

WRP NEWSLETTER

JULY 2024

Daniah aims high!

“I’m going to do a masters degree and then qualify as a barrister”

I first met Daniah in 2018. She had just arrived with her family from Iraq, and Wycombe Refugee Partnership were helping them settle in High Wycombe. Aged 16 and with a low level of English, she announced to me, “I want to be a lawyer.” What a high mountain she’d set herself to climb! However, her determination to achieve her dream has never wavered.

After a year of intensive English study, Daniah attended Henley College for three years. During that time she worked hard, achieving three A Stars in her course subjects. But there was still another hurdle for her to overcome. To be accepted in a British university, candidates must pass GCSE English, an exam designed for native English speakers. For many of our young people wanting to progress to higher education, this is one of the biggest tests they face. After three failed attempts, Daniah sat the exam for the fourth time. By now she had been offered a place to study law at City University London, but this was dependent on her GCSE English result. Imagine the rejoicing when she finally learnt she had passed – her dream to study law was now a reality!

Daniah has just completed the second year of her degree course and is achieving top marks. (By the way, she is looking for work experience this summer if you can help...) “What next?” I asked her. “I’m going to do a masters degree and then qualify as a barrister!” And, you know what? Somehow I think she’ll do it!

Liz Sheppard
Education trustee

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National Refugee Week

17-23 June

Refugee Week is an annual platform for holding hundreds of arts, cultural and educational events all across the UK. Refugee Week events are intended to celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK and to encourage a better understanding between communities.

At WRP, we want to provide this opportunity all year round! We offer our local schools various age-appropriate lessons and assemblies to teach children about our work with refugees and asylum seekers. We also have a great drama workshop that involves an entire class in acting out the



journey of a refugee as they are forced to leave their homeland and come to the UK to build a new life.

We hope to break down any misconceptions children may have, answer their questions and help them empathise with other children who have become refugees. Many local schools are already doing a great job helping their children care for those who have come with their families seeking safety here in the UK.

Recently, we have run lessons and workshops at Wycombe Abbey, Abbey View, Little Kingshill and St Michael's Primary School.

Get in touch via contactus@wycombe-refugees.org if your local school would like us to come in!



I love volunteering for WRP because it gives me a chance to make a real difference in people's lives. Volunteering with WRP not only enriches the community but also brings a deep sense of fulfilment and purpose to my life. Ruhina

Love Wycombe, on the Rye

Love Wycombe took place just a week before Refugee Week. It was an outdoor event for churches in High Wycombe. Lots of us who volunteer with WRP were on our stand and we all enjoyed meeting so many new friends and talking together about our work.

Visitors to our stand enjoyed our activity of guessing the 15 countries that our current beneficiaries come from and many people guessed all 15 correctly! If you are interested in finding out about volunteering with us, please write to contactus@wycombe-refugees.org.

Or, if you've already decided, simply fill out the volunteer application on our website and we'll be in touch to find out the best role for you.



Ladies, coffee and sponsorships

There are huge challenges to overcome when you have left your country and region, and you have arrived in the UK to seek asylum. One of the hardest and often the last challenge to overcome is that of isolation. Coming to a new country normally means that your social network, usually comprising family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues, is no longer there. It has either disappeared altogether in the chaos of war and conflict, or it is reduced to WhatsApp messages and calls.

To help refugee women in Wycombe to have a sense of community, to be able to meet each other and share life stories, tips and advice and perhaps even make some new friends, we hold a monthly Ladies Social Group. In the summer, it takes place at Wycombe Museum and in the winter months we move around other town centre venues. Ladies can relax, have tea and coffee and some yummy cake—and have a friendly and welcoming event to look forward to each month.

We are delighted to say that we have just heard from Marlow Refugee Action that they are going to sponsor the costs of this group for the next year. Thank you so much MRA! We are so grateful for your partnership with us.



Listening to their stories and struggles makes you humble, and when you see them successful and moving on it gives one an amazing feeling for their achievements—and that we played some part in it. Sadia

Charity Excellence Award



In our last newsletter, we wrote about how WRP has adapted to the ever-changing environment and the different scenarios and challenges that our beneficiaries are facing. We've been working hard behind the scenes too! We now have a CRM (a secure online system) to record our work and outcomes, making sure the work that we do, and the recording of our work fulfils the highest of charity standards. We've also delivered three safeguarding training sessions over the last few months ensuring that all of our volunteers are better equipped in their work.

And lastly, we answered questions in eight areas of our charity work and governance as part of our registration with CHARITY EXCELLENCE. Because of all this we are now permitted to display the Charity Excellence logo. Hooray for our volunteers who have made all these things possible.

What can I donate to help refugees?

People often ask how they can help refugees in Wycombe. Sometimes we put household goods or small furniture needs on our Facebook Group Refugees Welcome in Wycombe—if you follow us there, you can respond to these specific requests. We've recently been able to give an artistic young person some quality art supplies while they wait to get a school place.

How many people do we support?

We are currently supporting

148

beneficiaries.

There are 66 under-18s and 82 over-18s

73 are male and 75 are female

34 of these beneficiaries are newly registered with us since 1 January 2024

Another way is to donate financially to us. Although many ways of helping our beneficiaries involve time and practical help, we also help in ways that require finances. Providing essential school supplies, transport to key appointments, emergency food support on arrival in Wycombe, and providing social and wellbeing activities all require finances.

Are you able to give a one-off or regular monthly financial gift?

Please see our website wycombe-refugees.org/donate for details of how to give to us. Every little helps.

Musical magic



WRP are one of Wycombe Abbey's charitable partners and recently they allowed us to use their beautiful rooms and grounds to put on a special event for some of our beneficiary children. Cambridge scholar Maddie Melville Smith is keen to share her passion for music and she very generously hosted and ran a day of wonderful music workshops for them. Eleven children aged 4–12 years old attended, alongside some of the parents and WRP volunteers.

Children drew patterns and shapes to match different musical compositions from Star Wars and Swan Lake. Together they played games to help with understanding musical rhythms. Later, everyone took turns conducting the group on percussion instruments. The children were also able to take turns on a grand piano, which was a treat! In between the workshops, the children took breaks and played wheelbarrows and all sorts of fun games and acrobatics on the stunning front lawn. It was a wonderful day for everyone! Thank you Maddie and thank you Wycombe Abbey.

Social isolation and difficulties affording and transporting children to extra-curricular activities are felt acutely by our beneficiary families. WRP is glad to have an increasing number of partners and generous supporters who are helping us address this challenge for families still in the early stages of their journey to integration into UK life.

Rhiannon, WRP volunteer



Donate

You can donate to WRP work via wycombe-refugees.org/donate using your bank card, or directly to our bank account:

Account name: Wycombe Refugee Partnership
 Sort code: 23 05 80
 Account number: 20380055

If you make a donation by bank transfer please also contact us on accounts@wycombe-refugees.org and let us know the amount and date. Please mention your name and address and if you are donating on behalf of a group, their name, so that we can send a Thank You!



I work, alongside volunteering with WRP; work feeds my family, volunteering feeds my soul. I love the impact I can have on our beneficiaries' lives. Something simple or small for me can be life changing for the people we help. Alix

Contact us

[@ contactus@wycombe-refugees.org](mailto:contactus@wycombe-refugees.org)

www.wycombe-refugees.org

[f Refugees Welcome in Wycombe](#)

WYCOMBE REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP

Rebuilding lives
Renewing hope