

FROM A REFUGEE CAMP A WORLD AWAY,  
TO EMPLOYMENT AND A NEW LIFE IN PERTH

THIS IS VICTORIA'S STORY



ARCHBISHOP'S WINTER APPEAL FOR LIFELINK

His Grace,  
Most Rev B J Hickey,  
Archbishop of Perth

Dear (Insert Name)

I have often spoken of the many services our LifeLink agencies deliver to support thousands of families and individuals in need within our community each year.

I want to share with you the personal story of Victoria Noti, and her remarkable journey...one that led her across the world to LifeLink here in Perth.

Today, people living in the Sudan continue to suffer the consequences of a bloody and violent Civil War. For almost a decade, this conflict has created misery, torn families apart and destroyed countless lives. **Almost unbelievably, at just ten years of age, Victoria and four siblings were taken from their parents and placed into a Ugandan refugee camp for safety.**

No doubt frightened and confused, Victoria was to spend the next seven years of her adolescent life in this refugee camp. Sadly, Victoria's father died without ever seeing his children again and to this very day, she still does not know where her mother is or whether she is alive.

Her older sister Monica, 27, was assisted by Red Cross International to migrate to Australia in 2000. As soon as she was able, Monica helped sponsor Victoria to join her for a better life in Australia. **Victoria arrived in Perth in April 2006 and went to live with Monica and one of her brothers, who had also been reunited with his family.**

Her sister helped support her brothers and sisters attend school and settle into a "normal life" by working as a waitress whilst undertaking University studies in medicine; her goal is to become a Doctor. Victoria attended Aranmore Catholic College in Leederville, leaving school shortly after successfully completing Grade 11.

She said "I wanted to find work in the hospitality area, not in food service, but in housekeeping, a job I had been introduced to whilst in the Camp in Uganda. This led me to **Centacare Employment & Training**".

Centacare, an agency supported through LifeLink, has provided professional training and skills development courses specifically tailored for the unemployed and disadvantaged in our community for over 30 years. The agency has earned a reputation for **working with clients to help them help themselves** achieve rewarding employment or further educational opportunities.

Recognising a growing need to help the ever growing influx of African migrants to Perth, Centacare tailored a special six-week "Access Programme" specifically to help migrants and refugees. **With help from Centacare, Victoria was provided the tools she needed to help her gain employment.**



Tanya Brown from Centacare Employment and Training, pictured with Victoria outside the Bayswater Hotel/Motel



The agency helped her to access valuable work experience thanks to the Sheraton Perth Hotel, where she received glowing reports and gained some much needed confidence. Thanks to Centacare's strong links with so many employers and employer groups, Victoria applied for and gained employment as a housekeeper at the Bayswater Hotel/Motel in November 2007.

"The people at work are really lovely and are so good to me. I am enjoying my work and have started to think more about my future. I am thinking I might continue working and study Hotel Management next year.

My life is good and I am very happy. I want to thank Centacare for all the help they have given me and to Joyce and everyone at the Bayswater Hotel for being so nice.

I do have another wish and that is to one day travel with my aunt back to the Sudan, so we can find my mother and all be together again" said Victoria.

Victoria's story serves as a powerful reminder that whilst there undoubtedly exists much need within our world, a world of difference is made when we as individuals and collectively decide to reach out with understanding, love and compassion.



Joyce Anderson, Housekeeping Manager, Bayswater Hotel/Motel with Victoria

It is a story which demonstrates the wonderful work of our agencies, in this case Centacare Employment & Training, and how through your support of LifeLink, you are afforded the opportunity of making a very real difference in someone's life.



LifeLink agencies provide professional care throughout WA - emergency relief, training and employment programs, housing, support for migrants and refugees, safety and support for women and children escaping domestic violence, neglect or abuse, care for people of physical and/or intellectual disability, counselling for those battling addictions and assistance to families in crisis.

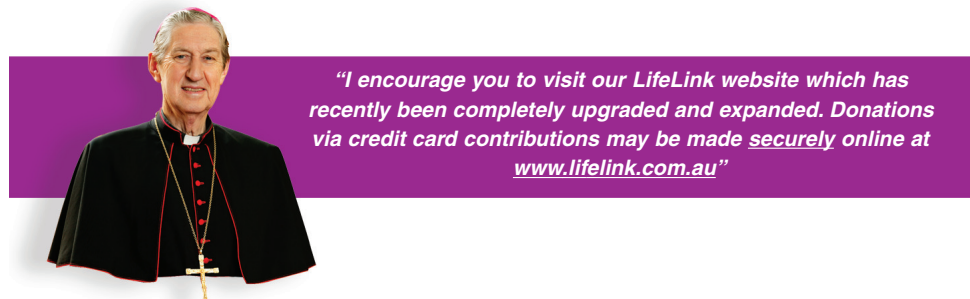
As I officially launch my annual Winter Appeal for LifeLink, I ask you to think of Victoria and help me to raise a minimum of \$275,000 this year.

(insert name), it is only through your ongoing generosity that LifeLink continues its "mission of care".

Please, give generously to my appeal.

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ.

Most Rev Barry J Hickey  
Archbishop of Perth



"I encourage you to visit our LifeLink website which has recently been completely upgraded and expanded. Donations via credit card contributions may be made securely online at [www.lifelink.com.au](http://www.lifelink.com.au)"

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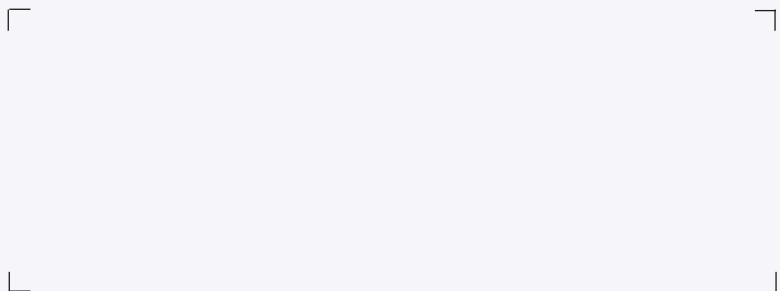
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**Thank you and God Bless**

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible where name and address details are supplied