



CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2014



Christmas is a time to spend with our loved ones. However, for many of South Australia's newest arrivals, the season can be a difficult reminder of family still torn across continents.

This Christmas will be particularly special for Adelaide mother Noelle*, who will be with all of her children for the first time in five years.

When Noelle was forced to flee her village in the Democratic Republic of Congo after an attack by rebels, she lost her youngest son in the ensuing chaos. Although she searched desperately for him, she had to continue moving to keep her other two children safe. Eventually granted an Australian humanitarian visa as a woman at risk, Noelle always carried the grief of her tragic loss.

The Australian Refugee Association supported Noelle to rebuild a life for herself and her family; assisting with accommodation, providing educational scholarships for her children and linking her to the wider community through our Social Support program. As years went by, Noelle never gave up hope that she would one day be reunited with her son. Noelle often would come to ARA just to be amongst people who cared and understood her heartbreaking situation.

When Noelle finally discovered that her son was indeed alive, she came straight to ARA for assistance to realize her dream of a reunited family. ARA was there to help Noelle finally embrace her child again, and will continue to support this remarkable mother and her family to move forward on their settlement journey.

This Christmas, ARA will be ensuring that mothers such as Noelle and their children will not only have gifts under the tree, but the gift of hope for a brighter future. **By making a donation, you will directly assist ARA to support stronger families and put a smile on the face of the many people we work with.**

You can change someone's future today, please donate now.

ARA is grateful for your ongoing commitment to realizing our vision of a South Australia where refugees are an integral part of a thriving, prosperous community. We wish all of our valued supporters a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful new year.



Kirsten Bickendorf
CEO

* Name changed to protect privacy



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Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO, Governor of South Australia



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