



From refugee camps to a new life...

Some of those who have been welcomed to Australia over the last 18 months, are pictured below. Each family was successfully sponsored and assisted with an interest-free airfare loan by Sanctuary, and welcomed and settled in their new community by our wonderful network of affiliated Sanctuary Refugee Support Groups, across Australia.....

Photos: Copyright Sanctuary 2011.



To our caring donors and supporters - THANK YOU for making this possible!!

Sanctuary is a national community -based organisation, working to sponsor and rescue the 'forgotten refugees', (mainly women and children), suffering for years in squalid refugee camps. Most have no hope without Sanctuary's sponsorship. We are constantly advocating on behalf of these voiceless victims of war, for better outcomes for refugees.

Sponsorship is a long slow process, and over the last 12 months we have lost two of our sponsored refugees, while they were waiting and hoping for a new life.one young Ethiopian man in Kakuma Refugee Camp died of malaria, just as his Visa was about to be issued (after waiting for 2 years), the other, a young widow from Sierra Leone, died of TB, leaving two young daughters orphaned, just as her interview date was confirmed. It is heartbreaking.

PLEASE HELP US TO BE A VOICE FOR THOSE WITHOUT HOPE IN REFUGEE CAMPS...

Sanctuary sponsors refugees in camps overseas (mainly women and children) under Australia's unfunded Special Humanitarian visa (202) category. However, DIAC has issued fewer SHP (202) visas this year because of the increase in Protection Visas issued to onshore boat arrivals. The problem is the numerical linking of Protection Visas and SHP visas. As we have been pointing out, Australia is the only country in the world which takes away places from its overseas resettlement program when asylum seekers are recognised as refugees.

This means that those victims of war spending years suffering in the camps have little chance at present (unless they have spouse and/or children here). They are literally now at the back of the queue.

We believe that there should be separate visa categories for onshore asylum seekers and offshore refugees to allow a fair go for ALL refugees. The Refugee Council of Australia also supports this change.

WE BELIEVE THAT ALL REFUGEES SHOULD HAVE AN EQUAL CHANCE.

Sanctuary continues to appeal to the Government to create a separate visa class for onshore asylum seekers.

Please help us to advocate on behalf of those in camps without a voice.....

Can you help us with any of the following?

- Old house, office, land or building space for a Sanctuary centre
- Office chairs
- A recent model computer
- Storage space
- A venue for fundraising events
- Work experience and opportunities for new arrivals

Contact: srfoundation@westnet.com.au or Phone: (02) 6652 2127



SANCTUARY NOW HAS FOUR 'ORDER OF AUSTRALIA' MEDALS!!!

Dr. Penny Vine (Albury Sanctuary), Rosemary Breen (Inverell Sanctuary) and founders Peter and Susan Hallam, are all Sanctuary leaders who hold the Order of Australia Medal for their long years of work with refugees. Sue and Peter were honoured to receive the Order of Australia on May 4, 2011 at Government House in recognition of 23 years of dedication to refugees. We hope that this award will attract more attention to Sanctuary's work and help to assist more refugees to a safe and productive life in Australia.

"Our long term aim is getting real traction....to help people see refugees as human, from personal experience or just being shown a better way. Sanctuary is playing a huge part in this. When people are busy being hospitable, it redirects energy that would go into being fearful. Your role in leadership has helped in a magnifying way by example."

Steve Biddulph, acclaimed author and Sanctuary Patron

SAF receives no Government funding and relying on the generosity of the wider Australian community to continue this vital work.

Please donate now by visiting:

www.sanctuaryaustraliafoundation.org.au

Thank you!