

Youth inspired to help others? set to hold bake sale

Shelburne area youth inspired by local refugee sponsors helping others will hold a bake sale to fuel support for the Syrian family that arrived in Shelburne from a refugee camp last week.

The first of two sales, featuring homemade treats, will be held this coming Saturday, March 5 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at Trinity United Church in Shelburne.

The event is brought to you by the First Line for Syria's Youth Committee with help from members of the Trinity United Church.

The group, made up of youth ranging in age from 8 to 21, emerged from a meeting held at Trinity in December.

The youth group is led with enthusiasm by Ciara and Billie Davis, sisters aged 21 and 19, from Mono Township. With the assistance of First Line for Syria representatives, the group began to develop plans to fundraise and help welcome new Canadian families to the area.

'Fundraising is done by the youth for the youth,' says Ciara. 'Our mission is to help and comfort young refugees coming to Canada. The money raised will go towards guiding and doing activities to socialize and familiarize the children into Canadian culture. We want to bring a sense of 'home' to those who have been forced to leave their homes due to war. Most of the refugees are children and they deserve a better life than what they have experienced.'

The Huseyin Alos family, including seventeen-year old Helin, arrived from a refugee camp in Turkey last week.

Helin is reportedly 'very keen and has proven to be a quick learner.'

'She is excited about attending school at ODSS soon, and has enjoyed learning some songs on the piano, which some members of the youth group have been teaching her,' says the sponsorship group.

The Dufferin young people presented the family with a warm welcome basket packed with everyday essentials.

The nine members of the youth group, 'all eager to be involved both globally and locally,' hope that the community will support their efforts to welcome the family to Shelburne.

If you have any questions about the First Line for Syria Youth Support Group or would like to get involved, contact First Line for Syria on Facebook. The group invites everyone to come and enjoy a treat while supporting local youth inspired to help others this Saturday, March 5 at the Trinity United Church in Shelburne and March 19 at the Shelburne Public Library, both between 12 noon and 3 p.m.

By Marni Walsh