

2022/2023

# Refugee Family Reunification Trust Newsletter



Refugee Family Reunification Trust

OUR SUCCESSES  
*together*  
SINCE 2001

A major breakthrough for refugee family reunification – in the form of significant changes to the Refugee Family Support Category (RFSC) – came into effect on 1 July 2022.

These changes will see an increase in the number of places available each year to 600; the removal of fees; and Immigration New Zealand paying for medical assessments and flights to New Zealand for successful applicants and their included family members. Extra support will also be provided to sponsors and their families to assist with integration on arrival, including help with accommodation and resettlement. These changes have the potential to be life-changing for refugees.

We are proud to have made a significant contribution, through our advocacy over many years, towards this outcome. These changes will have implications for our work, in that we will no longer need to provide assistance for the costs now covered. However, we will still need to provide funding in relation to other applications, such as those for dependent and adopted children, spouses and asylum seekers, and for Ministerial approvals as exceptions to policy. Our work assisting with accommodation requirements will also continue to be important.

We will be assessing the future role of the Trust as the full impact of these changes becomes clearer.

Sadly, despite these improvements, fundamental problems remain with the processing of RFSC applications - in particular, indefensible delays of many, many years. The affected refugee families in New Zealand are suffering significant distress, with no end in sight. Their family members overseas are often in increasingly dire situations, including in refugee camps and equally appalling circumstances. This is a very serious issue, with real-life consequences. Many of these applications deserve high priority consideration in light of their compelling humanitarian circumstances.

It is therefore as important as ever for us to continue to advocate for improvements in refugee family reunification policies and practices.

**21** years  
HELPING  
REFUGEES



OVER \$2.63M  
*raised for*  
REFUGEES

NEARLY 330  
*refugee families*  
REUNITED



MORE THAN 950  
*applications for*  
HELP APPROVED

NEARLY 900  
*airfares to*  
NEW ZEALAND



*Thanks to YOU!*

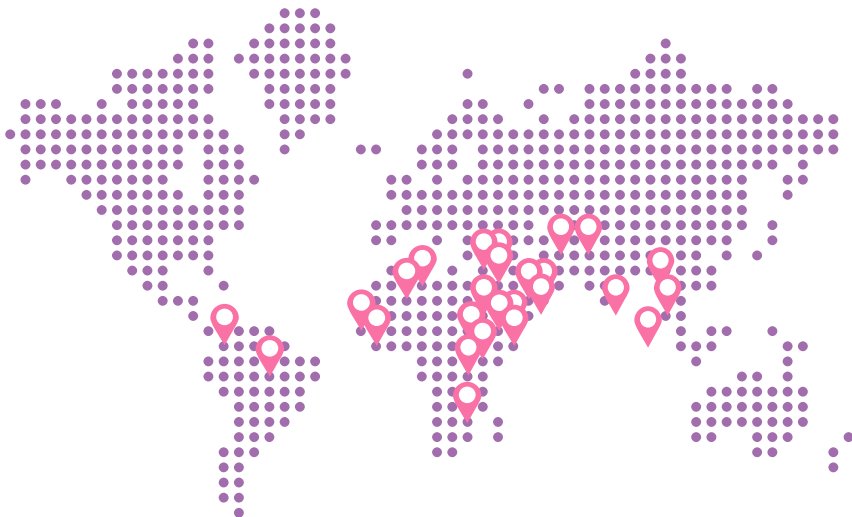
# thank you FOR YOUR HELP

We remain extremely grateful to all our donors, without whom we could not have reunited so many deserving families. To each and every one of our donors, thank you. The ongoing support of generous individuals and charities is critical to everything we have been able to achieve over the past 21 years.

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; Tai Shan Foundation; Hon Robert Smellie KC, and Yvonne and Peter Cottier. 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 CA, and to the Trust's auditor, P J Major CA. KiwiClass let us share their mailbox. We would also like to thank Phil Dyer for taking the beautiful photographs we use. Special thanks to Hannah and Thomas Schickedanz at Schickedanz Design Studio for designing and building our website pro bono, and also again generously donating time to format this newsletter. Lesley Hooper kindly helps to manage the database. Simpson Grierson provides pro bono legal support. Your assistance is invaluable.

We wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and sincerely thank our outgoing Trustee, Philippa Meachen, for her contribution over 16 years.



## Families we helped came from:

Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Sudan, South Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda, Algeria, Zimbabwe, Palestine, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Brazil and Colombia.

## ABOUT us

The Refugee Family Reunification Trust financially assists refugees, primarily 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, INZ, 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](mailto:acalder@xtra.co.nz) or 04 475 7994

Please advise if your contact details are incorrect or if you do not wish to receive our newsletter.

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