

Annual Report

2020 - 2021



Circle of Friends Australia Incorporated
*Supporting Asylum Seekers and Refugees
in the community and in detention*

Who we are



Circles of Friends Australia Inc (COFA) has been working to support Asylum Seekers and Refugees since 2002, with the organisation becoming incorporated in 2013.

We consist of a network of 25 Circles (groups) governed by a management committee. All Circles share a common commitment to welcome and assist refugees and asylum seekers with the difficult process of establishing themselves in a new country, or with the challenges of detention and asylum application process.

Member Circles choose their own activities, recruit their own members, decide their own spheres of work and raise their own funds. They relate to COFA committee by agreeing to abide by the COFA constitution and policies and using COFA's financial services, including its tax deductible charity status, bank account and group insurance cover for events. Each Circle has one or more Convenors who gather friends and contacts and members of the public to do the work they set themselves. This allows each Circle independence in how it operates and to start and finish when it is right for them and it gives the organisation as a whole the agility to respond quickly when there is a new situation and to meet the diverse range of needs Asylum Seekers and Refugees.

All members of COFA act in a voluntary capacity. We have no paid staff, and so ensure, other than unavoidable administrative fees (bank fees, insurance etc), that donations go directly to helping Asylum Seekers and Refugees.

Chairperson's Report

It's been a big year with all Circles increasing our work to meet the needs of people in our community. When Covid-19 struck, many Circles pivoted to doing the work necessary, particularly to support people on Bridging Visas who were denied Government support and lost their work as they weren't eligible for JobKeeper. Three Circles took on running food programs that continued until February 2021. A new Circle was set up to pay rent for people with no income, with the proceeds of a very successful fundraising appeal. Other Circles supported particular families and groups of people.

Last year we instituted our Child and Vulnerable Person Policy and Code of Conduct. It was put in place to ensure our work is conducted in a manner that is safe for the people we support. Unfortunately, we had to invoke our policy this year and disaffiliate a Circle because we received too many complaints. We are distressed that people were hurt both by the behaviour and by the action we took, but believe we cannot condone behaviour that harms vulnerable people. The wars and violence that people are forced to escape and our Government's policies harm enough people.

This year we have also welcomed two new members of our Committee: Henrietta Wighton who bring a wealth of experience and ability; and Alex Reilly, after being our Guest Speaker last year, has joined the committee bringing his experience, knowledge and skills.

We have also had two members on sick leave. We wish them well. John is retiring at this meeting and we wish to honour him and his years of work with a Lifetime Honourable Membership. His wisdom and clear thinking have been very important in the COFA Committee's decision making. Thank you very much John. Denise Callaghan, has been ill for many months and needed to take time out of COFA, but plans to return as she recovers her health.

We also honour two long-term Circle of Friends members who have died in this past year. John Bennett of Willunga Circle worked to support Asylum Seekers and Refugees. He started the Shoeshine project in Willunga and used shining people's shoes to both raise money for and to have conversations about refugees. Virginia Mehrtens worked in the Education Circle of St Ignatius Parish and contributed as their treasurer. We honour them both for their years of dedication.

Thank you to all the committee members for their dedication to the work. Bruce Whyatt as Treasurer, John Shepherd and then Alex Reilly as Secretary, and members Denise Callaghan, Lesley Walker, Margaret Calder and Henrietta Wighton. Thank you also to all Circle Convenors and members for the work you do on a daily basis to make a difference in people's lives to alleviate the difficulties of creating a pathway in our community.

Thank you also to all the generous donors who have contributed to the Circles, one off or regular, large or small. It all makes the work we do possible. Thank you to the people who attended fundraisers or gave of their time to support this work.

Monica O'Wheel, Chair

Treasurer's Report

Many Refugees and Asylum Seekers have faced many difficulties through the Covid-19 pandemic. In response there have been great efforts by Circles to assist the Refugee community. A new Circle was set up which distributed food on a weekly basis for up to 60 family units. Another new Circle was established to seek employment opportunities for Refugees who had lost their jobs due to the pandemic and to assist in retraining. COFA was faced with many requests for assistance to pay the rent for Refugee families who had lost their income and so another Circle grew to pay rent. Other Circles kept on with their contact, supporting the Refugees they knew.

