



# SANCTUARY

Australia Foundation Newsletter 2017



## A family finally together again!

After 19 years, Marcella was finally reunited with her children at Coffs Harbour airport. It was a very emotional experience for everybody!

During the war in Sierra Leone 19 years ago, they had been suddenly separated when militias invaded their village and attacked their home. The three children were at their friend's house at the time the militia attacked. Marcella was separated from her beloved children and unable to find them, suffering for years without knowing their whereabouts.

In 2013, she made an amazing discovery through Facebook - she found out that her daughter was attending university in Nigeria! She wrote to the University and was put in touch with her children - it changed her life.

Sanctuary assisted Marcella with the long sponsorship process, starting in 2013, including DNA and medical testing and upon approval by the Australian Immigration department, assisted with an interest-free airfare loan and booked their flight to Australia.

**THANK YOU to the amazing donors who made this possible!**

## Refugee Sponsorship

With the help of our wonderful volunteer Margaret, we've sponsored dozens of refugee cases from Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Congo, Iraq, Liberia, Sudan, Burundi and Burma among others.

Margaret and Mark work hard to sponsor refugees stuck in camps overseas. We receive many requests for help from victims of war every week, and try to sponsor as many as possible.

Sadly it's getting harder to obtain a humanitarian visa, and can take many years of waiting for the few who are successful under the 202 sponsored visa program. We continue to assist with family reunification visas and travel loans.



Margaret Bell, Sanctuary Volunteer



## Sanctuary SBS partnership

Sanctuary was one of 10 charities chosen to be an SBS TV partner. They will provide free advertising across Australia to promote Sanctuary's work with refugees. We are most grateful to Peter Clarke, Heaven and Earth Films, for putting the ad together, and to our patron Jack Thompson for doing the voice over - all at no cost. The ad is just 15 seconds long, with a simple message, and we are pleased to be hearing from supporters across Australia as a result.

**Thank you SBS, Peter Clarke and Jack Thompson for your invaluable support!**

## Reunited after 10 long years!



***The wife and children of Ajith Bol have finally arrived to join him in Adelaide! They met in Kakuma refugee camp, both refugees from the terrible war in S. Sudan, and married. When Ajith recieved a special humanitarian visa to come to Australia, they had no idea that the process for his family to be reunited with him in Australia would take so long. Ajith was reunited with his wife and children at Adelaide airport thanks to an interest-free airfare loan from Sanctuary.***

Ajith recalls the night his family arrived: "We drove back to our new home, it was eleven o'clock in the night. We were tired, happy and grateful. Rebecca began crying when she saw there was a fridge, she had never had a fridge. She was amazed at our new home. Our family was so happy to see beds, clothes, toys, T.V. and so many more things that had been donated."

"In ten years I have not lived with my family, except for 2 short visits. My children have a dad now, I am no longer a voice on the phone, we are finally together forever. Life is very amazing now. The children attend school and are excited to learn English and one day attend University, this is our goal, this is part of our Australian dream. There is so much freedom here and we feel safe."

"Last Friday a close family member was shot dead in Sudan, he had lived with my family and his death hurt us a lot. I was so grateful to have my family here safe and free to drive and walk where they want to, without fear. There is a lot of changes and many adjustments to make, but now we are all together. I am so happy, I no longer worry like I did when my family were in Africa."

"I appreciate all the support I have received, it is amazing that so many people would help me. I will not forget and neither will my family, how everyone came together to make it possible for us to be happy, to love and live together in Australia."

"I asked my wife "Why cry?", she replied "It's been so long and now we are a family, it's too amazing!"

***If you would like to help families like Ajith's to be resettled in Australia please help us by donating today on the form provided.***

## Welcome Alain from the Congo!

Alain is a refugee from the Congo, who had to flee from his country in 2010, after rebels started to terrorize his mother, while looking for his father. They attacked his school, killing students (some of whom were Alain's close friends) and teachers. After being chased through a forest by soldiers at night, Alain managed to find a truck driver, who assisted him to get help from the UNHCR by taking him to Nairobi, Kenya.

In Nairobi, assisted by a good samaritan from the Congo, he was given a temporary place to live. In 2011, he was caught in a terrorist bomb attack, suffering severe burns without medical coverage in Kenya, was only able to receive two weeks worth of medical assistance.

After a long period of time, Alain was able to start English classes and study information technology. Alain was sponsored by Sanctuary and says: "I would like to thank your donors for their help because I lost hope but Sanctuary brought it back again ....." Alain has now resettled in Coffs Harbour after being sponsored by us. Thanks to our donors for making this possible!



Mark Hallam, SAF Manger, with Alain



## Sanctuary's 'Mentor Into Work' Program - helping refugees into work and business.

Manyuon Malak Mou, known by his mates as "Manny," arrived in Coffs Harbour as a young child 22 years ago, from Kakuma Refugee Camp in N. Kenya. His family were sponsored, supported and settled by Sanctuary.

