



Dear Friends

Many of you are aware of the wonderful service project of which we were a part last year. Working with Operation Ezra we were involved in a farming project to grow food with and for the Yazidi refugee community in Winnipeg. It was a great success and plans are underway for another farming project this year. Indeed, with the proceeds from farmer's markets, including two at the church, the intention is to increase the amount of food grown last year.

However, we recently received a letter from Operation Ezra (the multi-faith organization created to assist Yazidi refugees in Winnipeg) to say that the public health crisis has created a food shortage within the Yazidi community. They have issued a plea to their partners for help. In part it reads:

Our goal is to raise \$3,000-\$4,000 approx. to allow us to buy food staples like flour, sugar, rice, oil and meat and have these basic foods delivered to their homes over the next 4 weeks.

The Mission and Social Action Committee of Charleswood United Church has responded with a donation this week of \$750 from committee funds. In addition, CREST, our inter-church refugee sponsorship program, is donating \$500 from funds that won't be required because the pandemic has put new refugee sponsorship on hold.

We are inviting members of the congregation to make individual donations for this cause. If you so choose you can send a gift to the church by mailed cheque or e-transfer. We will collect what is received and forward it to Operation Ezra.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to reach out in this difficult time for all.

Grace and peace,
Michael

P.S. Information on ways of giving to the church during this crisis is available on our website:
<https://charleswoodunited.org/donate/>