

WCARRP report for QM at Westtown 10/29/23

After six months of planning, preparing a detailed Welcome Plan, and submitting our application to the U.S. State Department's Welcome Corps program, the West Chester Area Refugee Resettlement Project is pleased to report that we were certified as a Private Sponsor Group on September 28, 2023. We were matched with two Colombian refugees, a married couple, aged 29 and 23, on October 5, and on October 20 received notice that they will arrive on November 7. The couple speak, read, and write Spanish; they have no English language skills.

We've raised about half the money we estimate will be needed to ensure our couple will be supported until they are able to support themselves. The actual amount will primarily depend on how quickly our newcomers can get jobs. Team members have been working on securing and furnishing initial housing, gathering clothing, and planning initial meals and stocking the pantry. After arrival we will be assisting our newcomers in obtaining Social Security numbers and Employment Authorization, finding employment, connecting with government and local resources (e.g., for food, medical care, ESL classes), and becoming familiar with American culture and our community.

Susan Brodesser, coordinator - WCARRP