It has all meant a huge demand on the resources of the Circles. As COFA has found in the past, when we are faced with a crisis, our donors and supporters have stepped up and provided us with all the resources we have needed. It is a remarkable situation for COFA to be in, to realise once again that we are blessed with very many generous people who want to support us in this critical work. It was most touching to see the number of \$750 donations which came into our bank account when those sums were given by the Federal Government to Pensioners and Social Security beneficiaries. These people on low incomes themselves indicated that they believed that Refugees needed the Government support more than they did.

We had very many churches who made large donations to COFA including one which has donated almost \$20,000, another nearly \$13,000. We have had five Trusts who have made grants of \$32,000 between them and a Pharmacy donated \$10,000. There have been so many donations from individuals of \$1,000 and more, not to mention the hosts of donors who contribute regularly on say a weekly basis. It is quite overwhelming to be conscious of such generosity. COFA also received a grant of \$10,000 from the State Government and more than \$53,000 from the Federal Government through the auspices of the Australian Red Cross for food.

What it has also shown to us is that our model of being a community based organisation run entirely by volunteers with minimal administrative costs is attractive to individual donors, philanthropic organisations and even government agencies. In the eight years since COFA was Incorporated, we have grown from a \$30,000 per year small charity to a half million dollar mid-sized Australian charity.

There are many people in our Circles who have done so much to assist refugees and asylum seekers, giving of their time and energy so selflessly and we are so grateful to them. But they could only do this essential work with the encouragement and financial resources from all our donors and supporters. For all that effort and generosity, we are truly most humble and thankful to you all. You are amazing people, showing such concern for these people who have suffered so much in their past and presently experiencing such need. We thank you on their behalf and deep from our own hearts.

Bruce Whyatt, Treasurer

Our Circles' Work

Community Support

Circle 7: Blackwood - Hills

With a large membership base of 33 people, the Blackwood-Hills Circle provides a range of practical support measures and friendship to refugees living in the community. The Circle also advocates on behalf of refugees, and runs fundraising events to fund its targeted financial support of refugees.

In addition, for several years Blackwood-Hills has provided a living allowance to 11 asylum seekers who were completing a tertiary qualification at the University of Adelaide. This program has been a great success, with the students more than honouring the Circle's investment in them, with hard work and outstanding results.

Over the four years only one student dropped out, and one student is still studying. All other students have graduated from Engineering,

Health Sciences, Master of Health Sciences, and the Master of Nursing Programs. In the early years, some students struggled with English, but most students gained distinctions and high distinctions by their final year, and most have found work since graduating. One has recently graduated with a Masters in Nursing, and has been offered employment at a major public hospital.

During their studies, two engineering students reported difficulty in finding work experience. John Shepherd contacted a friend, a senior manager in an international engineering company with major work in South Australia. This company, WSP, provided them with paid work experience on South Road Corridor in Adelaide, and has now offered both engineers full time employment.

Circle 11: Willunga

Consisting of 15 members the Willunga Circle supports over 20 people and their families through practical support and financial assistance, which is enabled by a wider circle of generous supporters.

Some refugees been supported for over a decade and valued friendships have developed between Circle members and the people they support. The Circle celebrated when a trio who arrived as unaccompanied minors became Australian citizens. Others sadly still struggle with cruel government decisions, temporary visas and very uncertain futures.

Circle 75: Kensington

The Kensington Circle is currently supporting two refugee families whose families in Adelaide have lodged Humanitarian Visa applications for them. The hope is that eventually the families will be reunited in the safety of Adelaide. One is a woman with 5 children in Pakistan who had escaped a very bad situation in Afghanistan. The other a young, 17 year old woman with a 2 year old child in the Mai Aini refugee camp caught up in the war in Ethiopia between Ethiopian forces and Tigray Liberation Front. The camp has lost all its Humanitarian aid and workers.

In both cases the family members in Adelaide were unable to financially support the relatives overseas. The Circle recognises that in order to for migrants to settle here and be okay they need to know their family members overseas are all right. When the families in Adelaide have enough income and they will take over the support.

Circle 111: Effective Living Centre

Approximately 15 members of the Effective Living Centre Circle run a range of activities for refugees with the aim of creating a welcoming and support community for these people. The work is kindly supported by Young Mercy Links, a network of young people, passionate about social justice, advocacy and education, who celebrate community connectedness through volunteer service. Events this year included a Mother's Day BYO Picnic and School Holiday Swimming Days and Lunch. These days are an absolute highlight for all with around 70 adults and children attending.



