

January 9, 2024

## Our Journey Together



When the Welcome Circle first began convening in May 2023, we only knew that we wanted to help Ukrainian families in harm's way. As we continued meeting, completing cultural awareness training, and meeting some more, there was a steep learning curve. Even before we ever connected with a family, we were tasked with figuring out many small details such as where they could initially find affordable healthcare and what options for schooling would be available for the family.

We are sure you all felt the same impatience of waiting, waiting, and waiting more..... to match with a family, waiting for them to arrive, and waiting to do what was needed next.

While we waited, you all joined together with the Welcome Circle Core Team and donated, household goods, furniture, appliances, food, beds, sheets, and personal needs. How can we possibly count all those blessings! Then there came the transformation of the house into a home for the family. It was amazing!!

In late September we finally we connected with a family. But by late November we learned the family wasn't coming. So a new search began immediately.

We were reminded in our December 2-3 message to the parishes of the recurring message in the Bible is that reminds us .....God's timing does not necessarily match ours.

By Christmas, our preparedness and God's timing matched! We had connected with the Bryiovskiy family who arrived December 10<sup>th</sup>. After interviewing them and their sponsor, we moved quickly to get them settled into the house. An added blessing is that we were working along with their sponsor Roman, who has sponsored 12 other Ukrainian families! He is a Deacon at Slavic Full Gospel Church. His skills and our Welcome Circle skills proved to be complementary allowing us to move forward quickly. We gave the Bryiovskiy family the keys 12-30-23!



At the house December 26<sup>th</sup>

Left to right: Vitalii, Daniel (8), Artur (6)  
Suisanna (3), Nadiia, their sponsor Roman

Vitalii has a brother who came 1 year ago with his family through the same program. They have been extremely helpful with navigating the benefit systems.

Since then, a lot has happened. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, Artur and Daniel start school at Ridgebrook Elementary (1 block from the house). All family members have healthcare coverage. They have social security numbers and have applied for long term work permits. The job search is underway. They begin English classes this week.

We continue to give the family a "hand up and not a hand out" and will continue to need your support so watch the bulletins and websites for specifics.