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To whom it may concern

I have been very proud to be a Patron and friend of Sanctuary Refugee Foundation for the last four years.

Sue and Peter Hallam, as founders and the driving force of the organization have accumulated vast experience in the settlement of refugees, both in Canada and Australia, and have been committed to this as their lifes work. As a result, and with the encouragement of others, including myself, sister groups have proliferated through many parts of Australia, quietly but efficiently organizing airfares, on a very empowering rotating loan basis, and helping families to settle, practically and emotionally.

The community groups that Sanctuary has created seem to have mastered the process of helping families in terrible and traumatized condition, fresh from the nightmares of violent and desperate circumstances, to move smoothly and to be able to fully function and make new lives in Australia. Literally hundreds of families from Central America, Burma, Vietnam Bosnia, and S.Sudan owe their lives to them.

Peter and Sue are humble but articulate advocates of a kinder Australia, and as a result, community support has blossomed, and as a result, the fears and doubts that the general community might have felt towards refugees has turned into hospitality and pride. I feel that this is doing Australia at least as much good as it is the people finding safety.

Sanctuary is an efficient, cost effective, but also warm and human model, able to overcome the huge bureaucratic complexities and mobilize community support in a way no government department could do.

I have right here on my office wall, the photos of bewildered, exhausted and undernourished black parents and children standing in Coffs Harbour Airport with Peter and Sue, and a handful of volunteers, and then I have seen these families going about life in Coffs Harbour a few months later, smiling, interested and responsive. I feel as proud of this as of anything that I have participated in during my entire career.

Sincerely



Steve Biddulph

Psychologist, Author, Father of the Year 2000