

Registered charity number 1201595

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**Warm greetings to all our supporters from everyone at HRSG. We have plenty to update you on since our last newsletter. Read on to find out what we've been up to, how we've grown and how you can support us.**

## Growing together



Our charity has seen tremendous growth, expanding our reach and impact within the community. We've built a dedicated volunteer team of around 50 people who are the heart and soul of our efforts. Today, we're proud to support approximately 300 individuals locally, including 20 refugee families and 45 asylum-seeking families, providing them with the essential assistance they need and a sense of belonging. Our initiatives have blossomed to include various groups such as English classes, Baby Rhyme Time, a sewing club, and an informal drop-in, all of which foster connection and development.

Thank you to our regular donors whose financial support keeps our organisation thriving and enables us to continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we support.



## Christmas support

Christmas is very much on its way! Our team are working hard to plan two Christmas parties; one for our refugee families and another for our asylum-seeking families, complete with food and fun. We are very grateful to **Billingshurst Family Church** and

**Lifespring Church** for once again offering to provide gifts for each of our asylum-seeking families, and this year we are reaching out to our supporters again to ask for donations towards a financial gift of vouchers for our refugee families.

If you would like to donate for this, you can:

- [Donate through JustGiving](#) to make an online donation and add Gift Aid
- Send an online bank transfer to our bank account, using the transaction reference **CHRISTMAS: Horsham Refugee Support Group 60-11-17 27033597**
- Contact us if you wish to make a donation in another way

## Summer of fun!

The school summer holidays can often feel very long and boring for low-income families, so we stepped in to make the summer enjoyable and engaging for everyone. We provided a number of activities to keep families busy and entertained. Each week, we held drop-in sessions in the town for refugee families, featuring crafts and toys, refreshments, and English conversation with volunteers. On one occasion, the families all brought food and shared in a picnic before heading to the park together.



**Food sharing at drop-in**

Our volunteers also led a weekly “kids club” session filled with games and crafts for asylum-seeking families, along with weekly decoupage craft sessions to boost wellbeing.



**Découpage was a hit!**

The summer fun didn't stop there—we also hosted a samba drumming workshop with musicians from **Boom Tribe**, a sports afternoon with **Horsham Sport Services**, a visit from the **Lego Brick Bus**, and a magical show with **Marky Wild**. These activities created a vibrant and joyous summer experience for all involved. A massive thank you to our partners for providing these experiences, and to the **Three Oaks Trust** for the grant funding to make these events happen.



**Families enjoying samba drumming with Boom Tribe**

## **Weekly activities for asylum-seeking families**

You may remember that back in March 2023, we were asked to help support asylum-seeking families in temporary accommodation in our area. Recognising the immense stress that these families face, our charity has created a variety of activities to support their mental wellbeing. We've organised garden plots and provided tools, allowing families to spend meaningful time outdoors and engage in therapeutic gardening. Additionally, our sewing club has become a favourite among the mums, who are now making their own clothes, thanks to fabric

donations. This club not only fosters creativity but also builds a sense of community.



**A mum with her latest creation at sewing club**

To further support these families, we've been offering English lessons for adults and tutoring for children, helping them improve their language skills and advance their education. Recently, we've begun trialling a Baby Rhyme Time session, which supports mums, babies, and toddlers in learning English and developing connections with one another. We've also organised for a local yoga teacher to offer weekly sessions of movement and meditation.

These initiatives are all part of our commitment to providing holistic support to asylum-seeking families in our community.

## **Other ways to support us**

There are many ways you can support the work we do. Perhaps you have some time available to volunteer with us, perhaps you have some items you can donate that we need, or maybe you are in a position to donate financially to fund the work we do. Read on to find out more.



# Volunteer

We have opened recruitment for a new group of volunteers to join our team. We are particularly looking for volunteers to:

- support children with their learning, both in school and at home after school
- join our sewing team, who run sessions on Thursday mornings (9.45-12)
- join our Baby Rhyme Time team, who run sessions on Friday afternoons (2-3pm)
- support on a more ad hoc basis with collecting/sorting/delivering donated items

Generally, volunteering tends to happen during the school day or in the time just after school, i.e. between 4pm and 6pm on weekdays. It is rare that families are keen for support to happen in the evenings or weekends, so if you work full-time, this opportunity is unlikely to fit around your time commitments.

To find out more about joining our team, email us at [admin@horshamrefugeesupportgroup.co.uk](mailto:admin@horshamrefugeesupportgroup.co.uk) and we will get in touch.



The needs we are meeting have grown hugely in the last two years and we are struggling to fund everything we need for the families we support. If you can contribute regularly or give a one-off donation, we would be very grateful. This will fund resources for our team's activities as well as clothing and small toys for new arrivals with nothing to their name. If you would like to donate, you can:

- Visit our new JustGiving page to make an online donation and add Gift Aid
- Send an online bank transfer to our bank account:  
**Horsham Refugee Support Group**  
**60-11-17 27033597**
- Contact us if you wish to make a donation in another way

If you would like your donation to be used for a specific purpose, please label your transaction with a reference, e.g. "clothes".



We do not have a storage facility, so we are unable to take items unless we need them, however the needs have been growing! Here is a list of the items we are always looking for:

- Men's casual clothing
- Trainers, sliders and boots for adults
- Coats and jumpers for adults
- Headscarves/hijabs
- Suitcases and bags (holdalls, rucksacks, handbags, changing bags)
- Combs/hairbrushes (new)
- Nail scissors and nail files
- Mobile phones, unlocked and factory reset
- Laptops for studying
- Hoovers
- Items for children: scooters, colouring pencils/pens and colouring books (new), wellies, rucksacks for school, footballs, dolls

Sometimes we are in need of household items for a family who have recently been moved. Please get in touch with us if you or someone you know has something that you think one of our families may need – we will always check and get back to you.

# THANK YOU

We are always humbled by the wonderful support we receive from the local community. Thank you for keeping in touch with us, for your donations and supportive words, and for sharing what we do with others. We couldn't do this without you!