With Sanctuary's help, Manny was recently successful in attaining a position with SI Clean Energy, a local solar company. He has completed Certificate 4 in Environmental Science at Southern Cross University, making him a prime candidate for this field of work. SI Clean Energy said it was very important to have committed and stable employee like Manny

so that they could feel confident in spending time and money in extensive training. As Tradesman's Assistant, he is presently working on recycling Solar inverters, and working hard to gain a solid career path for his future. Manny loves his work and aims to become a Solar Power Installer.

Over 28 years Sanctuary has worked with refugees assisting them to find work and/or start their own business. Most come with great drive and determination after their lives have been 'on hold' for years. There are many wonderful examples of successful businesses in the Coffs



Harbour area. Sanctuary works closely with the local community and is always happy to hear from other employers who may have positions available or those with start up plans. If you would like to support the Sanctuary Mentor into Work Program, please **call Peter on (02) 66522127 or M.: 0405 831 016**



Ara from Afghanistan receiving her first bike!

**"Sanctuary Australia Foundation are a wonderful team to work with. They were very supportive financially and emotionally.**

**I had not seen my children in 20 years but with Sanctuary's help, it was much easier and I am grateful. Sanctuary are the best – so much love and concern they give out. I am so happy now I am reunited with my children."**

~Marcella Kallon, Nov. 2016

## The Sanctuary Centre

We've been successful in our application for funding to cover the next year's rent for the Sanctuary Centre in downtown Coffs Harbour! Thanks to the VFF Foundation for their wonderful ongoing support to make this possible. We are very proud of what we have achieved in the first year in our new office centre. Being in a central location has meant that our clients have been able to access our services much more easily and we have seen a big increase in numbers of people seeking help with all aspects of settlement, sponsoring and work.



## Refugee Health Study

Sanctuary Australia Foundation has partnered with the University of Western Sydney to deliver a project in Coffs Harbour that has the aim of evaluating the factors that influence the patterns of physical activity and leisure participation among ex-refugees settled in the region. The project also intends to identify how these factors might be related to the mental health and wellbeing of migrants.



Dr. Arianne Reis

Dr Arianne Reis is overseeing the project 'This partnership is helping us to determine what long-term health needs exist in the local refugee population. It is surprising that research on refugee engagement in leisure-time physical activity is still scant, given the well-known mental health issues associated with forced migration, displacement, and re-settlement in a foreign country. This research project aims to contribute to filling this gap.'



Komla Lokpo

The study is funded by the University, and has also employed a member of the local migrant community, Mr. Komla Lokpo, to work as a research assistant. Dr Reis said "Mr Lokpo's contribution to the project has already been significant - he is incredibly dedicated, and also well-connected with the entire local refugee community and has made our job so much easier already. Two focus groups have worked together to determine what long-term health needs exist in the local refugee population so that we can create targeted programs for migrants."

## Siblings success on the catwalk!



My name is Jeannine Kambere. I am one of 6 children, five girls and one boy, raised by our single mother. We're of Congolese descent but were refugees in Kenya when we were sponsored by Sanctuary Australia Foundation for resettlement in Australia. I am 21 years old and my brother John Kambere is 20. We've both been involved in modelling since 2014.

We have walked the D&M fashion shows in Sydney, Perth and Brisbane. I have competed in 'Miss Malaika Australia 2014'. In 2015, I was running for the 'Miss and Mr. Africa Victoria. I came first. I was Miss Africa 2015 for one year and my brother came second in the men's section.

Living in the refugee camp reduced my confidence of becoming a model and it wasn't until 2008 when I arrived in NSW, that my dream began to seem more realistic.

I am studying for a Bachelor of Psychological Science. My brother graduated high school in 2015 and will continue with his studies next year. Apart from his 'passion for fashion' he's also interested in becoming an entrepreneur. John is focusing on creating his own designs. He loves designing mens wear, especially business suits. His dream is to own his own clothing line one day.

At the moment I am taking part in Miss World Australia in 2017. I have made it to the nationals that are going to be on July the 14th in Melbourne. I am hoping to make it to the internationals now. That's my next step!

My dream is to have beauty with a purpose so that I can make a difference in the lives of others.

YOUR DONATION WILL MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.

MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION to support Sanctuary's vital work please visit Give Now's secure online giving facility: [www.givenow.com.au/sanctuaryrefugeefoundation](http://www.givenow.com.au/sanctuaryrefugeefoundation)

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BSB: 633-000, Account: 125199711 \*Make sure to use your name as a bank reference and email us for a receipt on [safoundation@westnet.com.au](mailto:safoundation@westnet.com.au).

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☐ Please send me information about including Sanctuary in my will, so that my legacy can continue to save refugee lives

☐ Send me Sanctuary's regular newsletter.

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO:

SANCTUARY AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION,

PO BOX 6295, COFFS HARBOUR,

NSW 2450 AUSTRALIA

Email: [sanctuaryaf@outlook.com](mailto:sanctuaryaf@outlook.com)

Phone : (02) 6652 2127

Please visit: [www.sanctuaryaustraliafoundation.org.au](http://www.sanctuaryaustraliafoundation.org.au)

Your donation will be handled securely and responsibly by Sanctuary, and we will let you know who has been directly assisted by your generous support.

THANK YOU!