



# Sanctuary

## West Coast Refugee Sanctuary Group

A PROJECT OF ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC PARISH, GREENWOOD  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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### *Our message . . .*

Welcome to Sanctuary, a group formed to provide interest free loans to help unite refugee families in Western Australia.

As this is our first newsletter, it's appropriate that I explain the beginnings of this group.

The inspiration came from Fr Vincent Conroy, the parish priest of the All Saints Catholic Church in Greenwood located in the northern suburbs of Perth, Western Australia. Fr Vincent happened upon a copy of the magazine 'Australian Catholics', as a good Catholic priest would. He read a story providing details of two Sanctuary groups who are active in New South Wales. These groups of dedicated people are involved in reuniting refugee families from Africa and this immediately struck a sympathetic cord with Fr Vincent.

Being the excellent parish priest that he is and with a great idea to help others - he handballed this to the parish's Refugee Support Group.

As co-ordinator of this group (and catcher of the handball), we spoke of the needs of refugees and perhaps the one problem that dominates their mind after arriving in Perth - the family they left behind.

#### **REFUGEES**

A refugee in Perth is a person/family from a traumatic past, who could not return to their home country because of persecution due to religion, race, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. They apply to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees for refugee status. There are approximately 20 million refugees in the world and if they are granted refugee status and chosen to settle in Australia, they are extremely lucky.

Through the generosity of the Australian public, the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) brings the family to Australia and assists in their resettlement.

Following the elation of being in their new safe country Australia, a depression period may set in when the immediate family they left behind becomes a great concern. They can apply to 'Propose' their family to be reunited with them in Perth and often the request is granted. DIMIA will allow the family in Africa to be resettled in Perth, but the family here has to provide the airfare from Africa.

Often the family in Perth has itself arrived only months earlier and has no money and requires a loan. As we all know, without adequate security, this is practically impossible.

#### **SANCTUARY**

The purpose of our group, is to provide interest free loans to assist in reuniting refugee families.

We will provide the sanctuary of an interest free loan to these people who wish to bring their mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters who, in most cases are floundering in a refugee camp with bare facilities in Africa and elsewhere.

Since 1997, I have been involved in assisting the resettlement of refugees in Perth. Our refugee support group has helped more than 400 people in that time - and I personally have assisted over 100. During this time, I have heard many horrific stories of the worst that mankind can inflict. These people are resilient, they are survivors and deserve a chance to live and fulfill their potential.

In the majority of cases after their arrival, they have progressed with their education and many are now in excellent career positions and will certainly repay in their taxes to the Australian taxpayer far more than the cost to bring them to Australia.

As you will read overleaf, it is the end of a long journey for our first family when they arrived in Perth in April - we hope that you will join us to assist others who wish to make the journey.

Stan Kilpin.

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**WEST COAST REFUGEE SANCTUARY GROUP (Inc.)**

PO Box 217, Greenwood, Western Australia 6924.

Contact: Stan Kilpin (08) 9322 1168.

# Family finds sanctuary in Perth

It's been a very long road for the Hillary family from Sudan. They arrived in Perth on May 26 after a long and tiring flight from Cairo.

Griffin and Rose Hillary, along with their children Ketty, Gladys and Collin, are the group's second recipients of an interest free loan which has enabled them to make a new and peaceful life in Perth.

As a child, Rose lived in the south of Sudan and because of internal disturbances moved to Khartoum. She and Griffin married and had three children. Griffin's work took him into the desert for days at a time where he worked in a quarry producing road base. During this time, Rose remained in Khartoum and joined a group of Christians who met regularly to pray and collect donations to assist orphaned children.

Rose came under political pressure because of her activities and fled with the children to Egypt. When Griffin arrived back from working in the desert, he found the family missing and followed them to Cairo in July 2002. Unfortunately in the crowded city of Cairo, the Sudanese people are not tolerated well by the locals. The only work and income that could be found by Rose was house-keeping and even this was irregular. The family is very grateful to the Catholic care agency, Caritas who assist-



*The Hillary family arrived at Perth airport on May 26, 2005*

ed them and many others in need in Egypt. Without this assistance from Caritas, many families would simply go hungry.

The Hillary family now live in Thornlie and are looking forward with anticipation to the future and a peaceful life - but they will never forget those who assisted them in their time of need.

## Two families here - and two on the way

Since the group's beginning in October 2004, much has been achieved. We are happy to welcome Albert Anikpi and his family from Sudan. Their arrival at Perth Airport on April 7 is the first of hopefully many families that we can assist with an interest free loan for their airfare.

Our second family arrived in Perth on May 26. They are the Hillary family also from Sudan. Rose, her husband Griffin and three children Collin (4), Gladys (8) and Ketty (11) departed from Egypt on their long and tiresome journey to Perth.

Both of these families and their proposers are extremely grateful to our Sanctuary group for our assistance.

Without us, the window of opportunity that their visa allows, may well have closed if a loan for the air fare was not provided.

The group has provided loans for another two refugee families. The money has been paid and we now await news of their arrival which is expected within the next few months.

The requests for assistance are constant - unfortunately we cannot help everyone. Our fundraising plan is soon to commence, so hopefully our acceptance rate will improve dramatically.

### Your support is vital to our work

If you would like to join the group as an active member and attend meetings, you would be most welcome.

However, you may not have the time but are interested in the valuable work being done to assist others. We invite you to become an Associate Member - no meetings to attend, but you are involved and kept informed of our activities. With you, we can continue - without you, many may be lost.

## DONATION and MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name:.....

Address: ..... State:..... Postcode:.....

Phone:..... Email: .....

- I wish to become an associate member. \$50
- I wish to donate to WRSG:
- I would like a tax receipt for the above donations.

EVERY DOLLAR DONATED IS USED FOR LOANS.  
NO DONATIONS ARE USED FOR ADMINISTRATION.  
ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Kindly return the completed form to: **West Coast Refugee Sanctuary Group, PO Box 217, Greenwood, WA 6924**