

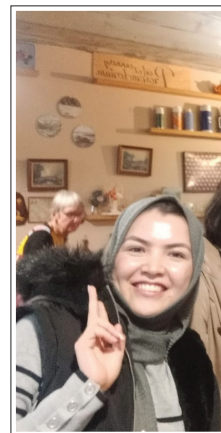


ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum

“New Zealanders
from refugee
backgrounds
participating
fully in Aotearoa
New Zealand life.”

ANNUAL REPORT

2019/2020



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WEBSITE

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CHARITIES REGISTRATION NUMBER

CC28377



ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum



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OUR VISION

New Zealanders from
refugee backgrounds
participating fully
in Aotearoa
New Zealand life.

OUR PRINCIPLES

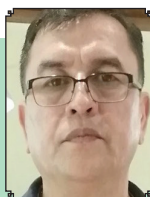
- **Nothing about us without us.**
- **Focus on strengths, not weaknesses.**
- **A human rights approach.**
- **A shared voice is a strong voice.**



Adam
Awad



Ameha
Wondirad



Amin
Vakili



Ibrahim
Omer



Luis
Perez



Maureen
Zaya



Nathan
Diggs



Richard
Bowles



Shahd
El-Matary

OUR BOARD

Message from our CHAIR



IT'S BEEN a hard year for our communities. It started with the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a lockdown for several weeks, which threw our lives into chaos. The lockdown also stopped events commemorating one year since the Christchurch massacre. This had a huge impact on our grieving communities. The Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Mosques is due to report in November and we saw the attacker sentenced in August. This was an emotional and important time for victims and their families, as it was for us all, as they spoke publicly with huge courage and dignity about the impact of this horrific day on their lives.

Resilience through connection

We are used to hardship and we have built resilience through necessity, created by our circumstances as refugees. Our communities are skilled in the best ways to support each other. During the lockdown, our leaders and others spent many hours offering support in whatever way it was needed. ChangeMakers tapped into these networks and connected people, resources and help in all the ways we could think of. The staff were flexible and worked long hours to ensure our communities received everything that was available to them. The greatest needs emerged as help to access food, masks and other essential items along with the need for art and other resources so children could continue their school work at home. In response, we provided art packs for many families, which were warmly received. There was also a big demand for assistance to navigate government support available through agencies like Work and Income.

That's not to say, however, that the pandemic hasn't had a heavy, ongoing impact. Many have lost employment and had their income cut, and the toll of often large groups of people living together in small apartments has been high. These factors all make our ongoing strategic focus more important than ever.

Our young people

One of our goals this year has been to strengthen our networks and engage more effectively with our young people. Their links through social media served them well through the lockdown and we were delighted to work in partnership with the Voices of Aroha collective to produce two short films for World Refugee Week, the Open Arms of Aroha. Our young people have come forward since lockdown and had one meeting to plan their focus for the future. They have also turned out in large numbers to our two leaders councils and put their names forward for the ChangeMakers board. We will continue to nurture this positive trend and encourage every rangatahi connected to us to get involved. The time is right for change – they are our present and they are our future.

Member of Parliament

This year I realised a personal dream – to be elected to the New Zealand Parliament. I am delighted to be a list MP for the New Zealand Labour Party. This meant that at the end of September this year, I had to resign from the board of ChangeMakers to take on this new position. I have been a board member for two and a half years and am proud to leave the organisation in a good state that will ensure it will continue to be a key player in the lives of our communities. Thank you to my fellow board members for your commitment to your roles. When people take on the role of board member, they are making a commitment of their time and energy. It isn't easy and we have so much to learn about being on a board in a country that is so different to our own. I would also like to pay tribute to our staff for their dedication, especially in this difficult year. We are lucky to have people with great heart working for us.

This year, under the strong, strategic leadership of our acting general manager Sandra McCallum, we have strengthened our relationships with other organisations working in the refugee and migrant sector. These alliances are crucial as we move forward into challenging times where COVID-19 will continue to have a presence for some time yet.

