



**RASNZ**  
Refugee health  
& wellbeing

Refugees as Survivors Awards  
2021  
Nominees Booklet



CELEBRATING ALL THE MANAKITANGA IN THE REFUGEE  
RESETTLEMENT SECTOR ACCROSS THE NATION  
HE WAKA EKE NOA - WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

# **KARAKIA WHAKATAKI**

**Mā te whakapono**

**Mā te tumanako**

**Mā te tititiro**

**Mā te whakarongo**

**Mā te mahitahi**

**Mā te manawanui**

**Mā te aroha**

**Ka taea e mātou**

**By believing and trusting**

**By having faith and hope**

**By looking and searching**

**By listening and hearing**

**By working and striving together**

**By patience and perseverance**

**By all being done with love**

**We will succeed**

**THESE ARE THE WORDS FROM THOSE WHO  
NOMINATED THE WONDERFUL LEADERS AND  
SUPPORTERS IN OUR SECTOR**

# REFUGEE SERVICE SECTOR AWARD



## SALLY HAY (WINNER)

Sally Hay is an exceptional teacher and head of ESOL at Mangere College. She and her team go over and above the call of duty to provide support for refugee background students and their families. Students are provided with mentors and additional activities to support their aspirations including attending University open days. The school has a strong focus on stopping racism and discrimination at school and in the community. Sally has worked collaboratively with RASYouth over a number of years



## CANTERBURY REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND RESOURCE CENTRE

They aim to positively influence outcomes for former Refugee communities by providing a strong representative voice in the Canterbury area. Buying 2 vehicles to teach refugees to get their driver's license is life-changing, this enables independence, freedom and contribution to friends and communities. The awesome practical vision of the organization is awesome



## AMANDA CALDER

Amanda has worked tirelessly for decades to provide legal support for former refugees and asylum seekers, most notably in setting up the Refugee Family Reunification Trust. Working with Amanda you see how effective she is at just getting things done and activating the trust to provide financial support to people who need it for the costs of applying for family reunification. This makes a real and material difference to people's lives and they would not be able to do this without this support.



## HYMA DANTHALA

Hyma has supported Asian immigrant/refugee families having children with disability when enrolling them to school, supported immigrant families with housing, supported families to get medical equipment, and supported families with other community activities like arranging meeting to give the awareness and insight about the services. Hyma have made an exceptional contribution and positive difference for children, young people and families from Asian immigrant/ refugee backgrounds in Auckland.



## JANICE ANDERSON

Janice volunteers her time to help parents of our esol children as well as taking the children for reading recovery. She helps organise food parcels for at risk whānau as well. Janie is an ex-school principal who volunteers with refugee and migrant whānau in Puketāpapa. She has helped a refugee mum recently with her learning English and helping her write her biography.

## AYAN SAID AND JAMILA SLAIMANKHEL

Ayan and Jamila are Regional Refugee Community Health Promoters who also work with the Starship Community and Auckland District Health Board. Facilitating connection digitally with former refugee community groups. They respond to families experiencing food insecurity, housing, employment and mental health issues, linking them to support agencies. As well as facilitating access to COVID health information and services and providing consultation to government organisations.



## YASMIN STANDFIELD

There is nothing that Yasmin will not do, she goes far beyond and beyond to make a difference, she is the best producer organiser, behind the scenes person I have seen. She is always polite and makes one feel it is no trouble. She single-handedly saved the Summit when the venue fell through. she is the cog in the wheel. every organisation should have a Yasmin. We should bottle her!



## SASIKALA SYED NIYAMATHULLAH

In the last 7 years and through the WISE Collective (a community project that empowers refugee and migrant women with opportunities for education, employment and enterprise), Sasi has supported over 2,000 women from former refugee and migrant backgrounds, to not only survive but thrive in their new home. She is incredibly dedicated and committed to giving back to the community she cares deeply about. Sasi has been a role model to so many people in the community, continually going above and beyond in her support of refugee background women, empowering them to generate an income for their families, and alleviating the loneliness the women have felt resettling in to a new country. In each role Sasi has contributed her kindness, humility, empathy and warm leadership style to change people's lives for the better. Sasi has often shared how much she's loved spending time with the WISE Collective women and says "We are family. I enjoy the closeness and sense of belonging which binds us together as a community".



## UMMA TRUST

The Umma Trust as it has expanded in the past 5 years from having 1 ½ staff in 2016 to currently 8 staff – this has significantly increased the service provision to the refugee communities. Recent Support delivered in Response to Covid has been diverse – just one example In this September Lockdown is distributing \$40,000 worth of food to refugee communities In 2021 running programs for ladies in: Learner, Restricted and full Driving licences, Financial Literacy, Fitness & Zumba, Learn to swim, Pregnancy and Parenting, Computer and MB Technologies and Women and Children's health. For children and youth: Youth Breakaway, Youth Soccer, Youth Basketball, Youth Indoor Soccer and children's holiday programme each school holiday. Increase in intensive social work support for refugee families working with ethnic social workers. Over the past 3 years this service has shown a 200% increase. Umma trust has supported Social Work registration for 5 refugee background young women -A Halal foodbank distributes food to over 4000 refugees per year, every Wednesday in partnership with Kiwiharvest and MSD Foodsecure. Employment of refugee women: Working with ladies to get a full driving licence, finding work experience, accompanying to interviews and then work in mainstream organisations is a big part of the role of the social work team.



