year. This may be eased somewhat by the assistance of the brother and sister-in-law of the new family in their settlement.
- At appropriate time plan for Meet and Greet of the family at the airport.
- At appropriate time provide guidance and support re: seeking employment.

Communications Coordinator:

Chris Robbins

- maintain contact information for team members
- liaison with Roman Catholic Bishop of Saint John, SAH representative
- keep all members informed of meetings, training sessions, progress made, new needs identified
- from time to time, inform the parish in written or spoken form of activities and progress of the sponsored family and the settlement team.
- call meetings of Settlement Team

Finance:

Mary Dickinson

Norah Mallory

- Create and maintain a budget, in consultation with the sponsored newcomers
- Introduce newcomers to Canadian currency
- Open bank account(s) for newcomers
- advise on all matters having to do with finances
- Deposit monthly the required funds in the newcomer's account. Newcomers are to manage their own finances.

Documentation:

Chris Robbins

- Under the guidance of the Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH (the diocese), and in consultation with the sponsored newcomers, prepare all documents required by IRCC for application

- On arrival of the newcomers in Canada, work with them on applications for permanent residency cards, Medicare, Social Insurance Number.
- Support the newcomers on any other matters related to documentation.

Furnished Suite and Settlement:

Mawael Gebre

Letezghi Ghebretensai

- Provide furnished home.
- Find new or used furniture (mattresses and pillows must be new) and household items and supplies so that the accommodations are 'move-in' ready on arrival of the newcomers.
- Keep track of items acquired or arranged for and where each is stored until required for household set-up.
- Assist with any needs for household items identified by the newcomers after arrival
- Arrange for phone, cable, internet service
- Teach the public transit system
- Co-ordinating with Finance committee, teach/follow-up with helping newcomers pay their household bills.

Food / Clothing

Mawael Gebre

Letezghi Ghebretensai

- Before the arrival of the newcomers, shop for food staples.
- After arrival, shop with the newcomers for both food and clothing.

Medical:

Maureen Hawthorne

Mawael Gebre

Letezghi Ghebretensa

- Before the newcomers arrive, investigate all possibilities for linking them to a family physician. Failing that, place them on NB Health Link
- On arrival of the newcomers, arrange and accompany them to appointments to assess medical, dental and optical needs; follow-up on any needs identified, including vaccinations
- Respond to illnesses, suggesting over-the-counter remedies where suitable
- Teach the newcomers about Telecare English phone line.
- In more serious illnesses and emergencies, arrange for transportation and accompany the newcomers to appointments or the hospital.

Education:

Brian Crain

Robin Crain

Jo-Anne Linton

- register children in schools in Fredericton
- Arrange as soon as possible for language assessment of the newcomers, through MCAF and later NBCC or UNB.
- Register newcomers for English class at MCAF for English classes.
- Explore with MCAF assessments available to assist in choices of education, training, employment.

Social:

Linda Hubbard

Elaine Hurley-Wilson

Verna McCloskey_

- Introduce newcomers to library programs, free activities, outdoor activities, concerts
- Watch for community events and recreational opportunities, including sports; ask newcomers whether they want to participate in each.
- Arrange transportation and accompaniment to agreed activities.
- Plan get-togethers for newcomers with team members.
- When newcomers are comfortable with the idea, plan a gathering at the church to welcome them.