



Newsletter

May 2024

Bridgeway Mission

Introduction

Bridgeway Mission is a registered charity which supports Refugees and Asylum seekers from the Middle East. It is led by Iraqi Christians, Husband and wife team Souzan Yousif and Raied Ajaj.

The Current situation.

The 100 men who had been the hotel in Langham, Have all been moved. Some to Wethersfield, some to the boat, and others to Heathrow Hotel in London.

The families who were staying at the Markstey hotel have been rehoused in the Colchester area, or sent to other parts of the country where houses are available.

In Colchester, the rented accommodation is provided with basic furniture.

Bridgeway shop in 06 Priory Walk CO11LG, near Sainsburys includes a food pantry which is well used by 200 people each month.

The shop itself badly needs good quality items to sell, but not toys or furniture please and we have an internet hub to help the refugees and asylum seekers check their CVs and improve it and they can print the papers they need for their cases to send them to the home office.

We have a second building for Bridgeway Mission and use it as a hub for Middle East and we do various activities at the Hub 22 Long Wyre Street, CO11LJ.

Some of the men from Wethersfield come over, and socialise, getting to know other visitors. playing games, puzzles, and sometimes, musical entertainment. We also have football table, pool and table tennis.

Children's craft sessions.



A very successful Homework club for schoolchildren happens weekly. University students volunteer and some of the volunteers from different churches to help the children with exam preparation as well as homework.

There are English language Communication classes for adults. More volunteers would be appreciated. We also have help with languages held in other places eg Castle Methodist church.

Thanks to the donation of some sewing machines, the women are able to make their own clothes, but more fabric and sewing machines are needed, if you can please.

Monthly pamper days occur, when the woman can relax, and try beauty products, different hair styles etc.

Cooking classes for children help them to understand each other's cultures. Those classes are taught for the mothers.



Once a month, the refugees are invited to a lunch, cooked by Souzan, at Castle Methodist church. The children seem to have a great time together, talking and playing games. The women chat and make friends with each other and are able to learn about each other's cultures. Men also talk together, and form friendships. Bridgeway would like to form partnerships with as many churches as possible to give help to these people. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY HELP, including household items, but not furniture at the moment, garden tools, lawnmowers, fabrics, monetary gifts. Material goods may be dropped off at the Priory shop, or I could collect items that would fit in my car. 01206 571882. If you would like to help in any of the groups, please contact Souzan. 07787925227.

See the photos of the projects below, including bike shop, , measuring blood pressures for the community, yoga, stitching and knitting, lunch for single men, trips for the refugees social event for refugee families, and food cultural project.



