

## **Media Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 16 June 2023

## **Celebrating Refugees Contributions and Finding Freedom**

As Refugee Week approaches, CORE Community Services, a leading community organisation announces its active participation and support for this significant event. With this year's theme of "Finding Freedom," CORE aims to highlight the remarkable contributions of refugees and promote inclusivity and harmony within society.

Refugee Week, which takes place from 18<sup>th</sup> June to 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023, is an annual nationwide initiative that celebrates the resilience, strength, and achievements of refugees in Australia. It also provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges faced by refugees and the importance of building welcoming and supportive communities.

At CORE Community Services, we firmly believe in the power of community engagement and the positive impact it can have on individuals and society as a whole. By embracing the diverse skills, talents, and experiences of refugees, we can foster social cohesion and create a more inclusive and harmonious Australia.

Throughout Refugee Week, CORE Community Services will share testimonials from valued clients and staff, who have successfully rebuilt their lives and made substantial contributions to their communities. Nouri, a refugee from Syria, expressed their gratitude, saying, "Thanks to the invaluable support of the CORE organisation and the unwavering assistance of Mr. Simon Sogora...their guidance and advocacy played a pivotal role in helping me navigate the job market and connect with relevant opportunities. Their dedication to supporting refugees like me has been instrumental in my successful integration into the workforce. Today, I am proud to contribute to my community working with Department of Communities and Justice, and I am grateful for the opportunities I have received."

In the last year, CORE Community Services has supported over 3,650 refugees in their settlement journey, providing essential services such as housing assistance, healthcare support, language and skills training, and employment opportunities. Our dedicated team has worked tirelessly to ensure that refugees are equipped with the necessary tools and support to thrive in their new homes.

Juana Reinoso, CEO of CORE Community Services, expressed her enthusiasm for Refugee Week, stating, "Refugee Week is an important opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of refugees to our society. At CORE, we are committed to empowering individuals and building stronger communities through our comprehensive settlement programs. We invite everyone to join us in embracing diversity, promoting understanding, and working together towards a more inclusive Australia."

As a highlight of Refugee Week, CORE Community Services in conjunction with Fairfield Emerging Communities Action Partnership (FECAP) will host a community gathering and cultural celebration on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023. The event will showcase the rich cultural heritage of refugees through music, art, dance, and traditional cuisine. It will provide an engaging platform for community members to connect, learn, and foster mutual respect and appreciation.

Join CORE Community Services as we celebrate Refugee Week and recognise the resilience and strength of refugees in our community. Together, we can build stronger and more inclusive communities that embrace diversity and offer opportunities for everyone to thrive.

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CORE Community Services Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation operating in South West Sydney since 1979. We run a wide range of activities, and programs across our key services; Children's Services, Youth Services, Multicultural Communities, Aged and Disability Care and Community Hubs with a focus on culturally and linguistically diverse communities and vulnerable communities.

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