



# SANCTUARY AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2015

"While every refugee's story is different and their anguish personal, they all share a common thread of uncommon courage: the courage not only to survive, but to persevere and rebuild their shattered lives."

~Antonio Guterres, former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



## Congolese refugee family to be re-united

Congolese ex-refugee, Gasore, has lived in Coffs Harbour for five years now, and is dreaming of being reunited with his family again after 11 long years apart.



They have recently had their interviews with the Australian High Commission, and the next step will be completing medicals.

His wife Dina and family have suffered for over a decade in squalid Kibuye refugee camp in Rwanda, existing on meagre rations and little hope.

They are from the Hutu tribe of the Congo, where the Government began an ethnic cleansing policy in 2002, killing thousands, and targeting educated men and boys.

Gasore fled in 2002, and got to the Uganda border, then made his way to Dadaab refugee camp in N.Kenya and was among those eventually accepted to come to Australia under the Government Refugee Program.

We thank our supporters and donors for making it possible for Sanctuary to provide an interest-free travel loan to get Gasore's family to Australia. We hope to have an arrival date soon.

## David Helfgott Piano recital raises over \$5,500 for refugees.....

Gillian and David Helfgott held a fantastic fundraiser at their home near Bellingen, raising over \$5,500 towards Sanctuary's work. (David's story was told in the movie 'Shine'.)

Violinist/soprano Kate Thomson played an exceptional version of Schindler's List theme song, which was very moving and brought tears to the eyes of many.

The amazing support from events like this allows us to offer assistance to families desperately needing to be reunited with their loved ones suffering in refugee camps overseas.



It also allows Sanctuary to continue to provide our busy Advice and Support Service, giving help with sponsorship advice, helping those facing challenges with many aspects of settlement and starting a new life.

**Please contact us if you would be interested in holding a fundraiser for Sanctuary's work** or have a fundraising idea that you would like to share!

## Freedom after 19 years in a Malaysian refugee camp

Sanctuary provided ongoing advice and assistance to a local Burmese ex-refugee seeking to sponsor her sister's family to come to Australia under the Humanitarian Program.

Tko and his wife Saptiwi met in a Malaysian refugee camp, married and had a son who was born in the camp. Tko had spent 19 years in the refugee camp and Saptiwi was there for 15 years. They were badly persecuted in Burma and have suffered greatly.

The family arrived recently and are very happy to be safe now in Australia, where they can start a new life.



*Saptiwi, Tko and their son.*

## Thank you to our supporters!

The work of Sanctuary Australia Foundation would not be possible without the generosity of our kind supporters across Australia. Sanctuary is a multi-award winning charity, and works with great integrity, spending every dollar carefully towards the best outcome for refugees. We do not receive Government funding, and could not exist without our committed volunteers! If you would like to help by giving a monthly donation, please give online at:

**[givenow.com.au/sanctuaryrefugeefoundation](http://givenow.com.au/sanctuaryrefugeefoundation)**

For information visit:

**[www.sanctuaryaustraliafoundation.org.au](http://www.sanctuaryaustraliafoundation.org.au)**  
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*An Iraqi family reunited thanks to Sanctuary.*

**'Thank you for all the support you have been providing for our client - it has been very much appreciated.'**

Irene, Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture,  
Melbourne



## Congolese education program

Since 2012, Sanctuary has provided over \$18,000 in direct assistance for school fees and basic needs for disadvantaged children in Eastern Congo and Kenya.

Sanctuary also provides education funding for children of some of the needy families who have been unsuccessful in their visa application to come to Australia.

Many of these are orphan children who have lost their parents due to ongoing civil war and illness. Our London-based partner charity, R.O.A.R Congo, has a very successful on-the-ground Project, providing education, training and basic support in several areas of need, including medical.

If you would like to help these children, who have no hope of schooling without your support, just \$50 will pay for a child's school fees for a year, including school uniforms, and it will change their lives, and give them a brighter future.

We will provide updates on how your gift has been used. Thank you.