



Media Release

14 June 2007

WORLD REFUGEE DAY & VOLUNTEER AWARENESS WEEK

The theme for this year's World Refugee Day is "The Voices of Young Refugees" and a number of events will be held throughout New Zealand to honour the day which is held each year around the world on June 20.

Adolescents and youth who have come from conflict situations often display a resilience and strength, needed to survive. For many young refugees there is a great will and inner drive to succeed. Despite the many hardships they have endured, they see education as the way to move forward and an important part of successful resettlement.

New Zealand has been accepting refugees from all over the world for over 60 years. In 1944 the Pahiataua internment camp became home to 734 Polish children and 103 adults, refugees from war-torn Europe.

One of those orphans is Stan Stoklosinki. Now in his seventies, Stan lives in Palmerston North close to his two daughters and grandchildren. A former school teacher, Stan is also an ex serviceman who served in the NZ Army.

Mr Stoklosinki will be a special guest at an event to commemorate and honour World Refugee Day at the Community Leisure Centre on Wednesday 20 June, 5.30 to 8.30pm.

Also attending will be Mayor Heather Tanguay, representatives from Government and Non-Government organisations as well members of the Congolese and Burmese communities.

Mr Stoklosinki is looking forward to meeting some of the members of the refugee communities, as he looks back at those first few years of resettlement, rebuilding his life through education and integration while maintaining a strong link to his Polish culture.

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For more information or an interview

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