

CANBERRA REFUGEE SUPPORT

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2011

Recipient	Donor & Representative
<p style="text-align: center;">Akur Duot</p> <p>Akur Duot was a student in the Adult Migrant English programme at the CIT Vocational College from April last year to April this year.</p> <p>At the age of 45, Akur fled from her homeland of Sudan on foot with 2 young sons to a refugee camp in Kenya. Thanks to her dedication, her sons have both been able to enter university courses in Canberra.</p> <p>From the very first lesson Akur proved to be extremely determined and dedicated, arriving in the classroom early to practice and review her learning – as well as to water the class plants. She is now confident enough to help newer students with their English, passing on her knowledge, experience and moral support.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CRS (in Memory of Kenny Lin)</p> <p>Kenney Lin was the Treasurer of Canberra Refugee Support from 2006 to 2009. He managed that responsibility with dedication and conscientiousness. Unfortunately, Kenney passed away in 2009 and his colleagues and friends in Canberra Refugee Support felt strongly that we would like to remember Kenny by naming a scholarship in his memory .</p> <p>Kenney has set a high standard in the way he has organised and overseen the finances of Canberra Refugee Support. But he has contributed far more than that to the smooth running of our group. He has fully participated in the deliberations of the Committee and has offered advice and encouragement at our regular meetings. He has provided an indispensable contribution to the sound governance of Canberra Refugee Support.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Karima Bakhtyari Aquel</p> <p>Karima began at CIT in December last year. Karima grew up in Afghanistan at a time when only boys were allowed to go to school. She did not learn to read or write except to write her own name in Farsi – thanks to her brother teaching her.</p> <p>From the very first day she has been outstanding in terms of her enthusiasm in learning, obtaining additional information from her teacher and in performing classroom tasks and home assignments.</p> <p>She also enjoys assisting other students who are having difficulties. As well as her English studies Karima is participating in sewing classes through MARSS and dreams of one day starting her own business as a seamstress.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ACT Government's Office of Multicultural, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.</p> <p>The Office of Multicultural Affairs provides strategic advice to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs on issues affecting people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.</p> <p>The aim of this advice is to promote multiculturalism in the ACT - multiculturalism is the right of all Canberrans to express and share their cultural heritage within the Territory's legal and social frameworks and to contribute to, and participate in, all levels of public life without prejudice or discrimination.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Eh Dah</p> <p>Eh Dah has been studying at CIT since July last year. He is a member of the Karen community from Burma. An only child, his parents died while he was very young and he entered a refugee camp in 1995 and spent about 15 years there. He arrived in Australia in March 2009.</p> <p>He has managed, through hard work and never flagging interest, to be promoted in both language and numeracy classes. He has progressed quickly because he is prepared to take risks with his language. He has pushed himself to learn to use a computer and on many occasions has demonstrated an artistic flair. He is a role model for other students in many areas. He is courteous and helpful and displays an interest in fellow students.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nick Bogiatzis & Vasiliki (Vasilo) Nihlas</p> <p>Nick and Vasilo are both members of CRS</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Abdullah Muayad</p> <p>Abdullah arrived from Iraq on 3rd July 2010. He arrived with his parents and brother. Abdullah is very eager to learn. He enjoys school and has adapted to school life in Australia very quickly. Abdullah is a social boy who makes friends easily. He enjoys a laugh and playing sports.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St John the Apostle Refugee Resettlement Committee, Kippax</p> <p>The Refugee Resettlement Committee is a not-for-profit Parish based organisation run by volunteers. It is politically independent and is not reliant on government aid. Running costs are met from funds raised within the community. Their Mission is to undertake activities that facilitate the settlement of refugees* and their families into Australian society, with dignity and hope.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ali Haidary</p> <p>Ali arrived in Australia from Iran in June 2010. He was born in a refugee camp and had no prior schooling before coming to Australia. He lived in poor conditions. Ali now lives with his mother, sister, uncle and 5 cousins. He has not heard from his father for 4 years – he was sent to Afghanistan and is currently unaccounted for.</p> <p>Ali is enthusiastic and eager to learn. He has quickly adapted to the social routines of school and has made many friends.. Ali enjoys school and is particularly interested in playing sports.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St John the Apostle Refugee Resettlement Committee, Kippax</p> <p>The Refugee Resettlement Committee is a not-for-profit Parish based organisation run by volunteers. It is politically independent and is not reliant on government aid. Running costs are met from funds raised within the community.</p> <p>Their Mission is to undertake activities that facilitate the settlement of refugees* and their families into Australian society, with dignity and hope.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Alek Duot</p> <p>Alek arrive in Australia from the Sudan on 4th November 2009. Alek lives with her uncle and grandmother.</p> <p>Alek always tries her best and she is so happy to learn and to do well at school.</p> <p>Alek is hard working and enthusiastic. She takes pride in her work and is always happy to help the teacher and cooperate with her peers. Alek always completes her homework and loves coming to school.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St John the Apostle Refugee Resettlement Committee, Kippax</p> <p>The Refugee Resettlement Committee is a not-for-profit Parish based organisation run by volunteers. It is politically independent and is not reliant on government aid. Running costs are met from funds raised within the community.</p> <p>Their Mission is to undertake activities that facilitate the settlement of refugees* and their families into Australian society, with dignity and hope.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Doo Tor Mong</p> <p>Doo Tor arrived in Australia on the 30th November 2010 with his parents and his younger sister from a camp on the Thai/Burma border. When he arrived at NPIEC he could not say a word of English – but now he is an energetic learner who has demonstrated a great ability to learn. He is very interested in learning to speak English and enjoys going to school. Doo Tor is very happy to assist teachers and peers without instructions. He has made tremendous progress and always tries his best.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St John the Apostle Refugee Resettlement Committee, Kippax</p> <p>The Refugee Resettlement Committee is a not-for-profit Parish based organisation run by volunteers. It is politically independent and is not reliant on government aid. Running costs are met from funds raised within the community.</p> <p>Their Mission is to undertake activities that facilitate the settlement of refugees* and their families into Australian society, with dignity and hope.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Awak Deng Ajang</p> <p>Awak is known for her wonderful smile. A cheerful, happy young girl she always raises the spirits of those around her. Awak arrived in Australia with her family as a refugee from a camp in Kenya in early 2010. She currently studies intensive English at the Secondary Introductory English Centre. Awak never dwells on her difficult past but looks to the future as a new beginning.</p> <p>A gentle young girl, she has made many friends at the SIEC.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ms Sara Lynch</p> <p>Sara is a long time supporter of CRS and the scholarship program</p>

