



Success!!

"Iqra". Read.

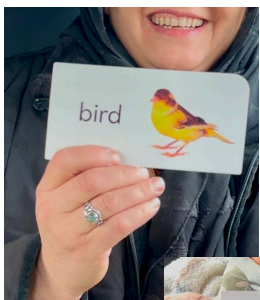
It's the first commandment in the Holy Quran, a sacred text which stresses the importance of reading and studying.

It's a commandment prescribed to all Muslims. *To seek knowledge is a sacred duty, it is obligatory for every Muslim, male and female.*

"Read, in the name of your Lord who created all that exists." (Surah Al'Alaq 96:1).

The Taliban claim to be devout, conservative Muslims.

How then have they denied women and girls the opportunity to be educated, to learn how to read and study?



At the **Refugee Support Network**, we are changing that.

We are making sure our Afghan women, who have been denied education in their homeland, have an opportunity to learn.

We are

- providing transportation to English classes at Broadview. <https://adult.mccsc.edu/>
- teaching them to write their names and the names of their family members.
- teaching them using Picture Word cards and pocket-sized notebooks they can carry with them everywhere they go.

For the first time in their lives, they are reading and writing.

They have much to learn and we will be there every step of the way!

Self-sufficiency is the goal.

We want our new friends from Afghanistan, Syria, China, Mexico, Venezuela and many other nations, to feel confident and comfortable in our community.

We want them to be healthy, happy and thriving.

We believe we are richer for their presence among us and we hope to be part of helping them rebuild new lives.

A Word from Pete Lenzen

Executive Director; RSN

There is no greater happiness than spending my days helping our clients!

The journeys they have undertaken to get to Bloomington are unimaginable to us, the stories are unique to each person.

Many have fled violence in their home countries. Some have come with a dream to create better lives for their children. They seek religious freedom, personal freedoms, educational opportunities, they are eager to work, to pay tax and to become contributing members to our community.

- We drive them to food pantries, medical appointments, USCIS interviews.
- We make sure the utilities in their apartments are working.
- We make sure the children are enrolled in schools, the homes have internet service, and, when necessary, we help with payments as our funds allow.

Some families are self-sufficient in a relatively short amount of time. For others with less experience speaking English, it requires more time. We try to be there for everyone in whatever ways are needed.

We are an all-volunteer organization, a 501(c)(3), which was founded in 2016 by Diane Legomsky. Currently, our board of directors includes seven people deeply committed to this cause.

We invite you to join us in this heart-opening, mind-expanding work!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED!