

Annual Membership Renewal 2015-2016

Member's Name: _____

All funding is directed into our welfare activities; administration is performed by volunteers and committee members.

Individual \$30 per year or Family (2 people) \$40 per year _____

I would also like to make a **tax deductible donation** _____

Payment Total _____

Credit Card (Please return this form by mail or email to the address below)

Card Number		Expiry
Name on Card		
Signature		

Direct Bank Deposit: (Please send us an email to let us know when you paid)

Thai Welfare Association
Westpac Bank BSB: 032090
Account: 774929
Reference: Your name

Send your completed application to:

eMail: outreach@thaiwelfare.org

Phone: 02 9264 3166

Mail: Thai Welfare Association, Level 2, 78 Liverpool St Sydney, NSW 2000

Yes! I will help TWA end Domestic Violence: May's story

May came to TWA's attention after the police took her to a refuge in Sydney. She had come to Australia with John, an Australian man she met in Bangkok, where she was working as a hairdresser and waitress. John was a regular where May worked. They talked and he seemed a kind man. They eventually settled down together. In their first week together John became violent. When May was pregnant he attacked her with a knife, threatening to kill her. When she gave birth to David, John's violent behaviour became worse, unrelenting. John kept May locked in their house, unable to go out or speak to anyone without him.

When John took her out she had to cover her bruises and injuries with long sleeves and heavy make-up. May's English was still poor, and she didn't know where she could go for help. John kept threatening to send her back to Thailand without the baby, and held on to her passport. Finally, one day John hit May so hard on the head with a broom handle that it broke. He tried to choke her, threatening to kill her. The police were called. It was then that TWA became involved.

Our TWA Worker, Kay, met May in the refuge. May was able to tell her story in her own language to someone she felt would understand her situation. Kay liaised with the police and contacted Legal Aid for advice, especially about May's child. Kay helped organize a visa and income support so that May and her child could be properly cared for in Sydney. Kay or TWA volunteers accompanied May when she attended Court during the long legal process to gain custody of David. TWA maintained ongoing contact with May, with service organisations, Legal Aid and the Department of Immigration to ensure the welfare and safety of both May and David.

Thankfully, May is now living independently in a secure and safe environment, but with mental health issues stemming from the experience of domestic violence, she needs continuing support. May now says: "I am so grateful to TWA. They spoke my language and understood my problem. Without them I don't know what I would've done. They saved my life and my son's life".



All too often TWA sees Thai women in circumstances similar to May's, who do not know where to turn. "Nobody understood my situation," says May, "only TWA could really help me". Sadly, this is not an unusual story for us. **We urgently need your help to allow us to continue our work.**