Awak is a kind, giving friend and her friendships are genuine and lasting. She is a valued member of the SIEC family.

Although a quiet student Awak works hard and knows the value of education and how important it is to improve her English. She accepts advice and support from her teachers with maturity and grace.

Awak is highly respected by her peers and teachers and she is a very worthy recipient of a refugee scholarship award.

Hsar Dah Wah

Hsar arrived in Australia as a refugee from a camp in Thailand. He has lived in Australia for less than a year. Hsar is a proud member of the Karen community.

He is a very quietly spoken young man with a gentle, kind nature. He is always polite, respectful and considerate of those around him.

Despite a close family member battling chronic illness Hsar works hard each day at school to improve his English. His teachers talk of his perseverance and determination.

Although his English has come a long way since his arrival in Australia he is now just starting to feel confident with his spoken English. As he matures and achieves more success at school he is finding a quiet confidence that is encouraged by his teachers and friends. Hsar is unassuming and willing to listen to the advice of his teachers.

Hsar is well liked by his peers and has made good friends at the SIEC. All of his teachers at the SIEC are very proud of Hsar and wish him all the best for his future.

Mr Athol Morris & Ms Sara Lynch

Sara and Athol are long term supporters of CRS and the scholarship program.

See Mu Paw

See Mu is currently in year 12 at Dickson College and is studying to attain the ACT Year 12 Certificate. She is a proud member of the Karen community. See Mu is a model student who is a worthy recipient of a refugee scholarship.

She is a gentle, caring member of the Refugee Bridging class at Dickson College. She came to the program having graduated from the Secondary Introductory English Centre at the end of 2009. See Mu spent her young life in a small village in Burma, then moved to a refugee camp in Thailand before settling in Australia with her family.

