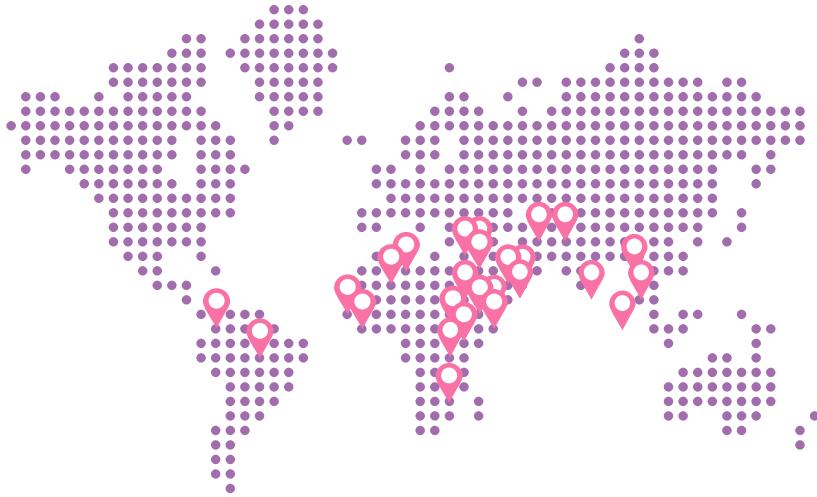


2024/2025

# Refugee Family Reunification Trust Newsletter



Refugee Family Reunification Trust



## Over \$2,850,000 Given To Refugees

*Since the Trust was established in 2001, with your support and generosity we have given more than \$2,850,000 to help refugees bring their loved ones to New Zealand. We are particularly proud of this achievement, as not a single dollar of donations has been used to generate this amount.*

The Trust is a pure charity – donors are assured that every dollar they give will go directly to help refugees. We do not pay for advertising, fundraisers, salaries or rent - so that 100% of donations can be given to refugees. No remuneration is paid to the Trustees. Separate funding is obtained specifically for unavoidable administration costs (such as audit costs, postage, envelopes, and printing our annual newsletter), and we are able to keep these to a bare minimum due to our reliance on unpaid volunteers. The Trust does not receive any government funding.

The Trust has been helping refugees for more than 23 years. We have approved more than 1,070 applications for assistance from refugees needing help with the costs of bringing their families to join them here. We have paid the airfares to bring more than 950 family members – many of whom were children and young people – to New Zealand. This represents over 360 families reunited. Put simply, without our 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 critical role in successful, and life-changing, outcomes.

OUR SUCCESSES  
*together*  
SINCE 2001

**23** years  
HELPING  
REFUGEES



OVER \$2.9M  
*raised for*  
REFUGEES

MORE THAN 360  
*refugee families*  
REUNITED



MORE THAN 1070  
*applications for*  
HELP APPROVED

OVER 950  
*airfares to*  
NEW ZEALAND



*Thanks to YOU!*

Significant changes to the Refugee Family Support Category (RFSC), which came into effect in 2022, have been positive for our work, as we no longer need to provide assistance for many of the costs we previously funded, such as airfares for families approved under the RFSC. However, many of the families arriving this year received financial assistance from us prior to those changes coming into effect.

We continue to assist refugees with many other costs, such as those related to applications for dependent and adopted children, spouses, and asylum seekers, and for Ministerial approvals as exceptions to policy. These costs include application fees and medicals required by Immigration New Zealand (INZ), and airfares. We also provide assistance with the cost of appeals, and other necessary expenses relating to the immigration process, such as translations.

Our work assisting with accommodation requirements continues to be very important, as housing affordability and availability are major issues facing refugees who have family members joining them here. One of our critical projects is helping with initial rental costs for newly arrived refugee families. This helps those families overcome the accommodation hurdle imposed by INZ - thereby assisting them to get approval to come to New Zealand. This is a vital, direct and practical way to help refugee families.

We continue to advocate for improvements in refugee family reunification policies and practices, as fundamental problems remain with the processing of RFSC applications - in particular, indefensible delays of many, many years.

### Families we helped came from:

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

## *thank you* FOR YOUR HELP

We remain extremely grateful to all our donors - without you 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 that we have been able to achieve over the past 23 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; 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 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 lets us share its 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 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.

## 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 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.

## PATRONS

Dame Fiona Kidman  
Niborom Young  
Kim Hill  
Ismail Ibrahim

It is with sadness that we remember the passing, in December 2023, of Cardinal Tom Williams. Cardinal Tom was one of our founding Patrons, and we will miss his kindness, support and encouragement.

After 23 years as a Trustee, in March 2024 Ismail Ibrahim resigned and became a Patron of the Trust. We wish to acknowledge and sincerely thank Ismail for his contribution as a Trustee.

## TRUSTEES

Amanda Calder, Chairperson  
Therese O'Connell  
Brigid Feehan