

Myanmar Refugees

These are not refugees from the cyclone. They and/or their parents are probably political refugees. They have been in refugee camps in Thailand for from 2 to 20 years. Some of the youngest of them may even have been born in the refugee camp.

Please See this link at YouTube to see the conditions they have been living in. They are a very happy and grateful people, but are not used to having very much:

4 minute video: Football in Tham hin refugee camp in Thailand

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1Z4ud2la3k>

Need churches to speak to their congregations on Sunday about adopting an apartment of these refugees. They are arriving with only the clothing on their backs and a small bag, nothing else. They are terribly frightened and feel very much alone. Some of them are Hindu and some are Christian.

What they need:

First and foremost, they need friendship and help acclimating to the US. Secondly, they need “stuff” – clothing, shoes, kitchen items, linens, tv’s, etc., etc.

There are several families already in apartments which have been set up, but they still need a few things, such as dining room tables and personal & toiletry items. They need donated sofas, chairs and dining tables.

There are enough dining chairs for them, already, but they need tables for each apartment.

Additionally, they need gift cards for food and for clothing. All of them still especially need friends and mentors, too, however.

In addition to these coming from Myanmar, there are also others coming from other parts of the world, such as Rwanda or Cuba.

Right now, there are enough beds, but not bed frames for doubles, twins and queen. They have only one employee who is able to pick up donated items and he could use a LOT of help (manpower) I this endeavor. His own wife is due to have a baby any day now and so he may soon be out for a while.

Apartment Furnishings

I. Bedrooms – Double and twin beds and bed frames

Two sets of sheets, one blanket and bedspread for each bed (twins & double bed sizes).

One pillow and two pillowcases for each person.

Alarm Clock (total of 3 per apartment)

Lamps (at least 3)

Set of drawers, shelves or other unit appropriate for clothing storage (cloth, five shelf hanging module acceptable).

II. Living Room

Couch or equivalent seating (in addition to kitchen chairs)

Lamp (floor lamps are good)

End tables

III. Kitchen Items

Kitchen Table & Chairs (one chair per person) (6-8 people)

One place setting of tableware (fork, knife, spoon, teaspoon) per person(6 people)

One place setting of dishes (plate, bowl, glass and cup) per person (6 people)

Pots and pans: sauce pan, frying pan, and baking dish (at least 2 of each.

Large cooking pot

Rice cooker

Mixing / Serving Bowls

Set of kitchen utensils (spatula, wooden spoon, knife, serving utensils, etc.)

Wall clock, Can opener, Napkins, paper towels, Kitchen towels

Food or grocery store gift cards to assist until receipt of food stamps or family is able to provide food for themselves. (6 people)

- IV. Linens and other household items
 - Two towels per person, facecloths, hand towels (6 people)
 - Scissors, Paper, pens and/or pencils,
 - Light bulbs
- V. Cleaning Supplies
 - Dish soap
 - Bathroom/kitchen cleanser
 - Sponges or cleaning rags and/or paper towels
 - Laundry detergent (6 people)
 - 5 waste baskets Wet mop and broom
 - Trash bags
- VI. Toiletries
 - Toilet paper (6 people)
 - Personal hygiene items, as appropriate for each apartment (razors, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, combs, hairbrushes((6 people)
- VIII. Other
 - TVs
 - Coffee Table
 - Microwave oven
 - Telephone
 - Radio / batteries
 - Baby items (if needed)

The Burmese refugees are in the Central Avenue area, near East Crest Drive and another group is in the Albemarle Road area, near Farm Pond and Winterhaven Roads. They have been in refugee camps in Thailand and are very happy to be here, but very afraid. We have more arriving this week and more next week. They need friends and mentors ad much or even more than the material items.

Their native language is KAREN (pronounced Kah-RYN')

Most of them speak a bit of English.

Our contact at the Refugee Settlement Office is Linda Campbell. She is the one who is making the request of Love INC. Love INC will coordinate the services and let the Settlement Office know.