



ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum

Office Opening Hours:

9.00am – 5.00pm

Monday, Wednesday &
Friday

Office Contact Details:

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Website:

ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum

Facebook:

Changemakersrefugeeforum

Whatsapp:

CRF Community
Noticeboard

Monthly Newsletter

February 2024

Update from Jacqs



Welcome to the first newsletter from us for 2024.

While we have had what feels like a real Kiwi summer, with plenty of sunshine and people spending a lot of time out and about, we have also had some great outdoor activities with communities.

January saw our first Football Tournament, which saw 6 teams battle it out in Petone. Then over the following two weeks we had our Athletics Holiday programmes for children and youth, in collaboration with Athletics Wellington.

And to end the summer buzz, we took 3 buses of women and children to Queen Elizabeth park in Masterton for a fun day out. Women and Mums got to spend time together and children got to play together.

There has been the continuing behind the scenes driving lessons, social work, employment support, navigation, funding support and so much more.

This is the last update you will receive from me as I finish with ChangeMakers next Wednesday (13th March) to go to a job as Project Manager – Refugee (and Migrant) Health in the Wairarapa...my home district. I am super excited to be moving home and to have the opportunity to focus on one area of providing equity to realise equality in the lives of people of refugee background.

I would like to thank their communities for their trust and the fun we have had together over my time at ChangeMakers, other settlement services for the collaboration we have had and the much better outcomes resulting from working together, and to our funders for believing in the work we do. I would also like to thank the ChangeMakers team – you know who you are – for their incredible passion and dedication to their work and the CRF vision.

Please see the statement from the board on the next page.

Kia Kaha everyone

Jacqs

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

Nothing About Us Without Us

Focus On Strengths Not Weaknesses

Board Statement

As you may be aware our GM, Jacqueline Wilton, is moving to a new role with Te Whatu Ora. We wish to express our deep gratitude to Jacqs for her significant contributions and commitment to Changemakers over recent years, particularly for her leadership of our organisation and support for our communities during the challenges of Covid, lockdowns and isolation. We wish Jacqs all the best for her next steps and new role.

We are pleased to let you know that Judah Seomeng, a current employee of Changemakers, has agreed to step into an interim general manager role while we recruit a new GM. Jacqs has kindly agreed to provide support and training to Judah for a short period to ensure the smoothest transition possible while we recruit for a new GM.

The Board is grateful to Judah for taking on this responsibility and to Jacqs for making herself available to provide this support.

As always, the board chair can be contacted at: mamardiya.abdulaziz@outlook.com

Futsal Tournament

On Saturday 14th January, 2024 a collaborated effort by ChangeMakers, Capital Football, Wellington Phoenix, and New Zealand Police brought the inaugural ChangeMakers Football Tournament to our communities.



We were delighted by the response we had to this, with 6 full teams registering, representing a range of communities: Kaw Thoo Lei (Karen plus friends); Nigerian Community FC; Jirra (Ethiopia plus friends); Afghan Community; Homs FC (Syrian); and Team 1 (a group of individuals that wanted to join a team for the day).

There was a lot of joy and laughter, comradery, and excellent sportsmanship throughout the day. While not playing, teams and supporters were entertained by our friend DJ Dozen (Tendekai), and we had fun commentary and “ooh là là” from Devin between his games for Kaw Thoo Lei.

In the kids corner, we had Football for All and Athletics Wellington providing some fun activities and getting our younger whanau interested in these activities. Entertaining kids over such a long day is not easy, but everyone seemed to be having fun, and some of the kids moved on to karaoke and commentary after their activities were over. We even had a couple of the mums singing and dancing on the sidelines.

Twelve games total were played, starting at 9 am and going through into overtime past 4.30 pm with a penalty kick-off between Jirra and Kaw Thoo Lei. Everyone was in a state of nervous anticipation and supporters on the sidelines were letting their vocal cords loose as they loudly cheered on their teams. A huge congratulations to Jirra, who managed to pull off the win, taking home the ChangeMakers Football Trophy 2024. And congratulations to Kaw Thoo Lei for coming in very close runners-up. Player of the tournament went to Ashnarvy Mustapha, and Best Sportsmanship went to Mar Chae Michael...so a huge congratulations to both of you.

