



The Katina Woodruff
Children's Foundation, Inc.



2
0
2
5


Overcoming challenges for a better future

ANNUAL REPORT



OUR IMPACT

2025



In 2025 we welcomed children from diverse cultural backgrounds, each arriving with their own experiences of culture shock and trauma of varying intensity and duration.

What unified these stories was the children's capacity to respond positively to Katina's methodologies, through which they were able to settle, grow in confidence, and thrive in their new environments.

A NEW START

The true measure of impact lies in the transformation we see in the children. Many arrived in the Australian classroom environment struggling to adapt, as observed by both their teachers and Katina. Following their sessions with Katina, these same children began to enter their classrooms calm, at ease, and with genuine smiles, engaging positively with their peers.

Over time, they shifted from viewing others as a source of uncertainty to building meaningful connections - interacting confidently, participating in class, and contributing to the learning environment. Witnessing this journey - from tears of fear to smiles of joy - represents the most meaningful measure of success for our organisation.

In 2025 Katina worked with 89 children from 23 countries, with impacts reaching far beyond these numbers as the children's families, school communities, and neighbourhoods benefit from our approach.

The children Katina has worked with this past year have come from a diverse range of countries, including Rwanda, Congo, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Gaza, Ukraine, Russia, China, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Mongolia, India, Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Spain, and the Czech Republic.

OUR IMPACT



From tears of fear to smiles of joy

Prior to working with Katina, many of these children had experienced significant disruption in their first countries and faced considerable challenges settling into the Australian school system. For some, the transition was overwhelming, with feelings of anxiety so intense that attending school caused physical distress. They shared ongoing concerns and fears about their families, alongside the difficulties of navigating an unfamiliar and, at times to them, frightening new environment.

After working with Katina, these children have begun to enjoy school, form positive relationships with their peers and school staff, and feel more secure within the school setting. They are developing a sense of confidence and competence as learners, even within a new cultural and linguistic context.

89
Kids



23
Nations

Feeling less burdened by political and international realities, the children are increasingly able to draw strength from the values instilled in them by their first cultures. This has enabled them to engage more fully in learning and to take pride in mastering new skills and experiences.

Many of the children have progressed so smoothly from previously stagnant states of distress that Katina has been able to support new children more quickly than ever before.

While global events and the challenges these children face may be increasing, so too are their capacities to respond to genuine opportunities for healing and to experience the joys of childhood once again.



YOUTH AMBASSADOR



For a third year running, Jack Holley, 15 years, is our Youth Ambassador as a result of his enthusiastic and creative fundraising and communication for the Foundation.

Not only is Jack 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 continued initiative and effort.



We extend our sincere thanks to the Channel 7 Telethon Trust for its ongoing and significant support of our work. We are honoured to be a recipient of Telethon funding for the fourth consecutive year.

As Australia's largest children's charity fundraising event, Telethon brings not only vital financial support but also strong national and international credibility to the organisations it supports.

SUMMARY DATA

FINANCES

The Foundation recorded another viable and stable year.



Total income received within the financial year was \$77,378. Further, a forward receipt of a Government Grant totalling \$20,000 which for the most part of this year's budget, rolled over for expending in this current period.

Total expenditure for the year was \$90,865.

As at 30 June 2025 the Foundation held an amount of \$54,579 budget allocation in its bank account.

MEMBERSHIP

Our committee membership remained stable despite significant change events. This is testament to the time, expertise and commitment given by each individual Board member.

By year's end, we welcomed two new Board members in Michael Roberts and Luisa Hogan. The quality of our membership remains essential to the Foundation maintaining its vital vision and mission.

PARTNERS

This year we were delighted to be invited to establish our work in a brand new Intensive English Centre at Atwell Primary School. This enables us to support migrant and refugee students and families in the surrounding suburbs as soon as their children commence their schooling.

