

# The Ketteler Legacy

## *Opening Our Heart*

Not too long ago, a picture of some children in a refugee camp playing ball with a stick and a stone, appeared in one of the papers. Not far away was a woman with a smaller child watching the children play. It was the woman's eyes that held my attention. You could see the loving care tinged with sadness and desperation in the woman's eyes and on her face. You could almost read the questions in her mind. "Why did these children need to play a game with potential objects that were dangerous? Why couldn't they have a real ball and bat? When would life return to normal? When would they have a home? When would they be safe?"

As the community investigates and prepares to help a refugee family it is important that we are open and willing to help. Some questions that we need to ask ourselves are:

Am I willing to accept a family that may not be Christian?

What can I do as a community member to help?

Am I willing to help teach English to the parents?

Will I be gracious and welcoming to these strangers?

Will I be accepting of cultural differences and customs?

It is important that we as a community remember that at one time each of our families and our community were immigrants welcomed to a new country and a new way of life. Let us remember also that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were once refugees in the land of Egypt.

Submitted by  
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*"It is necessary to respond to the globalization of migration with the globalization of charity and cooperation, in such a way as to make the conditions for migrants more humane."* Pope Francis

*"I know what it's like when you are a refugee,  
living on the mercy of others and having to adjust."*

Martti Ahtisaari