See Mu's teachers are always impressed by her kindness to others in her class, school and larger community. She is considerate of others feelings and is always ready to support others when it is most needed. She is always polite, respectful and considerate of those around her and takes every opportunity to join in the community life of school.

She is a hard working and conscientious student. See Mu is keen to study child care at the CIT when she completes her year 12 certificate at the end of 2011. This is an ideal occupation for someone with her caring, kind nature. We are confident she will achieve her goals.

Mr Athol Morris (in Memory of his deceased mother Helen Morris)

Helen Morris born, Helen Kohn in Vienna, January 23rd 1923, came to Australia just before World War 2 to escape the Nazi regime which had become a part of the Austrian government after the Anschluss. She obtained entry papers to Australia after writing randomly to various heads of state throughout the non European world, seeking entry permits.

By chance, a letter she wrote to the Prime Minister of Australia was handed on by his office through the Jewish Welfare Agency to Isaac Boas, the then head of Forestry Products Division at CSIRO. Prime Minister Joseph Lyons allegedly remarked to Boas that it was a pity that nothing could be done to help such people. Boas allegedly replied that help could be given if Lyons would give him an entry permit for her. Lyons did, and my mother then arrived in Australia in 1936. She spoke only a little schoolgirl English, and had no idea for example that seasons were reversed on the other side of the world. (Arriving on a hot January day, in summer, she later told me that she thought "If it is like this in January, what will it be like in June" (the Northern Summer!)).

She kept in touch with her family until they were all deported to Auschwitz, where they were killed.

As a Refugee, she worked hard, and took advantage of the opportunity to study and learn. She obtained her matriculation, and later a pharmacy qualification. Later still – well after she was a parent – she attended Monash University and took out an honours Arts degree, and postgraduate educational qualifications. She worked and taught at schools, primarily as a Librarian/teacher, in programs that taught high concentrations of refugee and immigrant children.

That she survived when millions didn't was due both to her single-minded desire to improve herself, and to the generosity of spirit of the country that gave her a fresh start and the opportunity to achieve for herself. She continued to repay that debt all her life, and I regard it as important to take part in a program that she would have appreciated - to give a small part of her legacy to others so that they may likewise have a better life.

Mu Ka Tri Too Pah Eh

Moo is one of a large family of 7 siblings. They are members of the Karen Community. Moo's parents understand the importance of education and encourage the children to work hard and make the best of opportunities available to them in their new home.

From her arrival at Dickson College in 2009 it was obvious that Moo was a studious and conscientious student. She completed year 12 in 2010 but Moo made the decision to continue her studies at Dickson College in 2011 and in doing so improve her English and overall academic performance. This decision was courageous and reflects a maturity beyond her young years. Moo is willing to work hard to achieve her goals.

As a result of her excellent progress in the Refugee Bridging Program Moo is now enrolled in a majority of Dickson College mainstream classes as she continues to strive for excellence. She hopes to study Nursing at the CIT when she completes her year 12 certificate at the end of 2011. Moo has a bright future and we are confident she will achieve all she strives for in life.

Moo is a joy to teach - she is a friendly, diligent and exemplary student.

Doug Hynd and Jillian Farrer

Doug and Jill are members of CRS

Po Thein Way

Po Thein and her family arrived in Australia from Burma in February of this year. She is a quiet, focussed student who takes responsibility for her own learning.

She is polite and friendly and has a lovely nature.

The Staff of the ACT and Regions Office of The Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Hta Ka Baw Pah Eh

Hta Ka Baw is currently in year 12 at Dickson College and is studying to attain the ACT Year 12 Certificate. She is a member of the Karen community. Hta Ka Baw is one of a large supportive family. She spent her childhood in a refugee camp on the Thai/ Burma border.

