



You can change someone's future today.

Nargis* is going to be a nurse. Currently enrolled in university, she wants to help others and to give back to the community.

However, she almost never had the chance to pursue her dream.

Nargis escaped from Afghanistan after several members of her family were killed by the Taliban. As a member of the Hazara ethnic group, she had faced discrimination and persecution her whole life. Unlike many of the approximately 15 million refugees in the world today, Nargis was fortunate enough to be offered permanent protection through resettlement.

Life in Australia provided Nargis with the first opportunity she had ever had to go to school freely and without fear. An extremely intelligent young woman who was motivated to learn, she nevertheless had significant barriers to overcome. With trauma from her refugee experience, substantial gaps in her education, a new culture to understand, language difficulties and financial pressures, Nargis struggled to keep up with her classmates. Isolated and vulnerable, she was suffering from depression and at risk of dropping out of school.

When Nargis approached the Australian Refugee Association for practical assistance with blankets and food, ARA went beyond meeting her immediate need. Understanding the challenges she was facing, ARA worked to make a long term difference.

Nargis joined ARA's Homework Clubs program, where volunteers from the community supported her academically and helped her to develop her language skills. She also became involved in ARA's mentoring program, regularly meeting with a volunteer who showed her around Adelaide, helped her develop her passion for writing stories, and provided an invaluable friendship. Through the support and encouragement of ARA, Nargis was able to develop strong social networks, improve her English abilities and academic grades, and successfully enter university.

We need your help to continue transforming the lives of people like Nargis.

Refugees have enormous resiliency and determination, overcoming tragedy and hardship that many of us cannot possibly imagine. By building on their strengths, ARA successfully empowers not only young people, but men, women and families to successfully settle in Australia and become fully participating citizens.

ARA's wide range of programs equips people from refugee backgrounds with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive.

This winter, your donation will not only help with providing necessary items such as blankets and food to those in need. It will also shine a light of hope and have a direct, practical impact on the lives of people like Nargis.

Help ARA to create a brighter future for refugees and South Australia by donating today.

Kirsten Bickendorf
CEO

* Name changed to protect privacy

Australian Refugee Association

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or for online donations visit www.australianrefugee.org**

Please send me more information on: Including ARA in my Will