



House of Welcome
197 The Trongate
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GRANVILLE NSW 2142
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22 May 2017

PS: please note we have moved! We can't wait to invite you to our grand opening, so please save the date to join us for a community celebration on Saturday 26th August!

I'd like to tell you about a family you've recently helped through your membership of the House of Welcome community and request that you continue your support this winter.

Amir, Sophie and their daughter Nahla* were referred to House of Welcome in 2014 when they'd just begun the rigorous process of applying for asylum.

Should a person receive two negative responses to their application for asylum in Australia, all government financial support is lost immediately. There is an option to seek judicial review, but this process can take years. This is where House of Welcome steps in.

Your donation enables House of Welcome to extend support to families in these situations.

Amir, Sophie and their daughter received the first application rejection shortly after we began working with them. With no income, homelessness was imminent. The stress caused was compounded by the physical and mental health concerns both parents faced. Finding employment was impossible.

We provided alternative accommodation and relieved some of the financial pressure through weekly financial assistance and Food Bank supplies.

With growing concern for Sophie's mental health, our Case Workers ensured she received the local mental health support she needed and linked the family to other general health and children's support services. They even assisted in enrolling and settling Nahla into a new school community.

In the meantime, Amir, Sophie and Nahla became much loved members of House of Welcome's community, through regularly attending social activities and community luncheons. Sophie has volunteered as a chef through the Women's Feast cooking classes and Amir as a truck driver in our Material Aid program. This experience gave Amir a much needed Australian reference that will help him gain employment quickly when his status is approved.

While their stressful process of obtaining a refugee visa continues today, the friendship, support and community connections Amir, Sophie and little Nahla have made in their time with us, all contribute to maintaining their hope for a safe, fulfilling life in Australia.

www.stfrancis.org.au

House of Welcome is a project of registered charity St Francis Social Services.
All donations above \$2 are tax deductible.

Below is an update on the achievements at House of Welcome and some exciting news and upcoming events, including our move into larger premises in Granville and our aim to increase service provision by 30% this year!

We would be delighted if you could please consider continuing your support. Donation ideas and details are below.

With much appreciation for all you do,



Lyn Harrison
Chief Executive Officer
St Francis Social Services



Miriam Pellicano
Executive Manager
House of Welcome

** Names have been changed to protect the identity of our clients.*

Thank you for supporting the work of House of Welcome.

All donations over \$2 from Australian tax payers are tax deductible.

How your contributions work:

\$25 - Access to our Food Bank for one person a week

\$50 - Access to Employment Assistance to help a person seeking asylum to find work in Australia

\$100 - Casework support for a family for one month to navigate through, employment, health, mental health, legal and housing needs whilst they apply for their protection visa

\$150 – A hot meal to 30 people seeking asylum through our Welcome Kitchen community lunch

\$200 - Financial Assistance for a family like Amir's to pay for their housing, health and food expenses for 1 week.

\$500 - Form-filling support for 30 individuals applying for their Temporary Protection and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas

\$1,000 - Access to one of our 'Safe Place' houses and casework support for a family for three months.

\$5,000 - Financial Assistance to 50 individuals and families for one month.

WAYS TO GIVE:

Donate via our website: <https://www.stfrancis.org.au/donate-now>

Interested in becoming a regular donor?

Please contact Ina Mullin at ina.mullin@stfrancis.org.au to set up a direct debit.

Electronic Bank transfer:

Account Name: House of Welcome

BSB: 062 220

Account Number: 1018 3326

Bank: Commonwealth Bank Paddington

Cheque or Money Order:

Payable to: House of Welcome

Send to: PO Box 10

GRANVILLE NSW 2142



**NB: our
new postal
address!**