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Adopt-A-Refugee-Family Program Offers Hope

Often overlooked in media coverage of the Iraq War is the plight of the nation's indigenous population – Christians and other religious minorities. Facing religious persecution, kidnappings and murder, hundreds of thousands have been forced from their homeland into neighboring countries. There they live a squalid existence, unable to work legally and send their children to school. Some mothers have turned to prostitution in a desperate attempt to keep their children fed.

Thanks to the Chaldean Federation of America (CFA), an increasing number of families have hope. The CFA's Adopt-A-Refugee-Family Program, launched in September 2007, allows concerned Americans to directly help Iraqi refugees. Thanks to an anonymous benefactor who pays all administrative costs, the CFA guarantees that **100 percent of donations** go directly to the family.

In less than six months, the program has "adopted" 1000 refugees. The CFA hopes to adopt 5,000 refugees by the end of 2008.

Anyone can adopt a refugee family – a first-grade class, a family, a church group, a bowling league. The donors are encouraged to keep in touch with their family by postcards and letters. Donors can see the progress that the family makes as they adapt to their new lives.

Life has changed for all Iraqis but is particularly heartbreaking for the refugees. These once proud and self-sufficient doctors, lawyers, teachers and business owners no longer have a country to call home. Many fled Iraq with only the clothes on their backs and now languish in Jordan and Syria where they cannot work, attend school or receive medical care. The eventual goal is to resettle in another country, a process that takes years.

Thanks to the CFA, these families have hope. It only takes one big heart to spread the love and generosity that keeps them moving towards the future.



For more information, please visit www.adoptarefugeefamily.org.