

# **UPDATE:**

## **Let's Celebrate World Refugee Day 2007!**

### **World Refugee Day Event - Sunday 24 June 2007**

This year, VoRTCS and St Vincent de Paul will be working in partnership with Multicultural Affairs Queensland and the Brisbane City Council to co-ordinate a huge day of celebration for World Refugee Day 2007.

**What: World Refugee Day 2007** ("The Event")

**When: Sunday 24 June 2007**

**Where: Annerley Soccer Club fields**

The Event will involve cultural performances on stage and throughout venue grounds, ethnic food stalls, fashion parades, sports tournaments (soccer, volleyball, races), live bands, circus performances, rides/jumping castles, art & craft stalls, refugee art exhibition, workshops leading up to, and at, The Event (hip hop dance/music, cooking, circus, drumming)... and lots of other fun activities!

Many fresh ideas for this huge event have been generated and discussed by the leaders and members of Brisbane's new and emerging refugee communities at ongoing community forum meetings facilitated by VoRTCS. Together, we are all working hard to make this year's World Refugee Day a positive and memorable experience for Brisbane !

### **The World Refugee Day Launch - Wednesday 20 June 2007**

The World Refugee Day 2007 celebrations will be formally launched on stage in the Queen Street Mall at lunchtime on Wednesday 20 June 2007, being UNHCR's World Refugee Day. The Launch will provide a taste of what is to come at The Event: cultural dance and music performances, a fashion parade of traditional dress, and short presentations raising awareness of refugee issues on World Refugee Day.

### **The Business Leaders' Breakfast – Wednesday 20 June 2007**

VoRTCS is presenting the inaugural Business Leaders Breakfast to recognise World Refugee Day in 2007. Proudly sponsored by Corrs Chambers Westgarth, the breakfast will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Stamford Plaza on Wednesday 20 June 2007. The Breakfast aims to bring the business community together with the leaders of the Brisbane refugee communities to recognise World Refugee Day 2007 and to reflect on what the business community can do to assist local refugee communities. Guest speakers are yet to be confirmed. Places are limited and invitations will be sent out shortly.

### **Cocktail Evening Networking Event – Friday 22 June 2007**

VoRTCS will be hosting a free Cocktail Evening Networking Event on Friday 22 June 2007 at the City Gardens Function Centre, Brisbane City Botanic Gardens. The Evening Event aims to engage a wider sector of Brisbane's community in the celebration of World Refugee Day 2007, and will provide the opportunity for local/state government representatives, community organisations, refugee community members, professionals, teachers, students and others to meet and network. Served with canapés and a celebratory drink, attendees will be entertained by traditional cultural music/dance performances and artworks from Brisbane's new and emerging communities and will be asked to reflect on refugee issues. Invitations will soon be distributed widely.

### **Workshops – Leading up to The Event**

A series of skills development workshops will be held from mid-May 2007 leading up to performances at The Event as part of the VoRTCS *Refugee+Arts* Program, including hip hop dance, hip hop music, and cooking. These workshops will provide an opportunity for young people and adults from new and emerging refugee community groups to engage with each other and participants from the broader community - sharing ideas, developing skills, and building confidence and self-esteem. Other workshops for young people will be held on The Event day (incl. circus, drumming, arts and theatre sports).

## **Are you planning an Event for World Refugee Day this year?**

To make this year's celebration for World Refugee Day the most memorable, we are looking forward to working with any community organisations, schools, corporates and community members who are also interested in holding an event around a similar time in June 2007.

### **World Refugee Day Calendar**

Please find attached the "World Refugee Day Calendar 2007" - a listing of events we are aware of in Brisbane in June 2007 . If you are planning an event to celebrate World Refugee Day 2007, please contact us and we will be happy to profile your event on this Calendar for wider circulation.

### **World Refugee Day Website – [www.refugeetutoring.org/worldrefugeeday](http://www.refugeetutoring.org/worldrefugeeday) .**

The World Refugee Day Website is currently being finalised by VoRTCS. This website will publicise the Event, contain information to raise awareness of refugee issues and will also profile others involved in this year's World Refugee Day Events. If you would like to be profiled on this website, please contact us.

## **Let's work together to make World Refugee Day 2007 a huge celebration for Brisbane!**

Please feel free to distribute this information throughout your networks - and you may wish to note these dates in your diaries as it will surely be a time to come together to celebrate the vitality of multiculturalism in Brisbane!

We will be in touch soon with more information. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Alexandra Gasteen (World Refugee Day Project Manager) on 0409 341 873 or by email [worldrefugeeday@refugeetutoring.org](mailto:worldrefugeeday@refugeetutoring.org) . We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,  
The VoRTCS Team

### **About VoRTCS**

VoRTCS (pronounced "vortex") is the Volunteer Refugee Tutoring and Community Support Program and is a non-profit, volunteer run program that provides free, in-home English language and cultural support for refugee families in Brisbane and the Gold/Sunshine Coasts. Managed by volunteers through the St Vincent de Paul Society, VoRTCS is rapidly growing and now has over 600 volunteers who visit over 250 families weekly. Our Committee has also received a number of Queensland awards. For more information about VoRTCS, please visit the VoRTCS website [www.refugeetutoring.org](http://www.refugeetutoring.org) or email [info@refugeetutoring.org](mailto:info@refugeetutoring.org) .

---

Alexandra Gasteen  
World Refugee Day Project Manager, VoRTCS

Volunteer Refugee Tutoring and Community Support Program  
[www.refugeetutoring.org](http://www.refugeetutoring.org)