

JFS of Metrowest 2012 Annual Report

NEW AMERICAN SERVICES

Supporting People In Need

In his native Iraq, SAM* worked as an engineer. That all changed in 2005, when SAM was kidnapped by extremists, who believed him to be working for the “blasphemers,” the nickname they gave to the United Nations. After a miraculous release, SAM made the heart-wrenching decision to leave his beloved country and seek a safe haven in the States for himself and his family.

With a heavy heart and dashed dreams, SAM emigrated across the world and landed in Metrowest. It was a serendipitous placement for SAM, who shortly after arrival was paired with JFS to provide him with services and resources specially designed to help make the transition to life in America feel more like a new and exciting adventure and less like a sad divorce from his homeland.

“From the moment I walked into JFS of Metrowest, I found myself among friends,” says SAM. “The staff at JFS quickly became my first point of contact when I needed people to talk to. They were more than just my settling agency; they were my sounding board, listening carefully to my concerns, about employment, about school transportation for my two children. Whatever was on my mind, JFS listened.”

JFS prioritized and strategized with SAM to ensure the steps he took to establish himself in America would lead to success. Each step was neatly designed to meet not only his needs, but those of his family. For instance, when the summer heat proved unbearable, JFS hunted down an AC unit to keep the family comfortable in their new home.

“JFS revived my family,” says SAM. “They helped pave every step I crossed, so as not to fall. And in those times I did fall, I saw tens of hands picking me up and showing me the way again. Everyone at JFS—staff, volunteers, supporters, they all played a vital role in making my family feel welcomed and meeting our immediate and long-term needs.”

Today, SAM holds a consultancy job in computer engineering and management and is pursuing his second Master’s degree in Business Administration. He remains closely connected with JFS, now involved in giving to the organization he not long ago received from. JFS, says SAM, is like family.



“I’ve developed a different acronym for JFS using words from my language. ‘J’ stands for ‘Jamal’ (beauty), ‘F’ stands for ‘Fawq’ (above) and ‘S’ stands for ‘Samaa’ (sky). In my heart, JFS is truly ‘Beauty Above the Sky.’ I owe so much to JFS of Metrowest, I couldn’t have obtained my accomplishments without them.”