



KWCF

The Katina Woodruff
Children's Foundation, Inc.



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Overcoming challenges for a better future

ANNUAL REPORT





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OUR STORIES

2024

2024 saw us welcoming children from diverse cultures who experienced varying degrees and lengths of culture shock and trauma following their arrival in Australia.

What connected each of these children's stories was that they all responded quickly and happily to Katina's methodologies and were then able to settle into and thrive in their new environments.

A NEW START

One such child had lived in Australia for nine months before he met Katina – after this length of time he was still silent in class and stared blankly ahead when students or teachers tried to interact with him.

His parents were highly concerned and most relieved when their child responded extremely well to Katina's methodologies. Through enjoyable activities that Katina designed to help him express himself with her and others at school, he started to communicate in almost fluent English, indicating that he had indeed been absorbing his surroundings but had not yet felt culturally understood or safe enough to express himself freely.

He started to share very deep thoughts for such a young child, much to the delight and pride of his family. Other children were pleased to befriend him and appreciate his empathetic nature.

School staff reported ***“He seems like a brand new child. He is always interacting in class now, putting his hand up and answering questions. He constantly laughs and talks with the other children.”*** The change was so profound that others in the child's cultural community in Perth have now asked for Katina to work in their homes with their own children.



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OUR IMPACT



From tears of fear to smiles of joy

The real impact of our work is not measured in facts and figures.

It is measured by the changes in the children who, by teacher observation as well as our own, were struggling to adapt into the Australian classroom setting and among their peers who, then, following their sessions with Katina, enter into the classroom at peace and with a smile and happily interact with peers.

They start enjoying those around them instead of seeing them as a threat, interacting well with peers and contributing to the class.

From tears of fear to smiles of joy is the biggest measure of success one could ever ask for in our kind of organisation.



82
Kids



15
Nations

The children Katina has worked with this past year have come from Ukraine, Russia, China, Mongolia, Bhutan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Palestine, Kenya, Rwanda, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey.

Prior to their work with Katina the children have shared ever-increasing concerns and fears about their families in their first countries and about settling into our Australian school system which felt so foreign and frightening to the point that some felt sick with worry on their trips to school.

After working with Katina these children started to enjoy school, to form positive attachments to other children and to the school staff, and have started to feel able and competent as learners even in a new cultural and linguistic setting,

Feeling less burdened by political and international realities has freed the children up to enjoy mastering a new culture and to proudly share about the strengths and values instilled in them by their first cultures.

Many of the children have progressed so smoothly out of their formerly stagnant states of distress that Katina has been able to take on new children more rapidly than ever before. It seems that while world events and the horrors children are encountering are possibly increasing, so too are the children's capacities to respond to genuine opportunities to heal and to experience a childhood once again.



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SUPPORT NETWORK

YOUTH AMBASSADOR



Jack Holley, 14 years is our inaugural Youth Ambassador for a second year as a result of his enthusiastic and creative fundraising and communication for the Foundation.

In early 2024 Jack organised his second 'Run for Refugees' at the Busselton Bay Run, raising over \$1,000 and awareness and interest in the work Katina does with Refugee and Migrant Children.

Not only is he assisting us, but he is also raising awareness among his peers and his school of the needs of those we serve and seeks to build a sense of philanthropy with youth. Thank you, Jack, for your initiative and effort.



We want to thank the Channel Seven Telethon Trust for making major contributions to our work.

For the third consecutive year we are recipients of Channel 7 Telethon funds.

Telethon is Australia's largest Children's Charity fundraising event in the nation and has international credibility.

A grant from Telethon builds credibility with other groups and people.

For instance, The Department of Home Affairs (Australian Government) informed us that they would like us to apply for funding from them to assist children affected by the current conflicts in Gaza, Palestine and Israel and the resultant hostility to children from these cultural backgrounds.



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SUMMARY DATA

FINANCES

Our financial reports record a viable and stable year.



In summary, the reports record an income of \$86,059.91 with expenditure of \$62,599.27.

We are also holding the \$20,000 in trust to be expended during 2024-2025 on the project with the Department of Affairs.

Thus, we are operating within our budget but do not raise excess funds beyond our needs.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership has remained stable during this year and the entire committee has served with distinction.

Their donation of time and expertise to our endeavour is vital. Few associations and their boards of management would be able to match the expertise or commitment of this organisation, even in much larger charities. They are indeed an impressive group.

