



ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum

Office Opening Hours:

9.00am – 5.00pm

Monday to Friday

Office Contact Details:

Phone 04 801 6839

Email info@crf.org.nz

Address: Level 4

38 Webb Street

Mt Cook

Wellington

Website:

ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum

Facebook:

Changemakersrefugeeforum

Whatsapp:

CRF Community
Noticeboard

Monthly Newsletter

July 2022

Update from Jacqs

Kia Ora everyone

Winter has finally hit with a vengeance, bringing plenty of rain and lots of flu, all while COVID is still going strong. I hope everyone is staying as well as possible, getting their vaccinations, and keeping warm and dry.

Even though its winter, and wet and wild, we have plenty going on. It was fabulous to support members of the Colombian community to hold an event for Colombian Independence Day. We are excited to be reconnecting with this community and working alongside them going forward, and we are delighted to be increasing our work alongside all refugee background communities and individuals.

We have had holiday activities, a couple of youth activities, are in the process of running our first two Micro Business and Employment workshops and have swimming lessons through a couple of different providers that have had more than 100 people enroll to learn to swim. Other work in the Community Development space has seen us supporting requests for the certificates of identity, family reunification applications, refugee travel document applications, citizenship applications, advocacy for housing and other social work related needs from our communities. In the last 8 months, the Community Connectors provision has seen us providing COVID food and welfare provision to more than 500 families. Advocacy continues to be strong, with a lot of gains in the focus advocacy project of education. For greater detail, continue on to through the newsletter.

A key activity currently, is the Refresh of the Refugee Resettlement Strategy. We are keen for many community members to take this opportunity to share their voices. While the initial meetings are nearly completed, a survey can still be completed once available, and there will be a co-design workshop. For more information, please email Betty on the info@crf.org.nz We are also keen to hold a discussion with community leaders/members on Wednesday 17th August from 6pm at CRF to get input that we can share at the co-design session for those community members unable to participate in the other sessions. If you are interested, please let me know so I can book a space.

Wishing you all a fabulous August

Jacqs 😊



New Zealanders of refugee background participating fully in life in Aotearoa New Zealand

Nothing About Us Without Us

A human Rights Approach

Focus On Strengths Not Weaknesses

A Shared Voice is A Strong Voice

Board Update

The board passed the Health and Safety policy in between meetings. They also passed the Employment policy and discussed incoming correspondence to the board from in between meetings which they have focussed on.

The board discussed the AGM and the six spaces and one treasurer slot available as some board members would not be renewing their term due to family obligations. Due to the AGM being pushed early as the board did not want to co-opt members.

The AGM will be held on 26th October, 2022 at Lifepoint Church from 6.00pm. Please see the end of the newsletter for information on board membership needs.

Please remember you can place feedback in the feedback box on the cabinet just inside the office and also contact our board chair, Shahd, at shahd.elmatary@hotmail.co.nz.

Welcome Betty

Betty has joined the team as part-time Office Coordinator and while the role is largely administrative Betty is already helping with some translation and has expressed an interest in working with community members providing some support where she has space. Here is an introduction to Betty:



Hi, my name is Bethelhem, I go with Betty just because it is a lot easier to pronounce.

I am a refugee background; I originally came from Ethiopia. I currently work for Changemakers as a part timer holding the role of an administrator. I am new to this role so I'm still trying to figure my way through. I like reading and spending time with my family and friends in my spare time.

I studied political science and international relations. I am passionate about helping people first hand, still trying to figure out special area I want to focus on to help others but for now anything that allows me to create change to peoples life positively and being able to see people happy makes me feel accomplished.

Eid Celebration with Afghan Women

ChangeMakers supported Afghan women to organise an Eid event. They came together in their beautiful cultural dresses, shared laughter and food and showed children how they used to celebrate Eid back home, an essential element of the sense of belonging and identity.



COVID Notices...

A reminder that if you have COVID-19 you need to self-isolate for 7 days following the day that you first got a positive test. You do not need to self isolate if you had COVID-19 in the last 3 months.

There is support for food and welfare if you need it while self isolating. Please contact the number below or contact us at ChangeMakers.

COVID SUPPORT

Positive COVID Case?

Self-Isolating?

Need help with food or welfare needs?

Call **0800 512 337**
to seek assistance.

We are still waiting on the delivery of a pallet of masks (the driver has been ill) but will have them ready to get to communities as soon as we have them available. If you need masks for your community group, please flick me an email on Jacqueline.wilton@crf.org.nz and I will add you to the list.

