

Leamington Syrian Refugee Welcome Dinner May 26, 2016

The South Essex Community Council Leamington Syrian Refugee Committee hosted a welcome event for Syrian refugees who have recently settled in Leamington. The event was held at Faith Mennonite Church and was attended by private sponsored refugees and their sponsors who prepared a potluck meal for all to enjoy. WE LIP Council members, Windsor Islamic Association and the Syrian Canadian Council representatives, travelled to Leamington to support the event and personally welcome the families.

Sponsors shared stories of how the refugee families have introduced them to traditional Syrian foods and together they have been able to find establishments in Leamington where ingredients can be purchased. The families and sponsors have enjoyed spending time together and learning from each other.

In addition to enjoying a good meal together, the potluck event provided opportunities for some of the Syrian families to meet for the first time and make plans to connect again soon.



Ramadan Cultural Awareness Session

June 2, 2016

WE LIP members, South Essex Community Council and the Windsor Islamic Association, partnered to deliver the informative session about Ramadan in order to provide Private sponsors and community members with more insight into the lives and beliefs of the newly arrived Syrian families.

The event was held at the South Essex Community Council and attendees included representatives from:

- Faith Mennonite Church
- Leamington Area Ecumenical Refugee Committee
- Uni-Fab
- Municipality of Leamington Council
- The Pilgrim Church

Lina Chaker, the presenter, discussed Ramadan and its purpose in the Islamic faith. The presentation touched on the key points of spirituality, self-discipline, charity, unity and devotion.

Self-Discipline

Physical & Psychological Abstinence

Ways to break your fast:

- Food, drink, intimacy
- Being rude and impolite
- Obscene language
- Gossiping
- Lying or cheating
- Arguing and fighting

Prophet's (pbuh) statement, "God has no need for the hunger and the thirst of the person who does not restrain himself from telling lies and acting on them even while observing the fast."

You are excused from fasting if you are:

- o Sick
- o Travel (sometimes)
- o Pregnant
- o Menstruating
- o Breastfeeding (sometimes)
- o Mentally or physically ill
- o Pre-pubescent (Kids)

In most cases, you make up the days before the next Ramadan. If not, you feed a needy person a full meal for every day missed

Charity


- Zakat: obligatory charity (1 of the 5 pillars)
- Sadaqah: optional, additional charity

Most people pay their zakat during Ramadan because the reward of all good deeds are amplified.

It is also obligatory for every Muslim to pay an amount of zakat-al-fitr: a special charity that is dedicated towards making sure everyone can enjoy Eid.

great reward for feeding others = dinner parties

Unity



The breaking of the fast meal (iftar) is often served at the mosque cooked together by volunteers, or done pot-luck style

In Windsor, the 3 main mosques have arranged so that that they each hold their weekly iftars on different days.