The quality of our membership has helped us in this tremendous outreach we have with those who are traumatised and suffering.

PARTNERS

Our partnership with both Beaconsfield Primary school and the community has centred our emphasis now on people within the Fremantle catchment area. However, we also receive requests from families who have heard of Katina's success from other refugee and migrant families, which we treasure. We have also benefited from our networking with Leadership WA.

We thank our honorary Auditor and accounting adviser for helping us maintain our accountability. The careful audit by Poonam Kapoor. Her work has not only given us the feedback toward credibility, but also the ability to approach other bodies such as the Commerce Department, with confidence and authenticity. Poonam is meticulous in her work and checking of detail and compliance, yet provides this service without charge.

But the key work we do is not with structures and procedures, but rather with children, their family, and their environs. The infrastructure is valuable and essential, but our main mission is equipping children and their families as well as those who interact with them.



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SUMMARY

AN UPDATE FROM KATINA

The children we have worked with this past year have come from Iran, Afghanistan, Columbia, China, Korea, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, India, Bhutan, Mongolia, Cambodia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Ukraine and Russia.

Prior to their work with the Foundation the children have shared ever-increasing concerns and fears about their families in their first countries and about settling into our Australian school system which felt so foreign and frightening to the point that some felt sick with worry on their trips to school.

After working with the Foundation these children started to enjoy school, to form positive attachments to other children and to the school staff, and have started to feel able and competent as learners even in a new cultural and linguistic setting,

We aim to provide a safe and sensitive person they can confide in about their fears for family members in their homelands and their grief at being separated from them. Parents and teachers observing the effects of our work have expressed their joy over their children's increased happiness in Australia and in seeing how they have been able to resume a healthy childhood once again even in the midst of ongoing world conflicts affecting their families.

Feeling less burdened by political and international realities has freed the children up to enjoy mastering a new culture and to proudly share about the strengths and values instilled in them by their first cultures.

Many of the children have progressed so smoothly out of their formerly stagnant states of distress that the Foundation has been able to take on new children more rapidly than ever before.

It seems that while world events and the horrors children are encountering are possibly increasing, so too are the children's capacities to respond to genuine opportunities to heal and to experience a childhood once again.

Thank you for working with us and helping to make all of this possible.

Katina Woodruff-Roberts
Child Anthropologist
Director



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SUMMARY

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

It has been an honour to serve as Chair of the Katina Woodruff Children's Foundation again this year. And what a successful year it has been.

As I begin I want to thank the members of the association and those who have served so admirably on the Committee of Management. I also want to acknowledge our Director, Katina Woodruff-Roberts whose vision not only accomplishes incredible transformation for the children and families we serve, but also is an inspiration to each of us and those she works among.

I also gratefully recognise that, without our donor base and supporters this important service would not be available. Those who partner with us in the schools and neighbourhoods also provide the opportunities and contexts in which the services can be delivered. Again, thank you each one.

Our board membership has been strong. Thank you to Peter Bowler, Lisa Macrides, Donna West and Ken Ferguson for providing strength and governance to the organisation.

We thank Ken for assisting us in making contacts within the Fremantle community with his wide network built over decades of leadership and education here. Ken's life is now moving on from Board membership due to retirement, relocation and extended travel, so he is asking for a replacement on the Board as he steps back from several commitments. We will consider a new member for the association at this agm or soon thereafter. Our goal is to have at least six active members. Our twentieth anniversary of our incorporation and beginning of work was in September this year.

Finally, thank you, again, Katina for your vision and passion which have impacted migrant and refugee children in such a dynamic way. You are without peer.

But the work we do is accomplished due to many who care: The faithful donors, some of whom give sacrificially; the members at large of the Association and their Committee of Management.

The partnering institutions including the Department of Communities and Beaconsfield Primary School and its Intensive English Centre that provide opportunities to network and make contact with families and children; groups such as the The Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees with whom we are now sharing information and who are partners for referral of families and children to one another; Jack Holley for caring and serving us as Youth Ambassador; Telethon for valuing our cause and providing some financial and moral support to all that we do; and the wonderful children and their families whom Katina is privileged to know and support.

Over our twenty year history this network has steadily grown and matured, and we are so appreciative of each component that comprises all that we are and represent.

Thank you!

Robert L Woodruff

Chair