

The Rev. Hailey McKeefry Delmas
St. Stephens Episcopal Church
Aurora, CO

08/21/26

Dear High Plains Region,

I am writing to thank you again for the generous support of the work that Saint Stephens is doing to support our neighbors who are seeking asylum in this country. We used the funds help them move to a safer and more appropriate housing situation. We continue to walk with them by partnering with a number of organizations and parishes nearby, including St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in Lakewood; Angelica's Village in Lakewood; and St. Lawrence Episcopal Church in Conifer.

Our families are moving toward more self sufficiency—although current political realities have made that challenging. Last month, they were able to participate in paying rent (about 40 percent of the total). The move to new apartments cut costs from \$3,600 to \$2,500 total. All have found paying work—although not full time. Our two youths are on track to have youth visas and the older of the two has successfully gotten a work permit and social security number. In addition, they have made strides in terms of navigating life and gaining skills in living independently. It's a huge step toward independence and safety for her. On a more somber note, several of the folks we walk with have been deported back to their home countries.

At this time, we are not taking on additional folks since ongoing fundraising is time consuming and not guaranteed. However, we will continue to walk with our current families as they gain independence and build a life here.

Faithfully,
Hailey McKeefry Delmas