

At the end of March 2023, we were contacted by Lutheran Social Services for an emergency request for certain types of supplies that were needed immediately.

Our refugee committee discussed it and decided to put out a request to the parishioners at St. Mary of the Lake for cleaning kit donations for the approximately 80 new refugee families that were expected to arrive soon. We asked for complete packages of cleaning supplies including the following: scrub mops, brooms, dustpans, toilet plungers, toilet bowl brushes, cleaning cloths, sponges, scrub brushes, laundry soap, dish soap, household cleaners, scrub buckets, laundry baskets and dish towels. These cleaning kits were organized then in a bucket or clothes basket.

The next weekend our refugee working group gathered to collect the donated items before and after all Masses.

The response by the parishioners of St. Mary's was beyond what we expected. We had 4-5 large SUVs on hand originally, but we needed to continually unload them as we received so many supplies. Most of our families purchased all the items on the list.

We estimate about 100 complete cleaning kits were donated. We intended to count all the items, but it proved to be an overwhelming task, so we counted a few specific items. The following are the results:

Scrub mops--80
Brooms and Dustpans--93 each
Laundry soap--97 large containers
Dish Soap--99 Containers
Laundry Baskets--63
Scrub Buckets--75
Household Cleaners (Lysol)--76

Sponges, Scotch Brites, Brushes, Dish Towels, Cleaning Cloths, Fabric Softener etc were too numerous to count.

We stored them in one of the refugee mentor's garages for a week, rented a U Haul truck, and then delivered all the supplies to a storage unit owned by Lutheran Social Services on April 7.

This was a very positive experience for our committee and church community. As usual, our parish once again rose to the occasion and supported this mission. Thank you for your generosity!

Some pictures from different points in this effort are shown on the following pages.