Hta Ka Baw studied at the Secondary introductory English Centre before beginning year 11 at Dickson College in 2010. She is a student in the Refugee Bridging Program but she is also enrolled in a number of mainstream subjects including IT studies, music and hospitality. Hta Ka Baw plans to attend CIT after she has attained the year12 certificate in 2011. She would like to work in the Child Care industry and so she is keen to study for a traineeship in that area of employment. This is a perfect choice for her as Hta Ka Baw's gentle kindness and love of life would make her a wonderful asset to any child care centre.

One of Hta Ka Baw's passions is music and she is blessed with a wonderful singing voice. Music obviously brings happiness to her and to those lucky people around her. Hta Ka Baw's smile and infectious giggle lifts everyone's spirits. She is a positive asset to any class and a joy to teach.

The McLeod & Jensen Families

Both families have members who are part of CRS

Aqel Mustafa Odah

Mustafa's father was a student and the ANU and for a month, then applied for permanency. Soon after the family came to join him in Canberra.

Mustafa's first experience at school was when he commenced at Hughes School in the Introductory English Centre. Mustafa has attended the Introductory English Centre for two terms and will continue his education at Mawson Primary. Mustafa has worked hard in kindergarten and at learning English. He communicates well and enjoys participating in all areas of school. He is proudly supported by his family.

Jeni Page

Jeni has supported the scholarship program this year as she has done in the past

Abubaker Obaidi

Baker moved from Iraq where both parents worked for the ministry of Trade. He moved to Australia in February of this year. Abubaker arrived at IEC in late February and has worked very hard to learn the daily routines and classroom procedures at Hughes Primary. He is a fantastic addition to the class and has made many friends. He is a highly intelligent student and has quickly increased his results in maths and English. His special interests include soccer, basketball and maths. He is sensitive and becoming aware of the school values and topics related to being in the Australian culture and community.

South Woden Uniting Church

Since its foundation over 40 years ago South Woden has sought to witness to the fact that the Church is people and community, and put its efforts into building up and serving the wider community. The aim of South Woden's worship and congregational activities has been to nurture and encourage an active faith that extends to the world beyond the church.

South Woden has been an active supporter of outside activities of its members, including refugee support groups.

Mohammed Muayad

Mohammed is a vivacious, friendly student of the Secondary introductory English Centre. He arrived in Australia mid 2010 and enrolled at the SIEC in November. The family came to this country as Asylum Seekers from Iraq and we were thrilled when they were made permanent residents. Mohammed lives with his younger brother and mother. He takes two buses to school each day and back and yet he is never late. Despite suffering difficult times Mohammed is always ready with his infectious smile and positive attitude. He is keen to please and listens carefully to advice and guidance. He loves life and enjoys the company of others. He never talks about the past but looks to the future. A keen rugby player, Mohammed plays for his local rugby team where he is meeting new friends and fellow rugby enthusiasts. He is willing to reach out to people and be come an active member of his new local community.

Teachers are always grateful for Mohammed's enthusiasm in class, he always willing to contribute to discussions and he can liven up the quietest class. He tries hard in class and has made very good progress. Mohammed exits the SIEC program at the end of the term 2 and he will enrol in his local High school.

