

Office Opening Hours:

9.00am - 5.00pm

Monday to Friday Available Saturday by appointment.

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

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 20th 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

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 24th 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

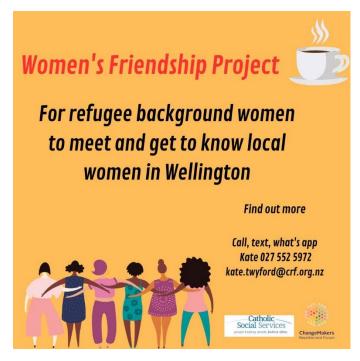
4 International Conversion Licences

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

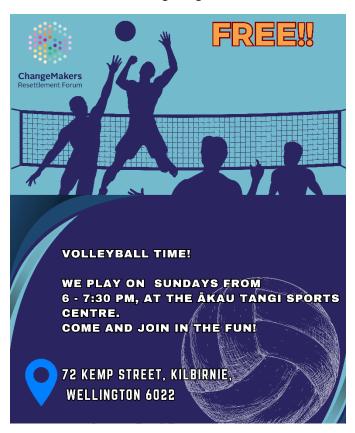
What's going on?



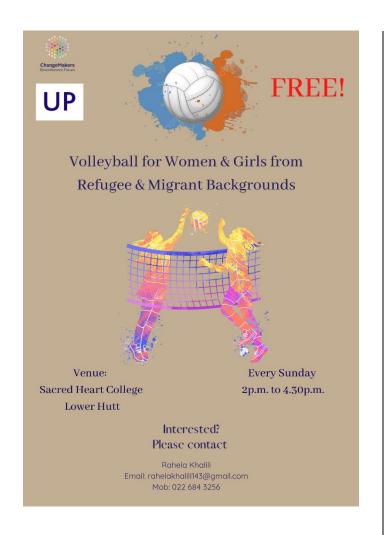


Keep any eye out for holiday activities and new activities coming up.

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.







Volunteers Still Needed for Turning The Curve



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















