Ongoing family support often sees COFA members become honorary Aunties or Uncles

The Effective Living Centre Circle also runs fundraising events to support families released from the Detention Centre on Nauru. These events are also used to raise awareness of what refugees go through with refugees sharing their stories either in person or via media.

Circle 113: Suzanne's Circle

This Circle's sole member visits and provides comfort and practical assistance to people who are asylum seekers or refugees. This involves helping them to manage the minutiae of life as well as attending to legal and health issues so that they remain hopeful in the face of daunting troubles while coping variously with physical and mental debilitation, chronic disease, anxiety, and grief.

Over 30 people, including children, are supported via this Circle both in Australia and in Papua New Guinea. While the workload is immense and wide-ranging there is also joy and gratitude to the families who provide delicious meals and take-away boxes ("for Uncle") at every visit and the children who are unfailingly delightful and love playing games - Simon Says, I Spy, Statues.

Circle 117: The Manresa Circle

The Circle's prime role is to assist a family of 7 from the Congo by paying their rent and other small needs. Members support them emotionally and with transport needs. It is heartening to see that with the Circle's assistance, the father is working on a reasonably regular but casual basis, and is now able to pay for utilities and daily needs. The children appear to be making good progress at school and participating in regular sport.

The Manresa Circle has also given temporary assistance to two families in urgent need of funds and to an Afghani asylum seeker who is completing his University Degree, for rent and weekly food allowance.

Financial support is enabled by the Circle's fundraising events, which this year comprised of a Book Sale, a Concert, and a Quiz Night.

Circle 124: Bridging Visa Support

In addition to overseeing the Food Delivery Project in 2020, this Circle has assisted people on Bridging Visa's (BV) in a variety of ways including:

- Supporting BV holders at their court cases providing emotional support, assistance with navigating legal system, and in two instances paying legal fees.
- Paying for driving lessons for BV holders as a drivers licence will assist these people to find employment.
- Financially supporting two homeless men ensuring that they could pay for petrol, mobile phone bills, car repairs and to occasionally for stay a few nights in a hostel. Helping three ex-Nauru BV families to find rental houses. There was success with two of these families now having a fulltime job and a home. In finding rentals, Circles 3 and Circle 121, The Welcome Centre and Salvation Army assisted with money for bonds and rent.
- Financially supporting three newly released ex-Manus men now on BVs, one of home found a fulltime job by himself.
- Assisting an ex-Nauru BV child to get a scholarship to Blackfriars Priory School.
- Liaising with the Willunga Circle to purchase school uniforms for a family who moved to a new suburb.
- Supporting nine men in Kilburn AITA when they were suddenly moved to Melbourne Hotel detention.
- Attempting to assist an ex-Nauru woman in community detention in Adelaide to move with her daughter to Melbourne so she could regularly visit her husband, after he was suddenly moved from detention facility in Adelaide to Melbourne. This issue with ongoing with Immigration responding that request for move would be looked at in due course. A subsequent request that mother and daughter could fly to Melbourne for 3 days to visit husband and for the 3 year old to be able to cuddle Dad again (with Circle willing to cover travel costs and to travel with family) was refused on the grounds that this was not essential travel. This request was made pre-Covid outbreak in Melbourne.
- Supporting a BV man who had a major stroke 10 months ago and his 16 year old son. Immigration finally agreed to pay SRSS money for an Aged Care Nursing Home and this Circle assisted with transition to a nursing home.

Emergency Support

Circle 110: Rapid Response

The aim of this Circle is to respond to requests for assistance within 24 hours and to take action within 48 hours. The Rapid Response for Refugees Circle receives most of the referrals to COFA and either responds directly or forwards the request to Circles with a special focus or other potential sources of help. The broad purpose of the Rapid Response for Refugees Circle is to fill urgent gaps in what government and non-government services are mandated to provide for refugees and asylum-seekers.

