



# Refugee Family Reunification Trust

## From the Trustees

We have now been helping refugees for more than 16 years, and this year have hit some significant milestones.

Since we started in 2001, with your support and generosity, we have raised more than \$1.6 million to help refugees in the Greater Wellington region bring their loved ones to New Zealand.

Every dollar you have donated has gone to help people through the long, often complicated, process of refugee family reunification. We have helped to bring 238 families back together since we started, many of those arriving being children and young people.

We have some small, unavoidable administration costs which are paid for through separate grants. This means that all donations go to refugees – donations are not used for advertising, fundraising activities, salaries, rent or any other costs.

The Trust is pure charity. We rely on the time, energy and generosity of individuals and businesses, and are grateful for all your support. We receive no government funding.

Without your help many of these families could never have overcome the financial challenges inherent in the immigration process. It is very rewarding to see so many families back together again after such long separations, and to know that the Trust has played a vital part in successful, and life-changing, outcomes.

## Where families we helped were originally from



Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Rwanda, Algeria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Cambodia, Liberia, Myanmar, Colombia, Sri Lanka and Banda Ache.

Our successes together since 2001



**\$1.6 million raised for refugees**

This year: \$150,000 given to refugees – up from \$117,000 the year before



**238 refugee families reunited**



**669 airfares to Wellington**

This year: 65 airfares for refugees joining their families – up from 36 the year before



**530 applications for help approved**

This year: 72 applications for help approved – up from 46 the year before

# Thank you for your help

We remain extremely grateful to all our donors, without whom we could not have successfully reunited so many deserving families. The ongoing support of generous individuals and charities was critical to our success during the past year.

To each and every one of our donors, thank you. We hope that you are able to continue your support, as each donation – whether it's a regular donation or a one-off - is a vital contribution toward getting a family back together again.

A number of individuals and private trusts, who prefer to remain anonymous, have made very generous donations to our Trust. Other significant donors over the past year include: Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand; the Thomas George Macarthy Trust; the Archdiocesan Tindall Allocations Committee; Hon Robert Smellie; Yvonne and Peter Cottier and Queen Margaret College. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Many volunteers have kindly given their time, skills and enthusiasm to help run the Trust, to organise fundraising or to help new families with their resettlement. Special thanks to our honorary accountant, Alison Dyer, and to the Trust's auditor, Peter Scholtens. Multicultural Learning and Support Services support us by sharing their mailbox. We would also like to thank Phil Dyer for taking the photographs we use. Tessa Johnstone and Hannah Schickedanz generously donated their time to format this newsletter. Simon Calder manages the website and database. Simpson Grierson provides pro bono legal support. Sr Rachel kindly helps new families with their resettlement. Your assistance is invaluable.

New Zealand Red Cross, as part of a pilot programme, provided volunteer support to many of our families on their arrival in Wellington, helping them with basic resettlement tasks and challenges. This is very practical and important work, and we hope Red Cross continues this wonderful support for family reunion refugees.

**Patrons:** Cardinal Thomas Williams, Dame Fiona Kidman, Niborom Young, Kim Hill

**Trustees:** Amanda Calder, Chairperson, Therese O'Connell, Ismail Ibrahim, Brigid Feehan, Philippa Meachen

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## Another Mother's Son Film Fundraiser

Thank you to Otari Catholic Parish – which includes Wilton's St Thomas More Church and St Teresa's in Karori - for organising another successful fundraiser and donating \$2660.

*Another Mother's Son* screened to a full house at The Penthouse and this year's donation brought the total raised over the last six years to an impressive \$17,500. We truly appreciate the strong and sustained commitment to helping refugees shown by this Parish, and we thank everyone for their support.

We also wish to thank the sponsors who generously donated vouchers and products for the raffles and spot prizes, including a beautiful handwoven cushion made by Niche Textile Studio ([www.nichetextilestudio.co.nz](http://www.nichetextilestudio.co.nz)), The Interislander (\$100 travel voucher), Penthouse Theatre (movie tickets), New World Karori, Gipps St Deli, Gipps St Butchery, One Fat Bird (Marsden Village), Beauté of Kelburn, Streaks Ahead (Northland), Marsden Books, Marsden Village Café, The Cellar Room (Karori), F.A.B. Hair Salon (Khandallah), Crofton Downs Pharmacy and Melissa Jane Flower Studio (Ngāio).



**interislander**  
A Great Journey of New Zealand

Not only was the movie's theme very appropriate, but its closing quote even more so – *"Life is not measured by the years that you live, but by the deeds that you do"* (Helen Steiner Rice).

## Aro Pop-Up Shop Fundraiser

The Aro Valley Community Centre Hall was the venue for a very successful pop-up shop fundraiser in June. The hall was filled with tables piled with toys, clothing, plants, books, jewellery and other treasures for sale, and everyone enjoyed the warm and friendly atmosphere. Very special thanks to Kalen Acquisto for her enthusiasm and community spirit, and for almost singlehandedly organising the event and raising \$900 for the Trust. Thanks also to Sarah and Krissy from the Aro Community Centre for providing the venue at no charge and spreading the word, and to all those who helped on the day. Donations to the raffle (which Sarah also helped organise) were kindly provided by The Bresolin, Aro Hair Studio, Stephen Templer, Tommy Millions Pizza, and Mashbone. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## About us

The Refugee Family Reunification Trust financially assists refugees in the Wellington region to bring immediate family members to join them here. Reuniting these families greatly improves the lives of those refugees already living in New Zealand, and is critical to their successful resettlement and integration.

All money raised is used exclusively to help refugees pay for the expenses directly related to bringing family members from refugee situations. This includes application fees charged by, and medical reports required by, Immigration New Zealand, and the cost of airfares to bring approved family members to New Zealand.

The Trust is a registered charity and donations of \$5 or more are tax deductible.

## How you can help

**Financial donations:** You can donate money to us regularly, or as a one-off donation via post, bank transfer or a regular automatic payment to Bank a/c: Westpac, Lambton Quay Branch, Account Number 030502 0337025 00

**Other help:** Call or email us if you are organising a fundraiser which might make a contribution to the Trust: [acalder@xtra.co.nz](mailto:acalder@xtra.co.nz) or 04 475 7994