ChangeMakers would like to shout out our huge appreciation to Capital Football – particularly Jess, Wellington Pheonix, New Zealand Police, the professional referees who volunteered their time, and to Athletics Wellington, the two food vendors of Colombian and Afghani food, health promoters Bee Healthy and Kokiri Marae Hauora Services. Without your support, this event couldn't have happened nor been as fluid yet well organised. Thanks to our DJ, Tendekai, for allowing others to practice their DJ skills, do a little Karaoke and some commentary. We also want to thank communities for participating and supporters for attending...and look forward to seeing you again next year.

Athletics Holiday programme

Where do they get all the energy from...that's what team CRF were wondering after the first day of our Athletics Holiday programme held in collaboration with Athletics Wellington.

More than 35 children and youth turned up to learn athletics skills...and they kept running, jumping, and throwing from 9.30 am until after 2.30 pm when we were meant to finish. Coaches from Athletics Wellington participated in the day, with the first section focussing on running skills, the second on jumping skills, and the third on throwing skills. Each session covered several aspects of the skills, so for example, both long jump and high jump were included in the jumping activities.

"There is some huge talent amongst this group" was a comment from one of the coaches...and we also had comments on how well the kids engaged with the different sports and how everyone interacted and supported each other across the ages and ethnicities present. Participants were children and youth aged 4 years to 16 years from across ChangeMakers member and friend communities, and even the 4 year olds were completely engaged. In fact, we think this has been one of the best children and younger youth activities we have had. As the end of the day came around, and we shouted iceblocks for participants, coaches and parents to cool down, the kids just kept having races...and then the adults started to join in.

It was incredible to see skills developing in such a short time, and we can't wait to see what happens after the second day of the programme which is on Wednesday 24th January at Wellington Athletics Park – see poster below. These days are not only about getting kids out and about and to try something new, but are helping children and youth to develop skills for their upcoming school athletics, and anyone that is interested can register to be part of a club...you just need to let us know. Smaller children can come along too...as they did...and we have activities for them...which we didn't really use as they were busy being athletes.

A huge shout out of appreciation goes out to Tony and Tamsin from Athletics Wellington for making this happen, to Yared Kebede for connecting Tony with ChangeMakers, to the coaches who were incredibly engaging, to the parents who spent the day at the event (and chilled out or caught up with each other and team CRF), and to Bee Healthy who came along again to help our kids learn about their teeth and looking after them.



Notices

coming up/on now

WEEKLY SWIMMING LESSONS FOR KIDS



FREE EVERY SUNDAY

Newtown School
16 Mein Street
Wellington

Choose a time slot between 1:00 and 3:00pm

Contact Lucia
020 4113 0531
lucia.cabrera@crf.org.nz



Starting date: 22/02

Thursdays, 6:30-7:30pm

Cannons Creek School Hall
-4 Warspite Avenue-



Porirua Fitness Group for WOMEN

\$Gold coin donation

ARENA FITNESS

For more info:
Lucia 020 4113 0531

COMMUNITY MUSIC PROGRAM LEARN TO MAKE MUSIC

FREE COMMUNITY MUSIC WORKSHOPS FOR ALL AGES AND ALL SKILL LEVELS



- LEARN THE BASICS OF RHYTHM AND HARMONY
- PLAY MUSIC FOR FUN
- IMPROVE YOUR GROUP SINGING SKILLS

LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
Bring your own instrument

NEXT SESSION:
Sunday, 31 March 2024
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

CONTACT:
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Ph: 022 065 7831

POMARE COMMUNITY HALL
55 FARMER CRESCENT, TAITA.
POMARE 5011



Womens' Day Out (with the kids)

This was a day for connecting, reconnecting, and having new experiences...all things that are participatory and promote inclusion. Some of the women that came on the trip had never been over the Rimutakas, including some who have been in Wellington for 23 years, and are now planning trips for their families and communities. It was so wonderful to support this group of women from a range of communities including Tamil, Somali, Nuer and Dinka, Luo, Colombia, Rohingya, and Iraqi to have this experience...and being able to bring the kids along meant no one had to miss out.



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 Host International Aotearoa, Red Cross, Catholic Social Services, Sisters of Compassion, and Reach Out Counselling for the immense amount of support they are providing to our communities and our work

