

ROSIES

Friends on the Street

AUTUMN 2022



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Sharing friendship creates belonging. Dare to reach out together.

A message from our CEO



Welcome to Rosies first newsletter of 2022. Finally, most State borders are open, vaccination rates have hit 90% and people have again been able to gather with friends and family.

With open borders, however, came greater exposure to the Omicron variant of COVID and challenges across all sectors of the economy as more people were sick, caring for the sick or vulnerable or exposed to those who were infected. Supplies chains were shut down and businesses were severely impacted.

Even Rosies experienced a reduction in available volunteers due to COVID. All this at a time when we are seeing more and more new faces attending outreach on the street – some who are newly homeless or who have migrated to the city areas in need of greater service levels. Others have a roof over their head but are struggling to make ends meet and some who just need a safe space and someone to talk to.

While many volunteers were forced to step away from their role with Rosies, other current volunteers and new volunteers were able to step-in to fill many of the temporary gaps to ensure that Rosies could maintain a regular presence on the street and continue to offer belonging, connection and support to those who are in need. To witness the hope, passion and call to action in a time of need was indeed inspiring.

"Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is. Life is good when you are happy; but so much better when others are happy because of you."

Pope Francis

"Helping one person may not change the world, but it could change the world for one person." Anonymous

These quotes are so relevant to the Rosies Community. Helping others through the 200 strong outreaches Rosies delivers each month creates connection and builds strong communities that are integral to the overall health and well-being of our friends and our volunteers alike. Each Rosies volunteer gives their heartfelt presence at every outreach, making a difference and being that person who can change the world for one of our friends on the street.

Knowing that you are helping to make the world a better place and providing hope and kindness to those who may have lost all hope, makes a significant impact -- that impact may come via cash donations, volunteering your time or services, donating goods or keeping Rosies in your heart. Be the fire that lights the flame in the hearts of others to help Rosies continue our mission of support to those who need it most.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Jayne Shallcross

CEO

Reflections with Fr Michael



Diversity is a Fact...Inclusion is an Act

Rosies is fundamentally a community in the most positive sense of the word. The two words of "common" and "unity" form together to create community.

So what is the common unity that connects Rosies patrons, volunteers, supporters, donors, staff and Oblates? It is the fundamental belief in the dignity of the human person. While there are, no doubt, differences in expression and beliefs. That is healthy and to be treasured; there is a fundamental unity into the investment of the heart.

The Oblates who founded Rosies ultimately believed that our God-given dignity was core to its mission. There are so many instances where our yes to this dignity is seen within Rosies.

50 years ago the Oblates wrote the following words about community life and I really feel as though they resonate with the very best of the Rosies experience.

"Many seek the type of relationships which are going to support them in their difficulties, challenge them in their convictions, forgive them in their faults and provide that measure of opposition that alone brings out that which is most authentic." (Oblate General Chapter 1972)

Fundamentally, it is the uniqueness of each person that helps create the rich tapestry of Rosies and indeed of society.

For those who come from a Christian faith perspective, the person of Jesus provides a role model of inclusion, love, decency, diversity and care. Other faith traditions and other beliefs or non-beliefs also contribute positively to this rich tapestry. Our society desperately needs role modelling in co-existence, inclusion and diversity and I believe Rosies has the dignity of heart to help be one of the communities that can help model that.

It does not mean there will be the absence of conflict or need for reconciliation, but it does indicate a willingness to strive for unity.

The author, Brené Brown, summed it up beautifully when she said...

"True belonging never asks us to change who we are. True belonging requires us to be who we are."

I think the Rosies Prayer more than ever is necessary for our community.

Rosies Prayer

O Jesus,
make our hearts so human,
that others may feel at home with us,
so like Yours,
that others may feel at home with You,
so forgetful of self
that we might simply become the place
where You and they meet
in the power of Your love and the joy of
Your friendship.

Amen

Take Care and God Bless

Fr Michael Twigg OMI



Local business makes supporting Rosies a family affair

By Kate Schmidt

Not everyone comes to Rosies for food - some other things are far more important, as Julie Andersen found out.

Mrs Andersen, whose family business All State Line Marking is a new corporate partner of Rosies, volunteered last month at a Logan outreach with her husband Allan and two others.

"It was an unusually quiet night and not too cold. There was a gentleman that refused food as his stomach hurt. I managed to get him to accept a cup of tea and a beanie," she said.

"We also found him some socks to keep his feet warm. The visiting doctor arrived and spent time talking to him. A pastor drove to the pharmacy and personally purchased some medication for him.

