

Container Arrives in Syria

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For Achraf and other Syrian refugees who have settled in the U.S., the joy felt in finally getting their families to safety is tempered by the memories of all those left behind. But it is through these relationships that the Salvatorian Mission Warehouse (SMW), located in New Holstein, Wisc. is able to get relief goods into Syria when very few organizations are successful.

The warehouse sends donated relief goods to missions around the world. The ministry, started by Br. Regis Fust SDS in 1963 continues today under the direction of Lay Salvatorians, Dave and Heather Holton SDS, and with the support of the Salvatorian Family. On average, one 40 foot shipping container is sent per week from the facility. The first attempt at sending a container to



Success! Shipment to Syria arrived safely.

Syria came in 2016 but was hindered by the receiving group's lack of funds. Although the goods were ultimately distributed, the receiving group chose not to try for another container. In 2018, Dave and Heather were connected with Achraf through a local Refugee Support Community and he expressed his desire to help friends and family still in Syria.

The first 40 foot container was sent from SMW in May 2018 and shipped to a port in Turkey. Upon arrival, it was cleared through customs by an associate of Achraf's and then transported into Syria near where Achraf's sister runs a school. This first container held a mix of paper products, clothing, food, school supplies, and medical equipment totaling 30,000 lbs. Achraf explained to Dave and Heather that any aid destined for Syria, if routed through [other groups] seldom finds its way to the Syrian people. He said, "Being able to work with the warehouse and see that the intended shipment of humanitarian goods was received by those most in need was a blessing." Given the success of this latest distribution, additional containers were sent.

A container with 56,000 lbs of rice was quickly arranged, delivered and distributed to over 5,000 children from a school in northern Syria. At the same time, another container was packed with new Land's End® winter coats to arrive just as harsh weather hit the region, keeping thousands warm.

The fourth and final container to Syria in 2018 was a collaborative effort between the warehouse and the Hanan Refugee Relief group in Milwaukee. New winter clothing and blankets were collected and brought to the SMW. These items were combined with other donations at the warehouse to fill another 40 foot container.

The impact of these relief goods in Syria is just one story of many coming through the warehouse. Over 30 containers were sent from New Holstein in 2018 totaling 800,000 lbs of goods.



Children in Syria received Land's End® winter coats from a recent shipment.