Main areas of support, financial and in kind, covered by Rapid Response for Refugees Circle:

- Housing security including emergency rent.
- Other living expenses – food, phones, transport, bedding, clothes, heaters, toys.
- Medical, Dental, Hearing, and pharmaceutical expenses, vaccines for babies, formula for a malnourished baby, X-Rays, blood tests and spectacles provided for one family and two individuals had no Medicare cover.
- Four gym memberships to support better physical and mental health and provide friendship opportunities.
- Funeral costs for two babies - one born still and one post an emergency termination late in the pregnancy.
- Education and employment support – computers, two aged care training fees, financial assistance to start a Business, driving lessons and logbook practice.
- The Circle also paid for names to be changed on an International Organisation of Migration (IOM) document for a large family.

In total support was provided for 11 families have been supported with six of these ongoing, and 33 individuals, some on an ongoing basis. Three women were leaving violent domestic situations and two are homeless, one with two children.

Operating as a subcommittee of COFA's Management Committee, the Circle relies on the good will of our donors and other Circles for support. The Circle sources additional funds from grant applications where successful. Starting the year with three members after the resignation of one member the Circle continues to operate efficiently with just two members.

Circle 122: Broadview

This Circle started in May 2020 as the 'Adelaide Essential's Circle' with the focus of distributing large volumes of food and essentials during the early stages of Covid-19 in Adelaide to those whose jobs were impacted by the early Covid-19 lockdown. Without any major lockdowns in the 2020-21 financial year Circle has shifted focus to raising funds to support the work of the Rapid Response (110) and Rent Assistance during Covid (3) Circles.

Additionally, the Circle has assisted with asylum seekers with the administrative minutiae of life such as making appointments, writing resumes and cover letters, setting up payment plans, and gathering and scanning documentation required for visa applications, as well as support to attend lawyers appointments and court hearings.

Donations were mostly irregular donations from 30 plus supporters via the Circle's Facebook group "*Circle 122 - Adelaide asylum seeker/refugee supporters group*", previously the "*Adelaide Asylum Seeker COVID19 Food & Essentials Supporter Group*".

Keeping people fed during Covid-19: the Food Box Project

This project started in March 2020 and ended in February 2021 in response to the large numbers of asylum seekers who lost jobs as a result of Covid-19 restrictions and who were not eligible for any Government support. Circle 124



and Circle 122 along with over 60 volunteers helped to administer the delivery of food parcels to on average, 150 people (including children) every week.

A huge thank you to all you assisted in donation of food, packing and distribution. The Coromandel Uniting Church drove to Salisbury every week with a car full of groceries and four large tubs of pears from an orchard. Two farms in Virginia also donated vegetables weekly and St John's Anglican Church in Salisbury generously lent their historical Chapel for our sole use for ten months at no fee.

All the recipients voiced great appreciation for the help given when they had no jobs and 10 of the recipients became regular volunteers with packing food or distributing it to homes. It was also a learning curve for many of the volunteers as they heard the stories of the people, they delivered food to and learned what asylum seekers' struggles are really like!

Keeping people in their homes

Circle 3: Rent Assistance during Covid

Circle 3 was established to manage donations from a fundraising appeal conducted in the media and through churches. The aim of the appeal was to raise funds for refugees and asylum seekers who had lost their jobs due to Covid-19 and were struggling to make ends meet, being ineligible for JobSeeker or JobKeeper.

As a result of the funds raised, Circle 3 was able to pay rent for 30 individuals and families, over a period of many months until people had work again and could support themselves. The Circle worked collaboratively with other Circles which supported people to find housing before referring them to Circle 3 for rent payments.

Circle 121: SOS for asylum seekers

Circle 121 supports refugees and people seeking asylum living in Australia who are struggling to make ends meet by contributing to their rent payments, utility payments and other living expenses. It also supports them by paying for training courses to help them find employment.

As a result of the generosity of 82 donors and grants, Circle 121 has been able to pay rent for 46 individuals and families. Some of the people we have been supporting have succeeded in finding work, but some are still struggling to find any or sufficient employment to support themselves independently.

Circle 118: Refugee Support

The Refugee Circle was set to assist two refugees in need of assistance with housing and living expenses. One is on a SHEV visa and is studying Engineering at the University of Adelaide on a humanitarian scholarship. He required assistance with paying \$100 rent per week in his subsidised University accommodation.