Ceri Paige, Deputy Principal at one of our valued partner schools, recently shared these touching words about the difference our programs make:

"Katina uses her own personal experiences, combined with her decades of professional experiences to make the students and their families feel at ease and blossom under her care and guidance. Katina works with children from all over the world, with all different social, cultural and religious backgrounds. Katina helps turn disadvantage into an advantage, vulnerability into a strength and helps them develop their wellbeing skills to benefit them at this time and into their future. She supports them with grace and kindness, allowing them to thrive, settle and develop into resilient and happy members of our community. Our students adore their time with Katina and we love watching them grow and thrive under her care. The Foundation is a unique and much-needed lifeline for many of our families who are navigating huge changes in their lives."

Ceri's reflection captures the heart of what we do together. Your support helps transform the journey of settlement and adjustment into one of hope, belonging, and opportunity. You are part of a community that believes every child - from every part of the world - deserves the chance to flourish.

Thank you for your steadfast support of our mission and the children and families we serve. Your kindness and generosity make a profound and lasting difference in very deserving young lives.

SUMMARY

AN UPDATE FROM KATINA

I would like to extend my deepest thanks for your generous support and belief in the work of the Foundation. Because of you, refugee and migrant children are given the chance to heal, grow, and thrive as they find their place in a new community.

Each day, we see young people who have faced extraordinary challenges begin to rediscover their confidence and joy. Through the specialised Anthropology of Play programs you help make possible, these incredible children are developing the skills and resilience to build brighter futures for themselves and their families.

The children we have worked with over the past year have come from a wide range of countries, including Rwanda, Congo, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Gaza, Ukraine, Russia, China, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Mongolia, India, Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Spain, and the Czech Republic.

Prior to their engagement with the Foundation, many of these children shared increasing concerns for family members in their countries of origin, alongside anxiety about settling into an Australian system that often felt unfamiliar and overwhelming. For some, these worries were so significant that even attending school and participating in community based recreational activities became a source of distress.

Through their work with the Foundation, we have seen remarkable change. Children begin to enjoy school again, form positive relationships with peers and staff, and develop a growing sense of confidence in their abilities as learners despite the challenges of adjusting to a new cultural and linguistic environment.

We aim to provide each child with a safe and supportive relationship - someone they can trust with their fears for loved ones still overseas, as well as their grief at being separated from them. Parents and teachers consistently share their joy in witnessing these transformations: children who are happier, more settled, and able to re-engage with a healthy and hopeful sense of childhood, even while global conflicts continue to affect their families.

As children feel less burdened by complex political and international realities, they become freer to embrace their new environment while also taking pride in the strengths and values of their first cultures. This balance is central to their healing.

Many children are now progressing more smoothly through earlier states of distress, enabling the Foundation to support new participants more quickly than ever before. While the challenges faced by these children may be increasing, so too is their capacity to respond to genuine opportunities for healing, growth, and renewed childhood experiences.

This year has been one of both loss and renewal for our Foundation. We were deeply saddened by the passing of our much-loved Chair, Robert Woodruff, whose vision and compassion helped shape our Foundation into what it is today. His legacy continues to inspire our work and reminds us daily of the power of compassion, love and commitment to others.

At the same time, we are pleased to welcome Peter Bowler as our new Chair. Peter brings a wealth of experience, keen insight, and a strong commitment to continuing this important mission. His leadership will guide us as we continue our programs and deepen our support for the children and families who need it most.

Thank you so much for your continued support in making this work possible.

Katina Woodruff-Roberts
Child Anthropologist
Director

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome and thank you most sincerely for the amazing opportunity of being your chairperson for the past nine months. The fact that we have all contributed immensely to the ongoing success of the Foundation needs to be recognised for the greatness of spirit and resilience of all who have worked tirelessly to enhance the creative and insightful dedication undertaken. Katina's superb commitment to her sacred work with children in schools, homes and communities, is the inspiration that is witnessed by all who know and respect the Foundation's Vision and Mission.

