

*Jesus said to us, "For I was hungry and you gave me food; for I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."  
—Matthew 25:35 & 40*

## WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP

The global refugee crisis continues. According to the United Nations, there are 26 million refugees today, people who have had to flee their homes to save their lives, and who cannot return to the country of their birth. In response to the refugee crisis, the Regina ELCC congregations joined forces in 2018 to form the Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee. Our agreement is to work together to share the financial costs and the work of refugee sponsorships, as we are able, and to bring as many refugees to Canada as we possibly can. We work through Canadian Lutheran World Relief. We do this in Jesus' name.

Since 2018, our group has brought one family to Regina and supported them for 12 months.

We have raised funds and collected household goods for a second family, although the novel coronavirus pandemic has delayed their arrival.

In January 2021 we chose a third family for sponsorship. We agreed that we ought to give priority to refugees living in dangerous and desperate circumstances, where they are at immediate risk of violence. We chose Fardous Ginawi and the ten young people who live with her because they are in danger, living in poverty, without health care and schooling, and subject to violent attacks.

This is an act of faith.

## THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE REGINA LUTHERAN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

Bread of Life Lutheran Church  
Christ Lutheran Church  
New Hope Lutheran Church  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (Lumsden)  
Trinity Lutheran Church

Photos provided by Esther Eham Ginawi

### PLEASE DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS TO

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# REGINA LUTHERAN REFUGEE COMMITTEE



HELP US SPONSOR  
**FARDOUS  
ABDALLA RABO  
GINAWI** & HER FAMILY

*If you have faith as small as a grain of mustard seed, nothing will be impossible for you.*

—Matthew 17:20

## ABOUT FARDOUS

Fardous was born in 1985 in Juba, the capital of South Sudan. In 2002, with the second civil war raging, Fardous' grandparents were killed, and the women and children of her family fled to Egypt, where they registered with the UNHCR as refugees. Fardous married another Sudanese refugee in 2003. In 2007 her sister Esther Eham Ginawi and her mother and two brothers came to Regina as government-sponsored refugees.

Fardous and her family returned to Juba in 2007 when the fighting died down. Fardous had four children and was expecting a fifth child when civil war broke out again in July 2016. Fardous saw her father killed, and her husband disappeared the same day. Her sister Remana and her husband also disappeared. Fardous was beaten, raped, and jailed for three days. When she was released, she gathered her children and made her way across the border to Uganda. They entered the Rhino Refugee Camp near Kampala, where they found Remana's five children.

Fardous and the ten children lived in the camp until October 2019, when soldiers arrived in the camp looking for escapees who were loyal to the rebels. Fardous was terrified. She took all ten children and left the camp. They spent a difficult two months in Kampala, where Fardous and her two oldest nieces were again abducted, raped, and released. Fardous's family in Regina has been sending her a small amount of money for food, and to rent a room in a better neighborhood in Kampala. It is never enough. The family has no health care, and the children do not attend school.

The situation remains dangerous and desperate.



Fardous (back row, far right) and her sons Jeofrey, Julaf, and Jovan, her daughters Jessica and Marlin, her nephew Niyazi, and her nieces Nazik, Nansi, Nahid, and Nossia.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP FARDOUS AND HER FAMILY

Sponsoring refugees is an act of faith. This will be our most expensive sponsorship yet, because the group is so large. All 11 people will be interviewed together. They will travel to Regina together but, when they arrive, the government will require that we prepare two apartments for them. The young people with Fardous are ages 4 to 22, and only three of them are over 18. Canadian Lutheran World Relief estimates that the minimum cost for this 12-month sponsorship will be at least \$70,000. Donations of money will be very important. All individual donations are tax deductible.

You can give more than money. Donations of beds, household furnishings, and pantry items will also be needed. And volunteers are needed to form a Settlement Committee to help Fardous and her family adjust to life in Canada. We will need more volunteers than usual to form a Settlement Committee for Fardous and her family.

## HOW TO DONATE

There are several ways you can donate to help Fardous and the children come to Canada.

Include "Refugee support: Fardous" on your cheque's memo line, or in e-Transfer the message box (with your name and address) so that you will receive a tax receipt.

**CHEQUE:** Send the cheque to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 3510 Queen Street, Regina, SK S4S 2G2.

**INTERAC E-TRANSFER:** Send the e-Transfer to [stmarksdonations@myaccess.ca](mailto:stmarksdonations@myaccess.ca).

**CONGREGATION:** If you are associated with any church of the Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee, you can make your donation by cheque or Interac e-Transfer to your congregation. These congregations are listed on the back of this brochure.

Please help as you are able. Thank you! God bless you.