The other is an asylum seeker from Manus Island. He was brought to Australia for medical treatment, spent time in hospital in Brisbane, then in immigration detention, then in community detention and then was released into the community with no medical follow up with a 6 month Bridging Visa. This expired in October 2020. While on the Bridging Visa he was able to work, pay rent and buy a car during. Towards the end of the Visa, the young man became seriously depressed and left his work and gave away all his possessions. His bridging visa lapsed soon after, meaning he was no longer entitled to work. He receives no government assistance. From late 2020, he has spent periods sleeping in the bush or in his car. With COFA's help he now has accommodation and support from an Adelaide family but needs a small stipend for general living expenses. The Refugee Support Circle provides him with \$50 per week.

Many people seeking asylum who arrived in Australia by boat have had their applications for refugee status rejected, or are still awaiting a final decision, under a process that has been criticised as lacking in natural justice and procedural fairness. These people have temporary visas only, usually bridging visas of only 6 months duration. They are not eligible for Centrelink so until they are able to find work, they cannot afford to pay rent.

Other asylum seekers who arrived in Australia by boat have had their refugee status recognised in Australia and possess temporary protection visas. However, while some are eligible for a form of social security (less than Centrelink payments), many have now been deemed ineligible for any form of social security.

From October 2020, people seeking asylum who had been sent to Manus Island or Nauru, followed by several years of community detention in Australia, were released. After many years of not being allowed to work, they were suddenly in the position of having to find their own rental accommodation and employment in order to support themselves and their families. They have no access to any form of social security and possess temporary 6 month bridging visas only.

Circle of Friends has worked collaboratively across its own Circles and with other agencies such as the Vinnies Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service, the Red Cross and the job program at Hope's Cafe.

It is extremely hard for these people to find work, or sufficient work: they often have poor English, their qualifications are unrecognised, re-training is prohibitively expensive, they lack local work experience and contacts, their age can count against them, and some have serious physical/ mental health problems. Possessing only a temporary visa is also a major obstacle.

For those who have found jobs, many are casual workers who have lost their jobs due to Covid-19. They are not eligible for either JobSeeker or JobKeeper (or any other form of social security) and have no 'back-up': all live in rental accommodation, have no savings to speak of, and lack an extended family/ network to rely on in hard times.

If no support is provided, these people are at genuine risk of homelessness and destitution.

Education Support

Circle 106: St Ignatius Refugee Education Support Group

The St Ignatius Refugee Education Support, consisting of 12 members, has been active since 2002 with the aim of helping refugees and asylum seekers towards self-sufficiency by assisting with educational courses of their choosing to facilitate their access to the workforce. Choices range from short work-ready programs through to higher degrees. We respond to the stated needs of individual applicants who are referred by reliable refugee agencies and support services.

With Covid-19 restrictions, fundraising efforts were affected. Despite this the Circle managed to still help approximately 25 individuals with support for computers, textbooks, exam fees for entry to courses, TAFE certificate course fees, reading glasses, requirements for compulsory field placements, stationery for school children and printing costs for tertiary students. The Circle also have responded to a dentist who is seeking Australian recognition of her overseas professional qualification, which is proving to be a long process. The Adelaide University scholarship students have a particular place in the Circle's consciousness, with their strong academic achievements despite the constant challenges they face. It has been a privilege to be able to give some support to them and a delight that some are now graduating into paid work.

Supporting Tertiary Education for asylum seekers

The government classifies asylum seekers as foreign students making University fees for these students are prohibitively high. In 2017 the University of Adelaide provided 40 scholarships to Refugees and Disadvantaged People which provided all tuition fees and an annual stipend of \$5,000. Once scholarship holders received the stipend, Centrelink ceased payment of Student Allowances. This put them under undue pressure to earn to survive. It is hard for asylum seekers to find work, and even if they do, insufficient time is left for study, and without another source of income most would have been forced to drop out.

COFA has been providing vital support for 13 of the 24 student scholarship holders. Since February 2018, Circles have raised and spent over \$45,000 to support these students. The project is a wonderful example of teamwork, between COFA and the University of Adelaide and between various Circles. Blackwood-Hills Circle (Circle 7) and SOS for Asylum Seekers Circle (Circle 121) have provided monthly living allowances, and helped with rent and utility bills. St Ignatius Refugee Support Group (Circle 106) has provided computers and other educational materials, Rapid Response Circle (Circle 110) has helped with rent, utility bills, and medical and dental costs, and Bridging Visa Support Circle (Circle 124) provided food boxes for a number of scholarship holders in 2020.

