



**ChangeMakers**  
Resettlement Forum

**Office Opening Hours:**

9.00am – 5.00pm

Monday to Friday  
Available Saturday by  
appointment.

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**Website:**

ChangeMakers  
Resettlement Forum

**Facebook:**

Changemakersrefugeeforum

**Whatsapp:**

CRF Community  
Noticeboard

## Monthly Newsletter

July 2023

### Update from Jacqs

Kia Ora everyone

We missed a month with the newsletter after having an extremely busy time at the end of June and beginning of July with World Refugee Day, National Volunteer Week, and the National Refugee Resettlement Forum...so you get two months worth of updates, but only the most pertinent.

World Refugee Day takes place on 20<sup>th</sup> June annually, and each year UNHCR provide a theme for the year. This year the theme was Hope Away From Home: A World Where Refugees Are Always Included. This theme really resonates with the work of CRF in our context, where our mission is to facilitate full participation of people of refugee background into life in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The other big celebration in June, which happens to be throughout the week of World Refugee Day, is the celebration of volunteers during National Volunteer Week. Our organisation would not function as we do without volunteers giving their time to support our mahi and the communities we work with. We have volunteers in both driving programmes, we have a volunteer teaching men to swim, we have volunteers now facilitating our men's futsal and also both the women's and men's volleyball, we work alongside volunteers from Catholic Social Services with the Befriender programme and have Sockadoodle knitting up a storm with proceeds going to CRF.

The immense gratitude we feel for volunteers was expressed through a variety of means: dinner for the Open Road volunteers, a series of stories about volunteers on our facebook page (which are to be shared on the website), and general contact and coffees. We are now working on a stronger volunteer programme, that sits outside of the driving programmes and incorporates those volunteering in other areas. This will also allow us to work with a greater number of volunteers, and get more done with the communities we work for.

Sadly, Open Road, the national driving programme for which we hold the Wellington Contract, has been ended. While we work on a resolution, here we share some words about the immense success and empowerment this programme has provided across the Wellington region during its years here.

Take care...stay warm...I can see snow on the ranges as I type.  
Jacqs



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

**Nothing About Us Without Us**

**Focus On Strengths Not Weaknesses**

## World Refugee Day

This year we initially launched the Change The Narrative Exhibition at Pataka in May, which celebrates refugee contribution through images and short stories. The exhibition ran through until the day after the World Refugee Day event on 24<sup>th</sup> June that we facilitated at Te Rauparaha Arena. An event that celebrated the diversity and contribution refugee background communities bring to Aotearoa New Zealand. This was a fantastic day which included cultural performances, food from refugee background communities, free swimming, and plenty of activities for the kids. We also had a photo booth which was very popular. An estimated 600+ people attended, helped by our provision of buses from Levin, Masterton, Wellington and the Hutt to assist in overcoming barriers to participation.

Whilst we take the lead on the day in response to the desires of the community to celebrate and showcase their cultures, rather than being talked to about themselves and their journeys, we have a lot of support. Red Cross provided some support financially and on the day, HOST International Aotearoa did some photography, provided an MC, and other support on the day, Catholic Social Services helped out on the day, Te Whatu Ora also provided some assistance, Wellington Cricket and Outward Bound both provided some activities, and through different means Porirua City Council provided funding and community rates. We were fortunate to have Kaumatua for Ngati Toa Rangatira, Dr Taku Parai, open the event. The major funder of the event, through social cohesion, was the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). We are so grateful for the support and funding, and have had really positive feedback about the day.





## Food Handling Certificate

### NZQA Food Hygiene and Safety Certificate

During the last week of July, what is commonly known as a Food Handling course was held out in Stokes Valley.

More than 20 people participated, from the Myanmar, Tamil, Ethiopian, Rwandan, Tigray, Ahmadiyya, Hazara, Iraqi and Colombian communities...and all received their certificates. So congratulations.

Get in touch if you would like some catering carried out and we can connect you with a chef.