Strong, consistent voice for change

While I have moved on from my active role in ChangeMakers, I will continue to serve our former refugee communities. My goal in Parliament is to be a strong and consistent voice for those of us who have created new lives in Aotearoa/New Zealand. We know that the issues we face are complex, and it can feel as though things do not change fast enough. But this year there are more voices in Parliament than ever before, of people who share our particular experiences. There are five new MPs who have come from refugee or migrant backgrounds. They are people who, like us, have lived the experience of resettling here. Together, we will do everything we can to create positive change that improves your lives and those of your families and your communities. This, in turn, benefits all of us in Aotearoa/ New Zealand. It is a great honour to serve each and every one of you, and to serve our country.

Ibrahim Omer
Chair

Message from our **ACTING CHAIR**



I TOOK over as acting board chair in September this year when Ibrahim Omer resigned to focus on his campaign to become a Member of Parliament. We were delighted when he was successful and we are now in the great position of having a powerful advocate for our issues in government. I congratulate him on his historic success as only the second refugee to become a member of the New Zealand government.

Under the strong, skillful leadership of our general manager, Sandra McCallum, ChangeMakers has been very successful this year in connecting with our communities and creating an important conversation about the future together. Alongside her, our loyal staff have played an important role in this by informing, educating and supporting our member communities. The drivers' programmes have continued to ensure many of our community members are able to get their full licence to drive a car, a life-changing event for many.

Please, stay involved, stay connected with us, and together we will create a positive future for ourselves, our families, our community and our country.

Adam Awad
Acting chair



OUR STAFF

From left are: Susan Clare (Turning the Curve coordinator), Kate Twyford (Open Road coordinator), Tracey Read (community development worker), Batool Arif (office coordinator), Sandra McCallum (general manager), and Nadia Al-Rubayee (specialist driving mentor).

HIGHLIGHTS: 2020

'The Open Arms of Aroha' launched



ABOVE: ChangeMakers' staff and the team involved in bringing 'The Open Arms of Aroha' to the screen.

TO CELEBRATE World Refugee Day 2020, ChangeMakers launched two short films called 'The Open Arms of Aroha'. These films starred Kiwis from refugee backgrounds who shared from their hearts, the hopes and challenges of settling into Aotearoa.

"If you were a refugee or reunited with family in a different country. How would you feel? How would you want to be accepted in that country? Think about that."

These words from Kodrean Eshae, one of the stars of these beautiful short films, sum up the challenge to us all. As ChangeMakers general manager Sandra McCallum

says: *"The films gave us food for thought. They offer a sharp reminder that it is time to think, see and feel differently about how we sustain our welcome to Kiwis from refugee backgrounds."*

ChangeMakers collaborated with radio station Voices of Aroha to bring the project to life. We had a community afternoon tea on Sunday, June 23, to premiere the films and listen to a panel discussion with the movie stars and producer, facilitated by Victoria University professor Sara Kindon.

You will find links to the films on the ChangeMakers Facebook page.

Lockdown creativity

THE NATIONAL lockdown put in place from March 23 caused cancellations and disappointment across the entire country. The disappointment for our communities was especially sharp as our plans to come together to commemorate the Christchurch mosque shootings were cancelled throughout the country.

With workplaces and schools shifted from the office to home living rooms, ChangeMakers looked for ways to bring fun and creativity into people's homes. We put together 120 art packs for our families. These packs contained paper, art materials, scissors and worksheets and were delivered to homes. Our families were so delighted – it meant that children had things to enjoy doing during this stay-at-home time. We also delivered digital devices to a number of families new to Aotearoa who had no access to technology.

We hope that we will be able to meet together to commemorate the second anniversary in 2021.



Cing Gershom receives her art pack.

Changing lives through learning to drive

WOMEN FROM refugee backgrounds constantly tell us their number-one priority to get on with life in New Zealand is “to get our driver’s licence, so we can be like other New Zealand women”. It’s this motivation that continues to make ChangeMakers’ driver education programmes, Turning the Curve and Open Road, so crucial.

