

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

Two of our volunteers, Trish Simper and Carol Coney, became involved with the HoW after retiring from the workforce.

Trish's career was in the corporate sector where she held senior executive positions in the telecommunications and banking.

As a HoW volunteer, Trish works with the Afghan community, helping families with English literacy, integration into Australian life, advocating on their behalf with Government and non-government organisations. A very important aspect of this work is the conversation and friendship that is extended and received.

Trish provides a positive female role model in a modern egalitarian society, particularly to housebound women with infant children.

Carol spent 25 years with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service where she held various management positions. She became involved with the HoW in 2002 and says she was motivated by the infamous Tampa incident and the use of mandatory detention. Carol says her experiences as a volunteer have been inspiring, such as seeing the progress of a client she is home tutoring in English, but it can also be emotional at times. "Hearing about

the pain and suffering our clients have experienced can be overwhelming" says Carol. "But witnessing the joy of a family reunion or news of permanent residency is extremely moving."

Currently we are seeking visitors, administration, reception and fundraising volunteers. If you can help, please email Catherine at cathroth@tpg.com.au



First aid training

Story Snapshots: **One Girl's Journey**

I left my country Uganda due to the circumstances that I had that threaten my life. Coming to Australia and leaving my family behind was the most challenging decision I have ever been faced with in my entire life. I had no choice but to leave to save my life and perhaps to save my family's life in future. Arriving in Australia was scary for me; I knew no one, had no money, nowhere to sleep. I was stranded, anxious, desperate and eventually stressed and depressed.

I went through a rough time; my entire life depended on charity. Immigration took some time while processing my application; it felt like eternity. Anyhow, I got my permanent residence eventually and I was relieved. Surprisingly, it did not excite me like it should have because I waited for it for so long that by the time I got it, it was just relief I felt.

During the hard days, House of Welcome really helped me a lot. I was stranded with no accommodation and when I approached them, they gave me a warm welcome, a place to stay, food to eat, and paid my bills. That was a great relief and very helpful. Eventually, I felt like I really matter, it felt like someone really cared. It took away all the stress I had and I was able to apply for a scholarship at UTS for a Bachelor's of Nursing. I was lucky, I got it. Because I was not stressed anymore, I was able to pass my exams for my first year despite the court sessions I had to go through with the immigration department.

By the time I got my permanent resident visa, I was already at university. And all thanks to House of Welcome, it's indeed a house of welcome. House of Welcome gave me a reason to think ahead.

The HoW provides accommodation, furniture & financial support, case work, English, employment & computer support & drop-in services.

If you would like a copy of the report on our programs incl. 'Safe Place Housing program, please email thow@tpg.com.au

Thank You for all your support !!

Support the House Of Welcome www.houseofwelcome.com.au

1. Please make **cheque or money order** payable to the House of Welcome.

2. **Credit Card Donations:** Mastercard Visa

Credit Card number: _____ Expiry Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

3. **Direct Payment to: ****

ANZ Bank, 388 George Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Acc Number: 5256 – 42743 BSB: 012 006 Acc Name: NSW EC Relief Institute Inc- House of Welcome

** Direct payment please send or email us your name, address, email & telephone so we can issue you a tax deductible receipt. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Please post cheques or credit card slips to House of Welcome, PO Box 2008, Carramar, NSW 2163.