Nicholas and Sarah Jensen

Nicholas and Sarah are supportive citizens of the scholarship program

<p style="text-align: center;">Yasameen Alshawi</p> <p>Yasameen arrived in Canberra in July last year from Iraq. She hopes to practice medicine in Australia, as she was a qualified doctor in Iraq.</p> <p>Yasameen is currently studying English for the remainder of this year at CIT. Next year she plans to undertake a medical training course and take the AMC examination to gain her Australian qualification.</p> <p>Yasameen is totally dedicated to her studies.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Soroptimist International, Canberra</p> <p>Soroptimist International aims to be a global voice for women and their rights including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the right to education and good health; • the right to live in a peaceful environment without the constant threat of violence; • the right to equal participation in decision making at all levels. <p>Soroptimists work globally to encourage governments and institutions to promote gender equality in economic and political structures and to recognise the importance of women's input into the management of natural resources and the protection of the Earth's environment. They seek recognition of the importance of women's unpaid labour to the social and economic wellbeing of all nations.</p> <p>The award Includes a gift voucher from Officeworks Fyshwick</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Phyu Phyu Mon</p> <p>Phyu Phyu arrived in Canberra in 1998 with her two children and her husband. She commenced her English class with Adult Migrant English Program from Certificate II and has also completed Certificate III.</p> <p>Phyu Phyu has determined that she wants to be a community nurse with her passion on healthcare services. She has been accepted to study at CIT in 2011. She is also doing work placement at Age Care while studying. She assists families from Mon community as a community interpreter. She is also a peer mentor at Companion House's Community Development Program from 2009 until to date. She attended two week cross cultural awareness training for 'Woman Centre for Health Matters'.</p> <p>Phyu Phyu originally comes from Mon State, in Southern Burma. She lived in Thailand-Burma border since her childhood. Phyu Phyu has been a role model for young mothers with little English on early arrival that she could reach her potential with her passion and determination.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">This scholarship also sponsored by Soroptimist International</p> <p>It includes software from Microsoft</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Mya Lwai</p> <p>Mya arrived in Canberra in 2010 with her one child and three sisters. She commenced her English class with Adult Migrant English Program from Certificate II but completed Certificate III in less than one year.</p> <p>Mya is determined to be a Childcare worker in children services. She has been accepted to complete Certificate III in Children Service at YWCA. She assists families from Karen community as a community interpreter and peer mentor at Companion House's Community Development Program from 2010 until to date.</p> <p>Mya originally comes from Karen State, in Eastern Burma. She lived in Thailand-Burma border for many years prior to resettlement in Australia.</p> <p>Mya is a remarkable young woman who cares for her one child and three sisters while also completing study, training and work experiences in Childcare centre.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A second scholarship sponsored by South Woden Uniting Church</p> <p>This award includes software from Microsoft</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Max Dollatabbady</p> <p>Max has worked extremely hard to build his skills and utilise his expertise since he arrived in Australia. He is a member of Engineers Australia and is about to commence a Masters in Information Technology at the ANU. Max is a driven and courageous man with remarkable patience and perseverance.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CRS & Sandy Forbes</p> <p>Sandy is a member of CRS</p> <p>This award includes software from Microsoft</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Zena Azizi</p> <p>Zena arrived in Canberra in December 2009 from her home country, Iran, to visit relatives here. She learnt suddenly that it would be very dangerous for her to return home and her only choice was to apply for asylum in Australia. The application process was a long ordeal for Zena, with many difficulties and stresses associated with the unexpected and undesired change in her life circumstances, combined with insecurity</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Susan & Francis Sullivan</p> <p>Susan and Francis are not members of CRS but are long term supporters of the scholarship program.</p> <p>This award includes software from Microsoft</p>

about her future. A bright spot was being able to attend English classes at CIT, once access was opened to asylum seekers. Finally, early in 2011 she received her Permanent Visa. This did not signal the end of all her difficulties, as affordable housing, for example, is very difficult to obtain. However she now is able to work on building her future in Australia and her first step is to improve her English through the Adult Migrant English Program.

Daniel Belehu

Daniel arrived in Australia from Ethiopia in Jan last year. His wife and four children are in the final stages of obtaining a visa to join him here.

Daniel attended an English conversation and writing course at the CIT and also attended the Refugee Mentoring Course at Calvary Hospital, and was able to work in the Breast Cancer Clinic and Aged Care Rehabilitation ward as a volunteer.

Daniel was awarded an Aged Care Certificate Level 3 allowing him to obtain some work at the Goodwin Homes. Daniel has also qualified in the Australian Red Cross Mental Health first aid course and is part way through a Logistics and Transport Course

Daniel can often be found volunteering as a Marshal l at Canberra Marathon events, or Greening Australia Organisation planting trees in the landscape. He is featured in the July section of this year's Greening Australia Calendar.

Calvary Health Care

Calvary Health Care ACT's Refugee Mentoring Program aims to provide people with a refugee background and/or their children with the opportunity to gain some experience of an Australian workplace. The intention is to assist them gain a clearer idea of the career direction they might wish to pursue and what study might be necessary to achieve this.

It is also seen as a way of enhancing the participant's self esteem, assisting participation in the community and fostering networks towards enabling effective and satisfying engagement within the Australian social and cultural context.

More information on this program is on our website.