Our Turning the Curve programme was halted during the COVID-19 lockdown, but a funding boost from the Ministry of Women and Ethnic Communities for extra lessons and mentoring ensured we could accelerate our drivers through the programme once the lockdown lifted. Twenty two drivers joined the programme this year (between December 2019 and March 2020).

Our Open Road programme was also slowed by the lockdown. There was a longer process for those learners who started in February to be “test ready”. As a result, we delayed taking on any new learners and have pushed back our next volunteer training to the beginning of 2021. We currently have 19 people on the programme.

Teshalini is the first in her family to get her licence and is off to university next year. She says she is so happy to have achieved this goal and can now help her mum with transport.

Teshalini was taught to drive by our experienced volunteers, Tricia and Sathi, who have been a valued part of our mentoring programme for the past three years. Without them, and all the other dedicated volunteers, our work would be impossible. It is their



ABOVE: Khin Khin with her restricted licence.

RIGHT: Maedin, after passing her restricted licence, with her volunteer driver, Peter.



commitment that helps ensure our new drivers experience the empowerment that driving gives them.



School holiday fun

CHANGEMAKERS’ SEPTEMBER school holiday programme offered an opportunity for families to have some holiday fun together and check out Wellington’s kids-friendly activities. More than 100 children and parents from our communities spent time together, watching a movie at the Embassy cinema, checking out the animals at Wellington Zoo, and being super active at Junglerama!

Message from our GENERAL MANAGER



EVERY DAY, I am reminded of and inspired by the creativity, resilience, capabilities, talents and passion that Kiwis who are former refugees bring to Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Every day, I am more committed to working to ensure that every Kiwi from a refugee background has the right to flourish in every aspect of their lives in Aotearoa.

Every day, I consider the privilege I have to work alongside so many incredible individuals and groups. There is so much richness we bring to each other's lives.

Nothing about us without us

This year, ChangeMakers is undertaking a research project that asks the question: *Who are refugee background women connecting with and why?*

From the research, we hope to get a clear understanding of what it takes for Kiwi women from refugee backgrounds to really belong, be included and fully participate in life in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

We set up a work group to co-design the research process, knowing it was extremely important to ensure the majority of the "voices at the table" represented former refugees. We have been delighted that so many former refugee women have stepped forward to be part of this research. Some of them have commented that it "feels as though a load has been lifted" through being able to share their experiences.

The research will be completed in early December and will be shared with our communities. At the same time, it will be used to develop our plans for meeting the needs of particular groups. It will also provide ChangeMakers with information to advocate at both a central and local government level for positive, systemic change.

Engaging with young people – a youth strategy

One of the key focus areas identified for 2020 was a youth strategy and action plan. Early in the year, a group of young people gathered for a day to begin developing a plan. Unfortunately, the implications of COVID-19 have meant that follow-up meetings have not yet taken place, as our lives have only recently started to gain some normality and routine. At our recent leaders' council dinner and hui, the message was loud and clear: this is still a priority going into 2021. We are committed to making it happen.

Thank you

I want to say thank you to all of you for the support, ideas, challenges, conversations and much more that you have shared with me.

I would like to thank Ibrahim Omer for his support as chair from the time I started through to August this year. Thank you, Ibrahim, for allowing me to get on with the mahi and for supporting me to do so. Congratulations on your election to Parliament. It has to be a win for former refugees. Thanks to the board for your support over the last year, enabling me to reconnect ChangeMakers with all of our communities. There is still a lot of work to be done but it is under way.

A huge thank you to the staff for their hard work, always going the extra mile and working nights and weekends to support our communities. It is a privilege to work with such a talented, committed and hardworking group of people.

Finally, thank you to our stakeholders and funders for your ongoing support and belief in our vision to see New Zealanders from refugee backgrounds participating fully in Aotearoa/ New Zealand life.

