



Wonderful Support from Local, RSL & Leagues Clubs

Licensed Clubs in NSW are strong supporters of their communities through grants to local organisations. Each year BASF applies for grants to support our work with asylum seekers living in their local communities. This support again makes a big difference and allows us to support more people in dire need so we send a heartfelt thanks to the Clubs listed below which provided grants totaling \$51,500:

Auburn RSL Club- \$15,000

Canada Bay Club-\$9,000

Five Dock RSL Club-\$9,000

Bulldogs League Club-\$7,000;

Wests Ashfield Leagues Club-\$5,000

Hornsby RSL Club-\$2,500

Petersham RSL Club-\$2,000

Ramsgate RSL Club-\$1,000

Earlwood-Bardwell Park RSL Club-\$1,000

Goodbye to a Newtown Icon

Bob Gould was a larger than life bookseller whose passing leaves a gap, not only within his family but in the wider community too. Thanks to Bob's family and friends for donations to BASF in lieu of flowers at his recent funeral. Sincere condolences and thanks to the Gould family from the Management Committee and the refugees who will be supported by the generous donation of \$1,320 made in his honour.

A Special Urgent Appeal for Donations

Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation is in urgent need of support. Last month we supported 70 asylum seekers and expect that number will be higher in November; **however we have insufficient funds to provide these essential funds to asylum seekers who will be destitute without them.**

While we work hard to increase the number of

people supporting us, staging new events and applying for more grants there are times, like these, when money is short. It is very difficult to plan ahead as we depend on funds from friends and supporters. The asylum seekers we support are assessed according to very strict guidelines and we know they deserve support for them and their families.

Without our support

many would be destitute because, as you know, the government will provide no funding until their refugee status is proved.

As the Christmas season approaches, we think of those less fortunate than ourselves so please make a donation that will truly make a difference and give hope for the future to a family in desperate need.

Thank you
Virginia Walker
Honorary Chairperson

Lives You Have Changed In 2011

You have changed lives this year and should feel proud of the difference your support has made. Thanks to you BASF has supported 174 asylum seekers including 22 very traumatised children who so desperately need stability and security in what is a very strange land to them. Accommodation subsidies

have also been paid in some urgent cases with total support of \$266,600 – a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to that impressive total.

Very special thanks go to a generous and anonymous couple who passionately believe in what we are doing and have been providing BASF

with substantial support from the very beginning. Thanks also go to an anonymous trust in Victoria which donated \$10,000 – a major help at a time we needed it most. *However we need more donations. We need to raise the same or more and we need to do it now, so please support us again.*

Second Superb Sultan's Feast

Another sell out event was enjoyed with delicious food from **Somer Sivrioglu, Efendy** Chef and a Masterchef participant in Turkey. **John Newton**, food writer and critic, was again master of ceremonies and guests enjoyed wonderful wines from **Phaedrus Estate** in Victoria. Thanks to all who donated raffle prizes to make this again a profitable lunch. Due to popular demand we will repeat these in 2012.

Special Thanks for Ongoing Council Support

BASF operates with countless hours of volunteer input and donations which go straight to those in dire need. However we need some basic funds for basic services to keep us afloat. Thank you very much to **Leichhardt Council** and **Sydney City Council** as both have provided generous funding to give us this critical core support. Their funds enable BASF to increase awareness of the plight of refugees living in our communities, undertake advocacy to give them a secure future and help us increase our circle of financial supporters so we can help more desperately needy refugees.

BASF recipients by country:

- North Korea** — 42
 - Indian sub-continent** — 33
Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka
 - Africans** — 20 from Cameroon, Morocco, Rwanda, Algeria, Ghana, Burundi, Nigeria, Uganda, Congo, Sudan, Togo, Zimbabwe, Senegal and Ethiopia.
 - China** — 20, which is fewer than in previous years.
 - Middle East** — 19 from Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Bahrain, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.
 - North Asia** — 11 from Nepal, Mongolia and Burma
 - Indonesia & Aceh** — 12
 - Afghanistan** — 8 who are mainly Hazaras the persecuted minority
- The balance are from Ukraine, Georgia, Colombia and Fiji.

The Changing Face of BASF Refugees

One thing we can be sure of is that there are many countries where people are persecuted, harassed and threatened with physical harm or death. As wars, conflict and internal political changes occur so the country of origin of those seeing asylum changes, and those we support changes too.

hazardous and potentially fatal journey to flee the oppressive regime which denies basic human rights. They cannot go to South Korea as there they are viewed as spies or worse.

Currently the largest group of refugees come from North Korea, I am sure you have all read the terrible newspaper articles reporting increasing famine and hardship which is forcing people to make a

Some asylum seekers we support do have work visas but they find it impossible to find a job. Many employers are loath to train and employ people who are at risk of being sent back after a short period. Some asylum seekers have been so traumatised from their experiences that they are unable to work.

A Case History: Lee's* Story

Lee comes from the Indian Sub-continent, he escaped his home region because he was involved in opposition party politics, which threatened his life, and even now, after an absence of seven years, his political opponents are still looking for him. His road to security and safety in Australia has been long, arduous and traumatic and his process of application for refugee status has been almost as difficult.

when they visited Villawood Detention Centre. They provided him with accommodation and approached BASF for funds to cover his food, transport and phone costs.

Initially Lee was in detention and on release was fortunate to be supported by two kind and generous Australian women who had met him

Lee has endured four Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) hearings and three Federal Magistrate Court (FMC) hearings, each takes much preparation and many meetings going over the frightening circumstances he has left behind. Three times a pro bono Barrister took his case to the FMC having found judicial error in the RRT decisions Lee had

received which is the only way the case could be re-examined. After the final RRT hearing Lee had to wait an agonising 12 more months before a decision was made and he was granted a protection visa and BASF could cease supporting him.

At last Lee is able to start a new life in safety and can finally apply for his wife and children who have been in hiding to join him so they can be together again in a safe place.

*Lee's name has been changed to protect his identity as he still fears retribution from his home country.

Generously supported by:



If you receive this newsletter by snail mail and would rather receive it by email, please let us know at asylumseekersfoundation@bigpond.com.

BASF Donation Form

Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation: PO Box 829, Five Dock NSW 2046.
 ABN 78 722 539 923
 Tel: 9712 7784 or 0418 261 160 **Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible**

I enclose a cheque/money order or credit card details for a donation of: \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Visa or MasterCard. Card No: _____

Name on card _____

Expiry Date: ____/____/____ Signature: _____

Direct deposit to: UnitingCare NSW/Act Bridge for Asylum Seekers Fndt
 BSB: 634 634. Account no: 100028813.

To ensure that you receive a tax-deductible receipt, please email your name and address, the date of the deposit and the amount deposited to asylumseekersfoundation@bigpond.com.