

ANOTHER MILESTONE REACHED BY LOUTH CHURCHES FOR REFUGEES

Louth Churches For Refugees (LCFR), the organisation set up to provide a local response to the plight of displaced victims of conflict in Syria and Iraq, is now awaiting confirmation of its status as a recognised charity following registration with the Charity Commission.

Commenting on this important development a spokesperson for LCFR said:

‘This provides the essential legal foundation for our organisation to progress its application to the Home Office for approval to host the resettlement in the Louth area of a refugee family under the government’s Community Sponsorship Scheme.’

Over the past 2 years LCFR has successfully launched a series of initiatives, including:

- Collections of cash donations of several thousand pounds to help support victims in refugee camps.
- Direct support of specific projects in Jordan for Syrian refugees.
- Establishing direct contact between primary school children in Louth and refugee children in the Middle East.
- Official Partnership status with a national charity called ForRefugees to gain support and experience for our work.
- Setting up regular collections of clothing and other essential items for onward shipment to Syria itself.
- Contact with other voluntary groups around the country to share and exchange knowledge both through direct dialogue and attendance at conferences and workshops.
- Staging of an exhibition called The Stations in Louth designed to illustrate the many ways in which refugee displacement can impact human lives.

Our latest project is an appeal to the local public to join together in putting together ‘Smiley Bags’ containing gifts for refugee children in Syria and Iraq.. For more details see our leaflet in all churches or the article in October’s edition of The Louth Herald, or visit our Facebook page.

Longer term we intend to gain approval to operate a refugee resettlement programme in Louth under the Community Sponsorship Scheme. This requires us to raise sufficient funds to support a family in the initial period of their settlement together with suitable accommodation and assistance with their integration into all aspects of life in the UK.

This is a huge and worthwhile task, and if you can bring your knowledge and experience, particularly in the areas of fundraising, education, healthcare, and language and interpreting skills then we’d love to hear from you. In the first instance please contact John Troughton by email on johnmtroughton@btinternet.com .

We look forward to welcoming you on an exciting, challenging and rewarding journey!
