



Refugee Family Reunification Trust

From the Trustees

We have now been helping refugees for more than 17 years, and this year we have hit some significant milestones.

Since we started in 2001, with your support and generosity, we have raised more than \$1.7 million to help refugees 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 more than 250 families back together since we started, many of those arriving being children and young people.

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

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 came from



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

Our successes together since 2001



Over \$1.7 million raised for refugees

This year \$173,000 given to refugees – up from \$150,000 last year



More than 250 refugee families reunited



More than 700 airfares to New Zealand

This year 65 airfares for refugees joining their families.



More than 600 applications for help approved

This year 102 applications for help approved – up from 72 last year

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 towards 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; Tai Shan Foundation; 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. Hannah Schickedanz again generously donated her time to format this newsletter. Simon Calder manages the website, and Lesley Hooper kindly helps to manage the database. Simpson Grierson provides pro bono legal support. 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.

Otari Parish Film Fundraiser

For the seventh successive year, the Justice, Peace and Development Group of Otari Catholic Parish (which includes St Thomas More Church in Wilton/Northland and St Teresa's Church in Karori) organised a fundraising movie - this year, *King of Thieves*. A full house at the Penthouse Theatre raised \$2,900 – bringing the total raised over the seven years to a wonderful \$20,400. We truly appreciate the sustained and valuable commitment to helping refugees shown by this Parish, and we thank everyone for their support. In addition, the Trustees wish to thank the many sponsors who generously donated vouchers and products for the raffles and spot prizes, including The Interislander (\$100 travel voucher), Penthouse Theatre (movie tickets), New World Karori, Gipps St Deli, Gipps St Butchery, One Fat Bird (Marsden Village), Marsden Books, Marsden Village Café, Streaks Ahead (Northland), Fab Hair Salon (Khandallah) and Melissa Jane Flower Studio (Ngaio).



interislander
A Great Journey of New Zealand

For privacy reasons, refugees' stories and photos are not included on our website. Please contact us if you would like to receive the complete version of our newsletter, which includes those stories and photos.

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. See details in the footer.

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

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