Our Board, Committee, Donors & Supporters, have enabled us to overcome one of the greatest, unexpected hurdles that an association could experience. Our much loved and deeply respected President and Chairperson and Leader, Dr. Robert L. Woodruff, lovingly known as Bob, spent the previous 20 years of exceptional commitment, dedication and Love, to lead us in all aspects of Governing, Managing and Funding the Foundation and supporting Katina, before his untimely passing in April 2025. While Bob steered us valiantly through Covid and numerous other difficulties, he shone his light before us, to help us find the way forward. Bob's legacy lives on as we remember his Fun seeking, skilled approach to success, with Sue Woodruff and Katina Woodruff-Roberts.

Katina has had an exceptional year with record numbers of children and families, safely finding their way to the healing and life-changing work, as a Child Anthropologist, that Katina excels in.

With some haste required to keep strengthening the foundation, we called a Special Emergency Meeting, resulting in our Board Members being elected for the ongoing year's activities from 2025. As the elected Board Chairperson, I am truly honoured to have been chosen to be a team member along with Katina Woodruff-Roberts, Donna West, Lisa Macrides, Michael Roberts and Luisa Hogan.

We have, through Bob's and Katina's outreach, a most amazing and generous family of Donors and supporters. The Foundation was recently requested to re-apply to Telethon Children's Trust, grant program. This Grant Application was skillfully managed by Donna, and assisted by our Board members, who completed a rigorous but carefully constructed process. As at today's date 19.01.2026, we are awaiting the results of our application to Telethon, which, if successful, and along with our most honoured Donors and supporters, should enable us to meet our annual needs to function and grow for the year ahead.

Our Association's objectives remain solidly and safely in our minds and hearts, as we assist Katina to empower and regenerate the lives of the many children she works with throughout Western Australia. This year, children from the following list of countries, have benefitted from Katina's 20 Years plus, of Professional and uniquely personalised skills as a Child Anthropologist and a kind mentor to children, families and communities and educators: South Sudan; Congo; Malawi; Rwanda; Lebanon; Afghanistan; Jordan; Syria; India; Ukraine; Russia; China; Korea; and Thailand.

This vast golden thread woven across nations to welcome, heal and strengthen children and families, is truly astounding. Katina is innately confident and competent, to be able to manage such cultural diversities of character and communications (language) and alertness to the spirit of these sensitive communities.

When I consider and appreciate the genuine commitment of the Board of Directors and our Committee, what becomes crystal clear is that we all embrace the same exciting spirit & are on the same wavelength of integrity as Katina. What brings us together is our own areas of specialisation, our unique well-earned success in life and careers, and or philanthropy.

We are reminded that we not only exist and grow from our association in the Katina Woodruff Children's Foundation, but we have a very unique opportunity to be leaders in Charitable works and random acts of kindness. This year 2026, affords us a greater opportunity to build exceptional relationships with our current amazing Donors, Grantors and supporters as well as reaching out with sincerity, to start conversations with those we know personally. Letting family and friends simply know more about our work at the KWCF Board and our commitment to this work, will achieve the best relationship discussions, that are the genesis of engagement in Charitable actions. Thoughts become things once inspired action takes place. By stepping forward, we might also attract others who would benefit from working on our committee. Previous connections with Leadership W.A. have proven extremely reliable and fruitful regarding appointments to our Foundation. Closer meaningful connections will bring us support and the accomplishments we hope for.

Gratefully, I acknowledge Katina's advancement with her much needed and respected work with children, which continues to flourish. Together as a tight knit team, we share the positive future outlook for the growth of the Foundation's Mission and goals. I am very appreciative to have the privilege of working and creating with Katina, our faithful and loyal Donors, and especially with the most amazing Board of Directors and committee of the Katina Woodruff Children's Foundation.

With sincere wishes, true and hearty, I thank you all for a most dynamic year of service and stability in our commitment to the Katina Woodruff Children's Foundation Inc.

Peter Robert Bowler B.A.Ed
Chair

Life Member: Peel Chamber of Commerce & Industry.