Sandra McCallum
General manager

Our members

- Afghan Cultural Association of Wellington
- African Students' Association of NZ
- Assyrian Association of NZ Inc
- Colombian community
- Eritrean Community in Wellington NZ Inc
- Ethiopian Community in Wellington Inc
- Greater Wellington Oromo Community Inc
- Iranian communities
- Polish Association in NZ Inc
- Rwandan Association Umubano
- Tamil community
- Sudanese community
- Syrian communities
- Ugandan community
- Wellington Myanmar Community Inc
- Wellington Somali Council
- Zomi Innkuan NZ

Our funders

A huge thanks to our funders, whose generous contributions are vital to our work.



Anglican Diocese



Sockadoodle



Private donors

Service delivery contracts



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI

The Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment funds ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum to provide the following services:

- Strengthening Refugee Voices
- Open Road

Report from the **TREASURER**



IT IS my pleasure to present our annual reports to the members of ChangeMakers for the period of July 2019 to June 2020.

The year ended with an unprecedented challenge with the outbreak of COVID-19 and lockdowns across much of the country between March and June. Despite this disruption to our activities, ChangeMakers has had an excellent year – delivering a similar amount of advocacy, community building and research services and events as we did last year. This is thanks to the efforts of our staff as well as the dedication that our new general manager, Sandra McCallum, has brought to the role. We notably expanded our delivery of social and fitness events for refugee-background women, as well as community-building events such as the partnership with the Zomi community to support them to build capacity in their organisation. Ongoing work is taking place with members of the LGBTQI community. Work started at the beginning of the year to develop a youth strategy for ChangeMakers. This was put on hold due to COVID-19 and will be a focus for the 2020/2021 year.

Financially, ChangeMakers ended the year with a surplus of \$25,296. This is a significant improvement of our \$32,467 deficit in 2019. The surplus has increased our total accumulated funds to a healthier position of \$105,041, and another surplus is forecast for next year. Further information can be found in the following financial reports.

ChangeMakers has also continued a period of sustained growth as an organisation since 2017, raising \$428,279 in revenues this year, compared to \$374,068 in 2019, \$310,678 in 2018 and \$203,628 in 2017. Next year looks set to continue this trend even further. This exciting growth allows us to better advance our vision of New Zealanders from refugee backgrounds participating fully in Aotearoa/New Zealand life.

I would like to give my very sincere thanks to our funders and donors for your ongoing support and for making this possible.

Richard Bowles
Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum Incorporated, for the year ended June 30, 2020

Statement of FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

“How was it funded?” and “What did it cost?”

	Actual this year \$	Actual last year \$
REVENUE		
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	129,539	175,444
Revenue from providing goods or services	295,131	190,737
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	3,185	3,095
Other revenue	424	4,792
TOTAL REVENUE	428,279	374,068
EXPENSES		
Volunteer and employee-related costs	255,005	245,290
Costs related to providing goods or services	147,399	159,719
Other expenses	579	1,525
TOTAL EXPENSES	402,983	406,534
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	25,296	(32,467)

Statement of FINANCIAL POSITION

“What the entity owns” and “What the entity owes”

	Actual this year \$	Actual last year \$
ASSETS		
Currents assets		
Bank accounts and cash	377,858	405,683
Debtors and prepayments	24,691	7,174
Other current assets		
Total current assets	402,549	412,857
Non-current assets		
Plant and equipment	629	453
Total non-current assets	629	453
TOTAL ASSETS	403,178	413,310
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Creditors and accrued expenses	58,414	87,039
Employee costs payable	18,710	9,251
Unused donations and grants with conditions	221,013	237,274
Total current liabilities	298,137	333,565
TOTAL LIABILITIES	298,137	333,565
Total assets less total liabilities (net assets)	105,041	79,745
Accumulated funds		
Accumulated surpluses (or deficits)	105,041	79,745
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	105,041	79,745



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CONTACT US

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