Colombian Independence Day

On Saturday 23rd July 2022 ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum (CRF) supported the Colombian community to celebrate their Independence Day. Even though this community is not an affiliated member of CRF, this event was a perfect opportunity to bring the wider community together.



Overall, more than 100 people attended the event. On the day of the event, attendees enjoyed three traditional Colombian dishes cooked by members of the community and was delighted by some performances, specially a performance carried out by the kids who were born in Aotearoa but are connected to Colombia through their parents. The event also included some traditional games to keep the culture alive and pass these traditions to the little ones.



Coming up...

Ekocabs and CRF: Pathways to Self-employment Programme

Ekocabs trialed a collaboration in Christchurch with Iwi. Following the success of that trial, Tayo has met with CRF to look at launching the programme as a collaboration here in Wellington.

The programme (pathways to self-employment) will support refugee background/ethnic migrant community members who are interested in running their own environmentally friendly taxi business.

Ekocabs will provide access to electric car lease (for taxi business operation), uniform, basic training and mentoring support and mobile data for business use.

CRF will offer the opportunity to community members, provide support for people to obtain a Passenger Service-endorsement license (P endorsement), and provide support with obtaining a work mobile phone.

Keep an eye out for the poster for this on Facebook, Whatsapp and Viber. Judah is running this programme and can be contacted on Judah.seomeng@crf.org.nz or 022 0657 831

A visit to the Planetarium:

During the second week of the school holidays, CRF took parents and their children to a trip to Space Place- local observatory. The event was attended by 35 people (parents and children). At the observatory, they watched a movie entitled Matariki Dawn- a short movie that looks at the cultural and astronomical aspects of this group of spectacular stars. After the movie attendees explored the planetarium. This event was an excellent opportunity to catch up with members of the community and to know what sort of activities they would like to see in the next school holidays.



Youth time is a fun time:

Last week on Friday evening a group of youth different backgrounds hung out together and had lots of laughs while bowling. When youth come together it is fun and friendship time aimed at boosting the wellbeing of our refugee youth communities.

Our Youth



Advocate & Community Connector, Kodrean, is the person to contact and he is encouraging all our youth from refugee backgrounds age 13+ to under 30 years to get in touch to be aware of our programmes and get notified for upcoming activities. The activities and programs will fit different age groups at different times, and from time to time there will be announcements about opportunities to participate...so do not miss out get in touch on the following contact : Kodrean.eashae@crf.org.nz or Ph /Text: 022 612 3240 “

Coming up...

Laser Tag Youth Activity:

For youth aged 13- 17.
Fees will be covered by CRF and parents are welcome to come along.

Spaces are limited to contact Kodrean quickly

Friday 5th August
From 6:00 - 8:00 pm
133 Tory Street, Top of Tory Complex, Wellington
6011

LASER TAG!



Friday 5th August | 6:00PM
133 Tory Street, Top of Tory Complex, Wellington, New Zealand 6011

Youth
Age Group
13- 17 Years

If you interested register by Thursday 4th August at 5:00pm by email: kodrean.eashae@crf.org.nz or phone / text: 022 6123240

Game fees will be covered!

Limited Spaces



Womens Night in Hutt

We are planning for a womens night in Mid-August for women of all refugee backgrounds and communities. If you would like to participate in the womens night, please reach out Hafsar on

Hafsar.Tameesuddin@crf.org.nz

Micro-business and employment workshops:

The first micro-business and employment workshop, which is carried out in partnership between CRF and New Zealand Business Association (NZBA) was held on Wednesday, July 27. The workshop went really well, and attendance was good with nine out of the twelve registered participants attending. Most of the attendees were small business start-ups (although there were at three who were already small business owners).

The workshop covered:

- Exploring and evaluating ways to execute a business idea
- Motivations for the business idea/going into business
- Business goals
- Steps for preparing to start a small business
- Basic logistics for starting/running a small business
- Funding, financial/stock/operational management and taxation
- Digital marketing

The workshop was quite interactive (with discussions and question/answer time) and all attendees were happy with both the format and delivery. There was a lot of positive feedback and some enquiries for post-workshop mentoring, which our partner (NZBA) has offered.

The second small business development workshop will be on Saturday, 30 July 2022, and we have thirteen community members registered to attend.



Coming up...

