

The Mohamed and Aisha Marri family  
(our Syrian Refugees friends)  
An update of recent developments by Stan Culy

1. Aisha, the mother, got a part-time job as janitor of the mosque and Mohamed got a part-time job at a new middle eastern grocery store across from the mosque.
2. Mohamed is taking driving lessons from an Arabic speaking professor at Eastern Connecticut State University.
3. Both Mohamed and Aisha have been accepted in the UConn. Hospital refugee program with their primary care physician, Dr. Susan Levine.
4. Mahmoud, the sixth grade boy, is now playing basketball after school and took a video of the kids practicing. He also goes regularly with some boys at the mosque to New Haven overnight where they play basketball and study Arabic.
5. I also taught Mohamed how to catch the bus from his new apartment and make a transfer downtown to a bus which goes to his Adult Education class.
6. The health inspector said that their new house was well protected from lead paint except for two of the closets. So Jackie Abbott from the North Manchester United Methodist Church got paint, brushes and a roller brush to take care of that. Mohamed discovered that he did a nice job with the roller and not only painted the two closets but three doors as well! Stan and Jackie helped; and Aisha got on the ladder to do the second coat on the ceilings!
7. Jackie Abbott also sponsored two events with Mohamed and Aisha at her church. First, she brought their whole family to the Christmas pageant in December and asked Aisha to furnish the refreshments for the coffee hour with her home-made Middle Eastern Food.

Secondly, last Sunday, Jackie brought Mohamed and Aisha to a program on Immigration where she gave a talk and then asked the couple to answer a few questions. After the program was over and people went back for coffee, Mohamed asked if he could do his evening prayers in the side aisle of the church and quietly did his kneeling and bowing. I wished I could have taken a picture of that but never even thought of it at the time.