# REFUGEE COMMUNITY AWARD



## TSEHAINESH HIBTIT

Tsehainesh goes above and beyond to create a welcoming environment for new families of refugee or migrant background at the Safari Central multicultural playgroup. She is from a refugee background herself, and raised her three daughters here in her early days of resettlement. Tsehainesh constantly draws on her own settlement journey to support and mentor the recently arrived Mums, from encouraging them to read and sing to their children, encouraging them to spend time playing with their own kids rather than rely on screens, and encouraging them to keep up their mother tongue with their children. She also champions the use of local services such as the public library, which the Mums may not be aware of. Tsehainesh also has inspired and lead other parents through her work as a Triple P educator. This course gives parents practical ideas to improve their parenting, such as setting limits, using praise and establishing routines. Often at Safari Playgroup, Tsehainesh can be heard helping the Mums of young kids with ideas and strategies to overcome parenting problems they are facing. Finally, Tsehainesh was for many years an integral part in setting up and running a Saturday playgroup for the Eritrean community. This playgroup was a language nest, run in their local language of Tigrinya. This playgroup has since disbanded as the generation of children have grown up but through Tsehainesh's efforts, her own daughters and many other young Eritreans can now speak in the language of their parents.



## JAMILA SLAIMANKHEL (WINNER)

Originally from Afghanistan, Jamila arrived as a teenager, completing her high school and tertiary education in New Zealand . She is a New Zealand registered pharmacist and currently works as a Health Promoter for the Auckland District Health Board. I would like to nominate her for the Refugee Community Award for the voluntary work that she does in the Afghan and the wider former refugee communities in her own time. She carries on the community work and legacy of her late father, Hashem Slaimankhel who worked tirelessly for two and half decades supporting the settlement and wellbeing of former refugee and wider communities. She volunteers numerous hours whilst juggling full time employment and raising her family of five children. During the first Covid 19 lockdown in 2020, she was instrumental in establishing an online phonenumber support manned by Dari and Pasto male and female speakers to support members of the Afghan community to navigate support systems during the lockdown period. With her volunteer team, she also decided for pick up and drop of medication and groceries for vulnerable members of the community. She was also instantly able to do the same with the current lockdown. Her work with the refugee community is a testament to her commitment in creating an equitable landscape of social cohesion for the refugee community.



## MOHAMUD MOHAMED

Mohamud has demonstrated outstanding leadership within the diverse migrant and refugee communities as well as the youth sector. He has initiated innovative programmes like identifying and establishing a network of mentors to guide, advice and support youth from vulnerable and marginalised communities. Mohamud has done this with the aim of helping youth to better integrate and contribute back to society knowing that young people have unique talents and leadership potential that needs to be harnessed and nurtured for them to fulfil their full potential. Mohamud's contribution to his local community has seen a reduction in the social isolation of youth especially those of refugee background. Moreover, as chair of Onkod Somali Youth Development, Mohamud ran programmes that provided Somali language and culture classes for New Zealand born Somali Children. This programme has helped children to preserve their history, heritage and culture. It has also helped bridge the language gap between youth and their parents who cannot speak fluent English. Mohamud's contribution to his local community has resulted in being inducted in the 2014 Young Leaders Programme run by the Office of Ethnic Communities. Mohamud's passion for social justice and human rights has taken him to international destinations. He recently returned to New Zealand from Malaysia after completing an internship with the UNHCR. In his role there he helped resettle hundreds of refugees to countries such as New Zealand, Australia and the United States of America. Furthermore, he participated in coordinating activities that ensured that the world's most persecuted minority which are Rohingya refugees were given legal working status to work in Malaysia. Upon his return to New Zealand, his experience's in Malaysia with the UNHCR has inspired him to complete a Master's thesis looking at the refugee resettlement policies of different political parties in New Zealand over the past 15 years.

# RASNZ SUPPORTER AWARD



## VIVIENNE WILSON / SOMERVELL REFUGEE SUPPORT

Vivienne Wilson has been supporting RASNZ clients in their settlement in Auckland for many years. Her and the organization support many aspect of the refugee family settlement. Their support is ongoing until the refugee families become independent to support themselves. Their support is on all aspects of life necessities including, support at WINZ, housing issues, legal aid, Education, Employment and health support, etc...