Futsal for kids

There is opportunity for children of year 2-8 students to join futsal in September on Sundays from 2-4 pm. Please contact Hafsar at- 02041130531



Volleyball for the guys

A reminder that there is Friday night volleyball happening in Wellington. If you are keen to get involved in this multi-ethnic activity, get in contact with Demeysa.



Advocacy abounds:

Our community Advocate is getting busier and busier in the advocacy space. As a speaker in July, Batool attended a webinar about "Community-led research with ethnic migrant and refugee background communities in theory and in practice". The Aotearoa Migrant Research Network hosted the webinar in partnership with Community Research. Batool spoke about the importance of collaborative research (non-extractive) if we would like to see a healthy research environment.

You can access the recording of the webinar once uploaded on their website here:

[Aotearoa Migration Research Network - Te Ngira: Institute for Population Research: University of Waikato](#)

This year, apart from our everyday advocacy, ChangeMakers is actively focusing on our communities' education-related challenges. As part of our advocacy role, we participated and submitted our feedback to New Zealand's Education Review Office (ERO) Long Term Insights Briefing, "Embracing Diversity and school practices." Our suggestion was well received and made part of the report. You can read the full summary of the report here:

[Long-Term Insights Briefing - Summary of Submissions June 2022 \(4\).pdf](#)

In the Research Space:

Our connection with Community Research has been continuously growing and strengthening since we collaborated in 2020 when we launched the special research collection "**Hear from us not about us: The power of refugee background research.**" You can visit the research collection here:

[Hear from us, not about us: The power of refugee-background research - Community Research](#)

In July, Community Research hosted the third informal online hui for refugee and migrant background researchers to come together, connect and help create collective action for research by and for refugee and migrant communities in Aotearoa.

If you are a refugee background researcher and would like to connect with other researchers, please email Batool Arif: Batool.Arif@crf.org.nz

Coming up...

Swimming

There are 4 swimming classes running from 31 July 2022 on Sundays for kids and women from refugee backgrounds. This is an 8 week program to teach the basics of water confidence and swimming with the possibility of extending to advanced swimming in future. The program is run in partnership with Tio Tio Road Trust.

Hafsar.Tameesuddin@crf.org.nz if you are interested.



Information Session:

Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship programme

Following many enquiries from community members about this programme, we have spoken to Birgit, the National Manager of Host International Aotearoa, about coming along to talk to you.

Birgit is happy to do this and will provide a presentation, followed by a question and answer session. If you would like to talk to Birgit, or some of the Host team, this is a great opportunity.

We will hold this at ChangeMakers if numbers are small or at Sisters of Compassion if numbers are above 15...so please RSVP to info@crf.org.nz by 17th August 2022 to give us time to book the appropriate space.



Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship

Do you have questions about the programme? ...who qualifies to be a sponsor organization?
...how people are selected to be sponsored?

ChangeMakers brings you an opportunity to have all your questions answered by the team from Host International Aotearoa

7th September, 2022
6 - 8pm
Location to be confirmed
A light supper will be provided a little bit of body text

RSVP by 17 August
info@crf.org.nz

For further information about this session
or jacqueline.wilton@crf.org.nz
022 457 6839



Research Participants needed



ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum AGM

The CRF AGM for 2022
will take place on
Wednesday 26th October,
from 6pm at LifePoint
Church, 61 Hopper
Street, Mt Cook
Wellington. We are
looking for 6 board
members...are you keen?



ChangeMakers
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Interested to put your name forward to become a board member?

The CRF are looking for shadowers now and **four positions** to at the AGM this year.

What are we looking for?

- A great board is one that is impartial, brings a range of skills to the table, and is diverse across ages, cultures, and genders. Currently the board is targeting individuals with **legal, financial, OR governance** experience.
- The board is legally liable and financially liable for CRF "to ensure ChangeMakers has the resources to run efficiently and effectively" (from the Constitution).
 - Each member does not represent 1 community, but all 17 communities.
 - You will need to be a strategic objective thinker working in the interests of CRF
- You will need to be available and willing to engage in work outside of the minimum two-hour monthly meetings.

Thank you to our funders, supporters, and volunteers

It is with the support of the following organisations, as well as a lot of individuals that donate or volunteer with us, that we are able to work towards our missions of “New Zealanders from refugee backgrounds participating fully in Aotearoa new Zealand life” . We also send out a special thanks to those organisations that we collaborate with for the immense amount of support they are providing to our communities and our work

