

**From:** Sheri Baron <sbaron26@verizon.net>  
mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@town.arlington.ma.us, sdecourcey@town.arlington.ma.us,  
**To:** ddunn@town.arlington.ma.us, jhurd@town.arlington.ma.us, dmahon@town.arlington.ma.us,  
achapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us  
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Hello all,

I was planning on attending the meeting tonight but have decided to stay home. Tom has recently been hospitalized (is home now) and I try to be home in the evenings as much as possible.

I hope that you will grant the one-day license for our Dance With Dignity on Saturday, March 14, from 7pm - 10:30 PM. At of now, we are planning to go ahead with the dance, but are very mindful of the virus and will act according to public health recommendations.

Until three months ago, I did not know that were immigrant families and individuals needing housing and other help in our community. These folks have fled horrific circumstances; daughters being raped, sons lured into gangs, families unable to find economic support and other devastating situations. Then I became connected to ArCS (Arlington Cambridge Somerville Cluster of the Refugee Immigration Ministry,) and met new friends to begin to plan the dance, a fundraiser to help these families start a new life here in Arlington.

**Our immigrant friends need housing, food, clothing, transportation, vocational training, and legal assistance in order to stay on the path to citizenship.**

Did you know that when immigrants come here, they cannot work for six months?? So basically, they are expected to live without earning a living. Can you imagine being in that situation?!

We hope to raise \$25,000 through this fundraiser. I ask you all to dig in and help us in any way you can. I know you are asked to give money all the time. We get lots of mailings every month at our house. We make choices. I think that this cause deserves our response. People have run from terrifying lives in their home countries - they want to live here with us.

Thanks to all of you. I hope you will drop in on Saturday night. The band is fantastic and the program will be fascinating. And good food. Thank you all very much.

Best,

Sheri

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