## SIDDARTH SREE RAMAN (WINNER)

Siddarth is a 7 year old boy from Whangarei. Last year during lockdown he learnt how to sew and he came up with an idea to make scrunchies. He donated all his proceeds from his sales to RASNZ and another charity in Malaysia. Siddarth at an early age recognised the plight of refugees as well as his privilege and went above and beyond to try and make a difference.



## MSUPPLY FOUNDATION (WINNER)

mSupply is a small charitable foundation – rooted in community. They are a force for good with global roots working wherever the need is greatest with values that emulate a deep commitment to work from the ethic of love for others. mSupply's values – are all about empowering and strengthening marginalised communities - From humble beginnings in Nepal, to their most recent initiatives in Afghanistan promoting reproductive health and promoting work for women. mSupply's support, will help toward generating more psychosocial wellbeing training programmes designed and facilitated by our lived experience team to make the resettlement process easier to navigate

# YOUTH AWARD



## NAYEEM SHARIFF

They have been partnered with Auckland Council using Roskill Youth Zone Gym every Saturday evening. A multi-sport Muslim youth programme that will provide a fun, safe, social and free options for all genders and cultures. Outcome of this programme is to connected communities with a sense of belonging and improved wellbeing and safety. Nayeem has an unwavering passion for helping his muslim local youth engaging with our community. His kindness, compassion and dependability are unmatched. From planning sports events for the youth and setting up different events in partnering with Council. Nayeem and his organization is well liked in the community and by all and has always been dedicated in helping our community grown and thrive in Puketapapa



## ALI MUHAMMAD JAWAD

Ali is in his final year of a Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Wellness) with a major in Sport and Recreation Management. Ali is an avid football player and fan and at the end of his high school decided to become a football referee. Doing this job, he was able to travel around Aotearoa visiting different places whilst doing what he enjoyed. He has remained Secretary for NZ Central Southern Muslim Youth and Sport Association Inc. He currently acts as Secretary to Manawatu Afghan Society, and lead a six month Youth Cultural -Leadership Programme in coordination with Community Arts Centre and Palmerston North City Council. He recently finished a 6 week sports orientation programme for youth of different refugee community background in association with Red Cross and Sports Manawatu. He is deeply involved in sports, youth development and activity at the community level. Ali has achieved Level four cricket umpire (highest level of qualification) and level three football referee.

Ali engaged with RAS Youth in 2020 when he signed up to be part of the annual youth forum. It was clear that Ali stood out amongst the other there at the youth forum, including the staff... when he brought with him 3 hardback books to read. He has maintained connection with RAS Youth and participated in online challenges and contributed to Co-design initiatives during the Covid 19 lockdown period.





## LAYBA ZUBAIR (WINNER)

Ever since she moved from Pakistan to New Zealand as a refugee she's been dedicated to ensuring that refugee women get equal support in response to sexual assault and harrasment. She's been hosting events, doing speeches, collaborating with SHAKTI YOUTH, and fundraising like crazy for her cause. Her work is a contribution that goes above and beyond because there is no other young wahine who focuses on fighting for equity and support for those from ethnic refugee backgrounds in regards to sexual assault and harassment. She's been a part of various campaigns, including the "let's deal with it" campaign documentary. She's also been part of Amnesty International and has worked with prominent wahine in parliament, such as Vanushi Walters, the Hon Priyanka Radhiksharan, and many more. She also delivered speeches at various campaigns and protests, such as the #16 days activism rally. She was awarded the Voice for change award from the puketapapa youth foundation in 2020, and after all the work she's done this year even though covid ruined many things for her aims and hopes for events, she pulled through and truly deserves to be recognised for the work she does for young rangatahi from refugee backgrounds. Her focus is for, and on our rangatahi- and thats what the world needs right now, and she truly deserves to win. her contribution is one that goes above and beyond in support of people from refugee backgrounds. undoubtly.

# LONG SERVICE AWARD



## RACHEL O'CONNOR

She is generous, hardworking, inclusive, highly effective, wise, warm, creative, fun, with extraordinary interpersonal skills. She is the ultimate humanitarian and a consummate professional with a grassroots background and institutional knowledge hard to match.

With these unique qualities, she has been the bridge to gain the trust of the ethnic communities and the ear of government simultaneously, and my goodness, this person gets things done.

She became an icon in 2020 with her hugely successful TED talk "The magic of resettlement."

Our deserving winner has dedicated 14 years to the resettlement sector, including the last four and a half as General Manager Migration at the New Zealand Red Cross. She will be sadly missed, but there is a silver lining....she has been scoped up by the Human Rights Commission and will continue her good works with an equally influential lens.



# RASNZ

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**FROM OUR WHĀNAU TO YOURS  
WE HOPE YOU ALL ENJOY THE  
SUMMER MONTHS AHEAD!**

[WWW.RASNZ.CO.NZ](http://WWW.RASNZ.CO.NZ)