

## *Beaver Valley Open Door*

Refugee Sponsorship Group  
Box 593  
Thornbury, ON. N0H 2P0

RECEIVED

JAN 26 2010

Mayor Ellen Anderson, and  
Members of Council  
Town of the Blue Mountains

Dear Mayor and Council,

In June of 2009 a group of Thornbury and Blue Mountain residents met to explore the possibility of sponsoring a refugee family. Building on the work of the community residents of the 1960's who sponsored Vietnamese refugee families, some of whose family members are still active members of the Thornbury community, we wanted to make our Town a special place for families whose lives have been far from special.

Realizing that we needed to affiliate with an existing "sponsorship agency", we chose to link with the Huron Diocese of the Anglican Church of Canada to have them be the "legal" link with Immigration Canada. The expectation from Immigration Canada is that we will support the family we receive for one (1 ) year and the family will be selected from pre-approved high need refugees from a UN refugee camp.

We then structured a working committee to handle housing, health needs, education, family support and finances. A bank account was opened at the Thornbury TD Branch and the five Thornbury churches have agreed to provide tax receipts for donations to this as a "local mission project" until we can become a recognized charity. Amanda Burke, has offered to rent her deceased mothers home at 108 Bruce St to the Committee, at cost of operations, for up to three (3) years for refugee families. The local Rotary Club has become involved with financial support as have the local churches through donations and BVO through clothing and household items and membership on the Committee.. To date the BV Open Door has raised about \$15,000.00 of the expected \$30,000.00 cost to support the family for the year.

The Rotary Club has been challenged to contribute \$3000.00 to the Open Door to provide food for the family for three (3) months (we are to receive the Kemu family, father mother and four (4) children from the Democratic Republic of the Congo ) "by the end of January 2010". We would challenge the Town to match the Rotary donation to provide three months of food for this special family.

Thank you so much for hearing and responding to this challenge.

Sharon Chapman

Sharon Chapman  
Chair, BVOD