"That man left with a smile on his face. Not everyone comes to Rosies for food. Kindness, support and sometimes just someone to talk to can be far more nourishing."

All State Line Marking was born after Mr and Mrs Andersen moved to Queensland from Sydney with their two young daughters. Mr Andersen was working in the building industry at the time but wasn't enjoying the labouring, and as he'd worked in line marking before, Mrs Andersen registered All State Line Marking as a surprise and suggested he buy a machine and start his own business.

They started out in their three-car garage in Jimboomba and a spare room, but are now based in Ormeau.

Mr Andersen was on the tools for the first 10 years, but as he managed to hire other experienced workers or train up quality employees, he was able to step back a bit and concentrate on growing the business.

The couple were inspired to reach out to Rosies by their business partner, Jimmy Lei, who founded Starfish Malaysia Foundation with his wife.

"They provide and run hostels to house and feed a couple hundred children across five hostel locations close to schools," Mrs Andersen said.

"These children would otherwise live too far away to get schooling. We've sponsored children within that foundation and it was his suggestion we also give to our own community." So they got their heads together and worked out what they could do closer to home. Rosies struck a chord with them.

"We've seen the great work the people at Rosies do. It's all about helping another human being in whatever way they can," Mrs Andersen said.

She said luckily the businesses didn't have to let go of any staff during the pandemic - in fact, they actually increased their team.

But she said she knew not everyone had been as fortunate as them, and it inspired the family to help Rosies.

"We feel Rosies represents seeing the unseen in our society," Mrs Andersen said.

"The person on the park bench or sitting in a bus shelter; recognising everybody's self-worth no matter what that is. We've met people that were helped by Rosies and are now in a position to give back. It is a privilege to give back.

"The volunteers work very hard and we really admire them. All State Line Marking is proud to have our name associated with such a wonderful charity as Rosies."

Mrs Andersen said the business was in a unique position where they had access to many companies classified as essential, as there was an increase in road work contracts due to the government stimulating the economy.

As well as personally volunteering at outreaches, the Andersen family ask the companies they work with to pay it forward.

"We've had a great response," Mrs Andersen said.

"Companies like Potters Industries, Crystalite Design, APCO Paints and Traffquip have purchased pallets of noodles. Our staff built Christmas hampers for the families that come to Rosies, which were handed out at the recent Christmas events.

"All Car Engine Reconditioning have offered to service Rosies vehicles at no cost. We've covered fuel costs for 3 of the branches. On Track Auto Electric have volunteered to do any electrical works.

"Allan reaches out to our clients whenever he sees an opportunity to provide more funding, items or services to Rosies."

Mrs Andersen said none of the businesses needed encouraging.

"We didn't need to. When Allan approached them to supply goods and services, there were many that asked how they could also help in person. Generosity takes on many forms and our staff and clients are exceptional," she said.

Elwyn's Story

An honour to serve.

When Barry, the Ipswich Branch Coordinator, first met Elwyn he was assisting a group called Footprints in the Park who provided meals each Wednesday alongside the Rosies outreach in Queens Park. He drove a huge white delivery van, with 'God is Love' across the front, which was always full of things that were 'in transit'. Working with the Salvos he made pick-ups and deliveries all over Brisbane and Ipswich, with occasional runs out into country areas. Like Red in the Shawshank Redemption, Elwyn was the 'man who could get things', from knowing where there might be some accommodation, to where you could get appliances or furniture.

Over his life Elwyn has had 23 houses which he used to provide support to those suffering from addictions. His other roles have included Alderman with Ipswich City Council, Treasurer of YUPI, and roles in numerous other community service organisations. Elwyn is a Life Member of Endeavour Foundation, has provided mentoring and support to many people, but his proudest achievement is helping a person to change their life from drinking and doing meth to becoming a preacher.

At the age of 78 Elwyn made his last furniture delivery with his off-sider James. It involved getting a fridge up a flight of

stairs - James was a bit hesitant that it could be done but Elwyn insisted, and they made it. Then it was time to call it quits as far as moving furniture goes.

In recent times Elwyn has had to slow down, suffering several heart attacks. He now gets around on a mobility scooter but that hasn't stopped him helping people. He attends multiple Rosies outreaches each week to share a meal, have a cuppa and a chat. He always has a smile and a kind word for everyone there. However, after a lifetime of service, it really is time for us to provide service to him.



Caption: Elwyn enjoying the friendly service in Ipswich

Friendship - A good investment

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