This scheme has been very successful with most of the students due to graduate or commence paid work in the next six months when they will no longer need financial support.

Employment Support

Circle 92: Job's Cafe

The Job's Cafe Circle has six members who are now focused on helping people prepare for and find work. The Circle's main work is to support the work of member, Peter Habel who uses his experience and expertise to seek out and list work opportunities. Peter meets individually with prospective job seekers to ascertain their readiness for employment and to review their resumes.

Currently the Circle has 418 who have sought work on its books (135 have secured jobs) and, as of this writing, many possible opportunities are being pursued. The Circle works with a number of job-focused organisations and has conducted three forums introducing prospective employees to prospective employers. The Circle also directly funded two refugees to obtain employment credentials with which they have found employment. Once established in their jobs they will repay that financial support to enable us to help further individuals in the same way.

Supporting women to find employment

COFA together with AMES and the Vinnies Welcoming Centre at Kilburn is proud to have helped two wonderful women on their journey to employment – one with attaining a Care Certificate, the other with restarting her own business here in Adelaide.



Re-uniting Families

Circle 115: Family Reunions

The Family Reunions Circle works to assist refugees and asylum seekers with Family Reunion and Protection Visas. It involves following up requests, negotiating loans, raising money, deciding how much we can spend when there are many needs, and lastly arranging payment.

The Circle made 14 payments with three of these for one family reunion; eight for Protection Visas and two for Citizenship appeals and one to help someone on a SHEV visa apply to move to a Skilled Migrant visa. The costs included migration agent work, psychological reports, translation of documents, interpreting meetings, Covid-19 Tests and Exit permits for Family Reunion Visas, ministerial appeals for adverse findings and country information. The costs varied between \$150 and \$3,500, with almost all over \$500 and half over \$1,500.

People assisted came from a range of places including Afghanistan, Iran and Africa. Most payments were gifts, and two were loans. The Circle is pleased that some of their previous loans have been repaid, enabling future support. A bequest, wine sale, individual donations, birthday gift donations and transfers from other Circles have enabled this work.

Father reunited with his children after many years

In 2020, Libby Hogarth of Australian Migration Options referred a man to the Family Reunion Circle, who was trying to get his family to Australia. His daughter had come down with severe illness and so he had to apply health waiver for his daughter to be able to come. The Circle helped fund the application and during 2020, she received permission and visas were issued.

To get on the flight they had to have exit visas and Covid-19 tests, privately paid for. After being bumped off flights, we helped pay for repeat tests and exit permits.

Initially the eldest son was not allowed to come so another appeal had to be made. The Circle helped pay for the last of the migration agent fees involved in this process. This took three payments over two financial years. The son eventually arrived in 2021 and now the whole family is reunited and can settle together in Adelaide.

Supporting people in Detention

Circle 126

Circle 126 has continued its support of people detained on Manus Island and Nauru, together with the provision of financial assistance to those released into mainland Australia who are now living in South Australia.

The support of people held in offshore detention camps primarily involves providing phone credit, and in one instance a new phone, to enable these people to remain in contact with their families. This Circle has a regular commitment to one the men in offshore detention and has assisted him with his application for sponsorship via MOSAIC's Operation Not Forgotten which will enable him to settle in Canada. A decision on this application is still pending. The others have been on an as required basis with things like personal items being provided as needed.

Circle 126 has also supported, with food, welcome packs, friendship and other requested assistance, a 6 of the asylum seekers from the Manus Island and Nauru group now being held in community detention and on bridging visas in Adelaide. The Circle members fund these expenses themselves.

