

To: All JRS Australia volunteers

23 May 2024

Dear beautiful people,

I write on the occasion of National Volunteer Week to extend profound gratitude on behalf of the JRS Australia community at large – the people we serve, our staff team and Board (themselves volunteers), our extended network of supporters – for the energy, talent, compassion, and life-force you bring to propel the delivery of our mission.

The phrase ‘beautiful people’ has been adopted over the years by many of my colleagues who work with you most closely on our frontlines. As a collective moniker it aptly describes the privilege we feel in having you on our team, and the joy and hope you foster by journeying with us.

In these challenging times, when needs are so great, and we are feeling the weight of shared pressures, every contribution counts more than ever. Whatever your role, individually and collectively you are helping to alleviate the suffering to which we bear witness daily, and to creating wider circles of community and belonging.

This year’s National Volunteer Week theme, *Something for Everyone*, captures the importance of every voluntary contribution in tackling the toughest challenges we face, and the diversity of opportunities for volunteering. Here at JRS we see that so clearly. In Jesuit terms, volunteers bring ‘head, heart, and hands’ to every aspect of our work and are a vital and vibrant part of our operations.

As you may know, we will be embarking upon a strategic planning process this year and look forward to capturing your wisdom and ideas as we design our road-map for the future we want to see. It will be a 5-year strategy, grounded in the realities of our Australian context and set within the framework of a JRS global 5-year strategy. We look forward to engaging with you further on this as the global process coheres.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you once again for your vital contributions to our mission. Consistent with our identity as part of an international humanitarian organisation, this year we are planning to celebrate your contributions at an in-person event marking International Volunteers Day on 5 December. Details to come!

Warmest wishes,



Tamara Domicelj
Country Director