Be Welcoming Through Love

The plight of refugees is well documented throughout history, including in scripture. Virginia Baptists are making strides to meet needs right in their own backyard. War, poverty, crime, genocide, religious persecution, and other atrocities cause people to flee their homelands in search of safety and freedom. This is a fact of life for so many people, and yet it is a very distant concept for most people in the United States to grasp. Virginia Baptists have an important role to play—both internationally and locally.

Together, the BGAV and WMUV are working with a variety of partners (World Relief, national WMU, International Rescue Committee, ReEstablish Richmond, and others) in developing strategies to meet the needs of the immigrant population. A Department of Justice program to provide low-cost legal services to refugees and legal immigrants is in development, and this will provide a wonderful opportunity for congregations to reach the growing immigrant community in Virginia.

So far, two training events have been held, and three individuals have taken further steps to receive the necessary accreditation to serve in the capacity of legal service assistants. A simulation opportunity is available to help churches and individuals gain a better understanding of refugees’ circumstances and to show them how they can work directly with refugee communities.

ESL classes, children’s Bible clubs, and direct services for families are only some of the ways that church members and congregations can Be Love to refugees in their communities. Pray for these communities—that they might find peace and security and that Christ will come into their lives.

Since 1976, the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions has been a joint venture of the BGAV and Woman’s Missionary Union of Virginia (WMUV). The offering provides funding for all Woman’s Missionary Union of Virginia (WMUV) missions and ministries and makes possible other special ministries, outreach projects, and initiatives not funded through regular streams of giving.

When you give to the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions you are working with other Virginia Baptists to Be Love as they share the love of Christ.

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September 17-23, 2018  Goal $1,167,500

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