

19 January 2018

Buddies activities 2017

– *Kristi Kief, Secretary*

Wow, what a year! 2017 was jam packed with news from around the world, and honestly some of it has been pretty challenging to absorb. I

don't know about all of you, but sometimes I can become a bit down and feel helpless or ineffective.

In fact, that's why I became involved in Buddies earlier this year. It's been hugely rewarding, and I'm enjoying the opportunity to learn in my role of Secretary.

So I wanted to take a few minutes to talk about Buddies and the real and tangible ways we have affected peoples lives in a positive manner. Make no doubt: the small things we do have a lasting effect upon others. Many of the refugees and asylum seekers we have spoken to this year mention how deeply it affects them knowing that fellow Australians care about them.

Here are some of the ways YOU, our supporters have helped impact the lives of others in 2017:

- ~ Two fantastic Learn English Holiday programs and homestay relationships
- ~ LEH reunion picnic in Brisbane
- ~ Amazing fundraisers: Films, a concert, trivia, sausage sizzles and Eumundi Car Park (THANK YOU! To all who helped!)
- ~ \$500 and an ongoing food drive for Romero Centre in Brisbane
- ~ \$500 donation to the Asylum Circle Men's Accommodation.
- ~ \$500 worth of Christmas gift cards to refugee families (Indooroopilly Uniting Church refugee mission)
- ~ \$1000 towards medicine and care for the men locked up on Manus (Gifts for Manus)
- ~ \$500 support for men on Manus (Asylum Seekers Resource Centre)
- ~ \$500 to a pro bono support group in Brisbane, which provides medical and mental health care to refugees and asylum seekers (World Wellness Clinic)
- ~ Teaming up with MDA to develop programs, including pro bono legal aid and employment assistance programs for people to work towards financial independence
- ~ Teaming up with Communify to find pro bono dental care for asylum seekers
- ~ \$300 to purchase a sewing machine to help asylum seekers and refugees obtain paid work. Here's the link for their beautiful scarves.

I'm sure there are other things I have left off this list, but I hope it gives you a feeling of encouragement about the great contribution we are all making. Thanks for your continued engagement and support in 2018!

