

Highgate Circle of Friends



We aim to support refugees, of any religion or race, in detention or in the community by:

- Visiting people in detention
- Helping refugees establish themselves in the community
- Educating ourselves on the issues and challenges refugees face
- Voicing our concerns to government.
- Supporting the important work of the Australian Refugee Association

Belonging to a circle of friends can involve as little or as much as a person is prepared to give – both personally and/or financially.

Activities of the Circle include:

- Visiting refugees in the Baxter Detention Centre and the Glenside Campus
- Writing regularly to refugees at Baxter
- Welcoming refugees when they were released from Baxter
- Visiting refugees in the community and sharing meals together
- Helping newly released refugees establish themselves in the community—banking, Centrelink payments, finding accommodation and furnishings, enrolling in English lessons etc
- Giving financial assistance to refugees including supplementing the costs of appeals to the government
- Organising fundraisers
- Making financial pledges to ensure a regular supply of funds
- Attending public meetings to increase our own understanding of issues
- Presenting to interested groups to raise public awareness
- Writing to politicians, newspapers and signing petitions to influence government policy

Our donations are administered by the Australian Refugee Association and are tax deductible.

We have met many interesting people who have had

terrible experiences, but who have inspired us with their ability to survive and their readiness to forgive.

If you are concerned about refugees and are interested in being a part of what we do please join us at our next meeting. The encouragement and support we give each other is important in helping us continue to support refugees in our community.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, in the homes of members, from 7.30pm.

For more information contact
The church office
8271 9556
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The Circle was begun with a few members of St. John's Lutheran Church and has expanded to include others from the community.