



SANCTUARY



Amane with Umar at Coffs Harbour Airport

Together again at last!

Umar was forced to leave Ethiopia in 2004, after being jailed as a student for standing up against the brutal dictatorship that was oppressing the Oromo people. Fleeing his country by car, he drove to Egypt crossing through Sudan. Staying illegally in Egypt he suffered insecurity and danger, and was abused by locals because of his skin colour. He survived by selling clothes and doing cleaning work. He suffered in Egypt for 9 long years during which time his parents died in Ethiopia.

Umar met Amane in Egypt and instantly fell in love with her. In June 2013, they were married, and a year later he was told that his earlier visa application had been successful. Umar made the decision to take the opportunity and leave for Australia, planning to sponsor his wife once there.

Umar sponsored Amane in 2015 and she finally arrived here in September, after Sanctuary provided an interest-free travel loan and arranged her flights.

Umar and Amane are so happy to be together again, and with Sanctuary's help they have just moved into their first home together. The other good news is that they are expecting their first child in May!

**“To know that even one life has
breathed easier because you
have lived. This is to succeed.”**

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Thanks from Sohrab

Sohrab Sakhizadaa, a former refugee from Afghanistan, was studying IT at TAFE and desperately needed a computer to enable him to keep going with his studies.

Sanctuary approached the tech company Atlassian, who kindly provided him with a donation of a pre-loved Apple MacBook Pro! He was over the moon to receive this gift as it means he can follow his dream of becoming a program designer.



Sanctuary has given out 150 donated computers over the last year, and wish to extend this program.

According to Clean Up Australia, 4 million computers bought in Australia every year will end up in landfill. Many computers could be refurbished and used by people on low-incomes, such as new refugee arrivals.

We are seeking further donations of good quality computers from organisations, that can be refurbished.

If you can help, please contact us via our website.



Back together with her parents, *Thian (in black)* and her husband *Christy (in red)*.

A happy ending!

Thian's parents, Thang and Zungkung, are from the Fulon Chin ethnic minority in Myanmar. They had no choice but to flee Myanmar under fear of attack by the approaching Burmese military, known for their violent and oppressive tactics including the raping of women.

Their daughter Thian, remained behind in Myanmar in hopes that the situation might improve. Thang and Zungkung left for Thailand by foot, walking in fear for many days. They reached refuge in Thailand before taking a boat and being smuggled into Malaysia, where they remained in limbo for years.

They finally received a refugee visa to come to Australia, and are successfully resettled in Coffs Harbour.

They and their daughter Thian were apart for over 2 years, when she eventually managed to reach Malaysia, where her partner and herself had to hide from the police for fear of being arrested.

Her parents sponsored both of them and they were finally reunited in Coffs Harbour in September 2017 thanks to an airfare loan provided by Sanctuary Australia Foundation donors.

Thian says she is happy now, not having to worry about the police arresting her for being an illegal resident and being able to just live like everyone else. She aims to get work in a nursing home, so that she can support older people who need her assistance.

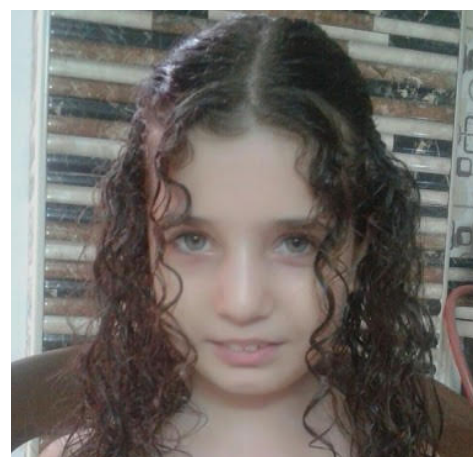
Sanctuary often spends months working with clients assisting them with paper work and communicating with the Government. SAF provides interest-free airfare loans for those cases which are successful.

Please support our work so that we can continue to help people like Thian.

Desperate refugees in need of assistance

"I am Sadek Dhayne, a Syrian refugee in Lebanon. My young daughter is called Dayna. She has suffered from psychological shock because of war and because of the horror of the armed terrorist groups. My young daughter lost speech. Please tell me how can you help me and how can my daughter get the medical care in your country?"

"From my heart's grief, you gave me some hope. You possess a heart of compassion and this is a rare and very beautiful thing. I will not cut off hope and I am willing to do anything to help my children please."



"I hope you will guide me to a way that will be fruitful for my situation and I will not forget this knowledge of you in my life because I am very happy with your friendship and you are a person with a loving heart and this is what has appeared to me from you and I will not lose hope."

Sanctuary is working to assist refugees like Dayna and her family every day.

Can you please help us to continue this vital work? Thank you.