WYCOMBE REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER JULY 2021

A grateful family

Rapid renovations

Waiting for decisions

Thank you!

Our organisation

Hear from one of our volunteers

LETTER FROM A REFUGEE FAMILY

No words would be enough to thank each and every one of them

"It was a race against time and challenges faced us from all directions. No money. No house. At high risk of Covid-19 due to exposure. Government services inaccessible. Over-staying at our kind host in the time of pandemic when social distancing was already advised. We were in total despair and had no idea what to do. At such a time of hardship and crisis, the Wycombe Refugee Partnership came to our help and saved us. They saved a family. Homelessness, running broke, a killer virus were the minimum immediate threats we were encountering but they were not the only ones. Having just arrived in the country, we had no registration with the NHS, no proof of address, no bank account, and with the public transports being disrupted, no means of transport and we knew nobody. ... Without organizations such as WRP in place to fill the gaps in the asylum system compounded with the pandemic issues, refugee families would be extremely helpless and vulnerable and face just another huge trauma upon arrival while escaping from other traumas from their home countries. WRP's assistance to us was equal to life saving and this is why no words would be enough to thank each and every one of them for their great work and services they do for humanity."

During the pandemic, we have supported

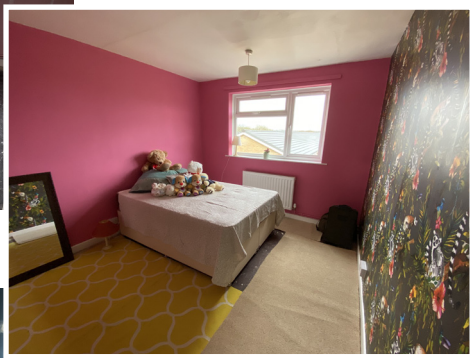
22 adults and 33 children in our resettled refugee families and

35 adults and 29 children through our Community Response programme.

HELPING HANDS

Colour me happy

A young mother with a new baby had fled such horrors that she was granted Unlimited Leave to Remain. The Council found her temporary housing: a flat which was decent in terms of space but in desperate need of redecoration. The ever-resourceful Trina Richards recruited her daughter Hollie and friend Martina and, between them, they decorated and furnished the whole flat. Needless to say, the young mum was absolutely thrilled.



Right: How the bedrooms looked, before and after

ASYLUM

Changes, good and bad

In the last few weeks, three of the families we have been supporting have been granted asylum and three have been turned down by the Home Office. Others have been waiting up to seven years for a response to their application: seven years in which they are kept in poverty, not allowed to do paid work or even to volunteer in their own professional sector. We get to hear their stories: of bombing, of imprisonment, of torture and of repeated death-threats. And then we read of the Home Office's cruel – and unlawful – New Plan for Immigration, which is trying to make things even worse for people like them…

Find out more abut the New Plan for Immigration: https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/latest/news/the-nationality-and-borders-bill-a-devastating-day-for-refugee-protection/

Photo by Walaa Khaleel on Unsplash

Phone call from Red Cross

"This lady has no money for milk or nappies for her baby – can you help her today?"

Yes, of course we did!

FUNDING

Thank you!

A huge THANK YOU for all the donations from individuals and for the grants received so far this year from:

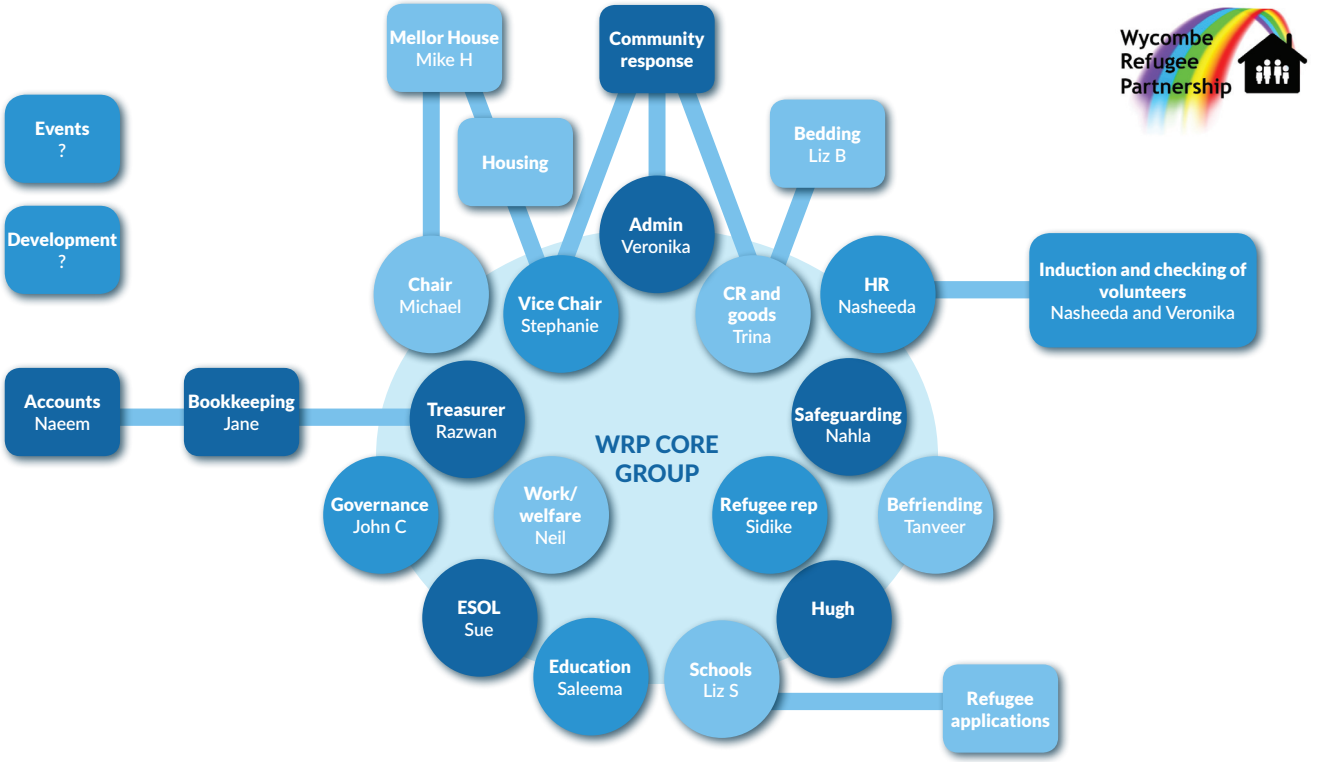
- The Buckinghamshire Councillors' Crisis Fund
- Buckinghamshire Annual Revenue fund
- The Syder Foundation
- Marlow Refugee Action
- and a legacy from our late friend Harry Bates, of Trinity United Reformed Church

Gifts in kind

Thank you too for all the furniture, household items and clothes which have been donated. We aren't always able to accept the items offered, but that doesn't mean we aren't grateful! To mention just two acts of kindness:

- John Lewis gave us a whole load of chocolate and biscuits for the families.
- and Homebase donated compost and plants to enable those with green fingers to improve their concrete environment.

WRP: our organisation



VOLUNTEER STORY

Delivering the goods

WRP volunteer Caroline Bellamy on how she helps to get donations to the people who need them.

My role within WRP is to assist with donated goods. The families contact our coordinator, Trina, whenever they need something – it could be clothes, furniture, toys, kitchenware etc. It's my job to post on social media asking for donations of these items, and then to contact those who offer and organise collection and delivery.

My motivation comes from wanting to give practical help to WRP, in a way that is able to fit around my life and a full time job. We all know how easy it is to fill your space with "stuff" that could be of real value to someone else. I urge you to keep an eye on our Facebook page and to get in touch if you ever have something that we are looking for. If you are willing to assist with collections, especially if you have a van, please let us know.

Contact us

www.wycombe-refugees.org/

0845 643 2873

contactus@wycombe-refugees.org

Refugees Welcome in Wycombe