## Open Road Funding Stopped

On June 30 2023 the funding ended for the Open Road Driving Programme and it finished operating here in Wellington. Open Road was an established nationwide driving programme for men and women of refugee background which ChangeMakers has delivered since 2017. It has helped thousands of people from refugee backgrounds to learn to drive across Aotearoa.

We are devastated to see the programme end as we know there are still many people from a refugee background that need to learn to drive and we hear daily how learning to drive opens up so many opportunities for those who have passed their tests. Our Turning the Curve womens driving programme continues and we are looking for how we can offer alternatives to the Open Road programme.

Looking back Open Road has been an amazing programme to be part of held together by a very committed team of volunteer driving mentors, our practice navigator Nadia and incredible Driving Instructor George. In 6 years as a team we have achieved:


- 133 Restricted Licences
- 54 Full Licences
- 4 International Conversion Licences
- 191 Total driver licences

It has been wonderful to meet the many learners and volunteers on our programme and to share the joy of so many who achieved their goal of learning to drive.

*Looking back over the photos, I ended up in tears. Like Kate, I have been involved in the programme from its Wellington beginning. A lot of the people in Porirua who obtained their licences through the programme, were people I was working with. The difference this programme made to those people is immense. They have been able to contribute to their new country...it has allowed them to participate meaningfully. Jacqs*




## What's going on?



**Women's Friendship Project** 

**For refugee background women to meet and get to know local women in Wellington**

Find out more

Call, text, what's app  
Kate 027 552 5972  
kate.twyford@crf.org.nz



**WEEKLY SWIMMING**  
Lessons For Women and Kids



**Kids 7- 12 years old**  
1pm current kids  
2.30pm for new kids

**Women 13 years +**  
3.00pm - 3.30pm


**Free for Children and Women**  
When: Every Sunday  
Where : Wellington East Girls College 131 Austin Street, Mt Victoria.  
(short walk from No.2 bus)


For more information  
message/test/whatsapp  
Lucia 020 4113 0531

Keep any eye out for holiday activities and new activities coming up.


Demeysa is on leave, but the programmes continue. Get in touch with the office if you are keen on mens volleyball or football and we will connect you to the volunteers now facilitating the games.


 **FREE!!**



**VOLLEYBALL TIME!**

**WE PLAY ON SUNDAYS FROM 6 - 7:30 PM, AT THE ĀKAU TANGI SPORTS CENTRE. COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!**

 **72 KEMP STREET, KILBIRNIE, WELLINGTON 6022**



 Incorporation with  **NEW ZEALAND POLICE**  
Naā Pirihimana o Aotearoa




**Football connect**


 **Location Wellington**  
2 Kemp Street, KILBIRNIE 6022

**Limited Space**

Get in touch:




**UP**



**FREE!**

Volleyball for Women & Girls from  
Refugee & Migrant Backgrounds



Venue: Sacred Heart College  
Lower Hutt

Every Sunday  
2p.m. to 4.30p.m.

Interested?  
Please contact

Rahela Khalili  
Email: rahelakhalili143@gmail.com  
Mob: 022 684 3256

## Volunteers Still Needed for Turning The Curve



**Empower a woman from  
a refugee background!**

By helping her practice towards her **driver's licence**.

Our driving programme *Turning the Curve* helps women from refugee backgrounds to get their licence. We are looking for **fabulous women over 25 years old with a full driver licence** to practice twice a week in the driver's car. We have drivers in **Wellington, Porirua** and in **the Hutt**.

*Full training & ongoing support provided.*

Expressions of interest are welcome...please contact the office so we can connect you with the appropriate person.

## Farewell to Batool

In the first week of June, Batool Arif, moved on from ChangeMakers to a new role as Welcoming Communities Navigator at Hutt City Council.

Batool initially worked at CRF as an Office Coordinator, but in 2021 had her role split to also allow her to be the Community Advocate.

I am sure many of you join the CRF team and board in wishing Batool all the best in her new role...and of course it is not 'goodbye', but 'see you later'.



## 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 Red Cross, Catholic Social Service, Sisters of Compassion, Reach Out Counselling and CCDHB for the immense amount of support they are providing to our communities and our work