Annual Financial Statement

Annual Financial Statement, 1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021

Receipts:

Donations	360.00		
Operational Income	5,954.03		
Bank Interest	13.30		
Investment Income	<u>136.55</u>	Total	<u>\$6,463.88</u>

Expenses:

Bank Fees	370.25		
Bendigo Merchant Charges	372.84		
GiveNow Merchant Charges	3,429.16		
Insurance	1,528.68		
Membership Subscriptions	55.00		
Speaker's Gifts			
Website	147.00		
		Total	<u>\$5,902.93</u>
		Net Profit	<u>\$ 560.95</u>

Reconciliation:

Bank Accounts at 1/7/20	
General Account	25,909.47
Investment Acct	66,785.30
Undeposited Funds	21,100.00
GiveNow Clearing	<u>11,045.58</u>
Total	\$124,840.35

Add Receipts	6,463.88
Less Expenses	<u>5,902.93</u>
Balance	\$125,401.30

Funds Held in Trust for Circles

Add Balance 30/6/21	170,085.20
Less Balance 1/7/20	<u>123,776.61</u>
Total	\$171,709.89

Bank Accounts at 30/6/21

General Account	78,405.53
Investment Acct	81,921.85
Undeposited Funds	21,100.00
GiveNow Clearing	<u>11,382.51</u>
Total	\$171,709.89

Donors and Supporters

Thank you also to all the generous donors who have contributed to the Circles, one off or regular, large or small. We are grateful for them all. This blending of many contributions, small or large, from many people, is what keeps Circles operating as grassroots, community organisations.

Significant financial support has been received from the following organisations: Anne Roman Bequest Trustees, Cennedyess Community, Henley-Fulham Uniting Church, Justice for Refugees SA, Prospect Road Uniting Church, St Michael's Anglican Church Mitcham, St Peters Cathedral, Susan McKinnon Foundation, Suzanne Elliot Trust, and Uniting Church Invest.

The SA Government granted Circles of Friends \$10,000 for food support during COVID. The Australian Red Cross paid for food during the food distribution program by reimbursing the costs of food and essentials during COVID through their funding from the Federal Government.

Also the Catholic Church Insurance Giving awarded a grant of \$5000 to the Rapid Response for Refugees Circle.

Thank you also to the people who attended fundraisers or gave their energy, goodwill, kindness time and skills to support this work, and to the collaborations from other organisations. We are enormously grateful to each and every form of support and collaboration that enables asylum seekers and refugees to assisted more effectively.

Of particular note our collaboration with the Welcome Centre at Bowden, The Vinnies House of Welcome at Kilburn and the St Vincent de Paul Circle, has been outstanding and resulted in much larger numbers of families and individuals being able to survive in these challenging political and economic times.

We thank the Aldinga Arts Eco Village, members of Galilee Catholic Community Aldinga Beach, Aldinga/Willunga Branch of the St Vincent de Paul Society and Sally Crafter from Port Willunga for their in kind support. Thank you to the Migration agents, particularly at AMO, who work for the protection of asylum seekers at reduced rates.

Thank you to the Effective Living Centre for the use of their meeting rooms on a regular basis.

Without all of our donors and supporters, the work of COFA in supporting Asylum Seekers and Refugees simply would not happen.

COFA Management

Committee Members

Monica O'Wheel - Chair
Alex Reilly - Secretary
Bruce Whyatt – Treasurer
Denise Callaghan
Margaret Calder
Lesley Walker
Henrietta Wighton

Circle Convenors

Rent Assistance During Covid (3) – Henrietta Wighton
Blackwood - Hills Circle (7) – Jenny Lewis
Willunga Circle (11) - Jayne Jennifer
Strathalbyn Southern Hills Circle (22) – Lib Doube
Pilgrim Circle (27) - Margaret Chittleborough
Kensington Circle (75) – Monica O'Wheel
Job's Café Circle (92) – Paul Turley
St Ignatius Refugee Education Support Circle (106) – Bernadette Burke
Rapid Response Circle (110) - Trish Dundon
Effective Living Centre Circle (111) – Pauline Kenny
Lesley's Circle (113) - Lesley Walker
Circle of Hope Circle (114) - Paul Turley
Family Reunions Circle (115) - Monica O'Wheel
The Manresa Circle (117) – Ruth Gordon
SOS for Asylum Seekers Circle (121) - Henrietta Wighton
Broadview Circle (122) – Rachel Lafain
Bridging Visa Support Circle (124) - Catherine Russell
Circle 126 – Anthea Falconberg

All members are volunteers, providing time and energy from our passion and dedication to supporting Asylum Seekers and Refugees.

Financial accounts are audited by Georgina Davison.



Circle of Friends Australia Incorporated

ABN 39 367 145 336

Incorporation number: SA A41932

Registered with the ACNC as a Tax Deductible Gift Recipient

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