

Glitz and Glamour as Refugee Ball 2012 goes off with a Bang!

By Richard Walker

Two incredible bands, four inspiring speakers, 340 guests, and \$22,000 raised, and all to support one amazing program to help refugee young people.

After three years of steady growth, the fourth STARTTS Refugee Ball once again topped all expectations. Guest numbers grew, there were more raffle and auction prizes than ever, and most importantly, we raised more than double the money of the previous year.

Every dollar raised on the night went towards the STARTTS Capoeira Angola project – an innovative program using the ancient art of Capoeira to help young people overcome trauma. It has been one of the most effective programs that STARTTS has ever had for young people, and already the extra funds are making a huge difference in expanding its reach to more students and schools.

Dr David Corlett spoke eloquently of the need for more compassion and understanding of refugees, while school counsellors Elizabeth Pickering and Angelina Bea outlined the benefits of Capoeira to their students. Lastly, many in the room were moved to tears by Capoeira participant Evelyn Agripa's heartfelt speech about what Capoeira has meant for her.

Politicians, leaders, community elders and even celebrities turned out to support our cause this year, while many businesses showed their support by donating prizes to the auctions and raffle.

Special thanks must go to our major sponsors and supporters, as well as to the hardworking team of volunteers that helped make it all possible.

Join us once again at Refugee Ball 2013, not only to help us raise even more money to support refugees, but for what promises to be another magical evening of entertainment and inspiration. R

The 2013 Refugee Ball will be held on the 9th of October. If you are interested in attending, or would like to support us by becoming a sponsor, donating a prize or volunteering, contact Richard Walker, STARTTS Public Affairs Coordinator, on 9794 1966. For photos and video of the 2012 Refugee Ball, go to www.startts.org.au.

Major Sponsors

- Network of Caring
- Settlement Services International

Supporters

- Australian League of Immigration Volunteers (ALIV)
- Child & Family Services (CAFS)
- Department of Education Equity Team, Sydney Region
- McArdle Legal
- NSW Police Force
- SBS
- Stacks/Goudkamp
- The Hon. Adam Searle MC
- Joe Skrzynski
- Ros Horin

Wine Sponsors

- Teusner
- Fox Creek Wines



PHOTOS: Lisa Vitaris and Oanh Trinh