

ROSIES

Friends on the Street

AUTUMN 2021



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Sharing friendship creates belonging. Dare to reach out together.

A message from our CEO



Welcome to the first Rosies newsletter of 2021. We finished last year **thankful** to move forward and **hopeful** for the year to come. We continue to carry this hopefulness and, at the same time, recognise that there are still numerous challenges ahead for many in our communities. Many people continue

to struggle, with financial hardship and social isolation even more apparent with the impact of Covid-19. Rosies is already seeing growing requests for assistance, with greater patron numbers at outreaches across Queensland.

These unusual and uncertain times have made us all more aware of our own vulnerability and the need to care for others. Research suggests that friendship, and the care, acceptance and belonging that goes with that friendship, helps us to become mentally and physically stronger and to live longer. That friendship can lessen the burdens one carries or the hardship someone experiences.

In friendship, we develop trust and respect, without judgement or prejudice. We lean in while others are pre-occupied, ignore or walk past. This is the friendship demonstrated everyday by Rosies volunteers providing a dependable, consistent and safe place to meet at outreach.

Thank you to the Rosies Community, our volunteers, donors and supporters, for your contribution to this amazing model of care, compassion and friendship.

With thanks and best wishes for 2021,
Jayne Shallcross
CEO

Reflections with Fr Michael



After most of 2020, serving in an acting capacity as Chair of the Board, I very happily supported Mr Peter McMahon becoming the next Chair. Peter will bring care, authenticity, compassion and diligence to this role and I will continue on the Board as the Oblate representative.

From an Oblate perspective, Rosies is one of the treasured works that we support and are involved in, primarily through Fr Joe Antony as Chaplain and myself as a Board representative. The Oblates may have helped to found Rosies, but what sustains it is your voluntary commitment to the love that is found within it. What makes Rosies so special is the wonderful community bond and love that exists between patrons, volunteers, staff, Oblates and Board.

As we prepare for outreach we recite the Rosies prayer and I love that there is a line referencing "place". This "place" is not just a geographic location across our state and country but a safe "place" of love in conversations, demonstrating genuine respect and friendship. This is part of the absolute joy and intentional simplicity of our outreaches.

We are blessed to have these opportunities for connection and on behalf of the Board and Oblates, I would like to sincerely thank every single member of the Rosies community who shares their heart with others. I encourage you to make the Rosies prayer part of your day to day outreach of care and love because sometimes you might be on team, but always you are in community.

Take Care and God Bless
Fr Michael Twigg OMI



Hello! I am Fr. Joe Antony, an Oblate Catholic Priest. I am from India and I joined the Oblates in 2001 and was ordained in 2012. Having had different pastoral experiences of parish, education and youth ministry in India, I arrived in Melbourne last August and am now a permanent member of the Australian Oblate Province.

It is my privilege and I am indeed overwhelmed with joy for being the part of the Rosie's team here in Queensland. I strongly believe that all in life flows, grows and fills one's life is from the family. I have attended many outreaches across Brisbane, Ipswich, Sunshine Coast, Logan and Caboolture; I would like to thank all the coordinators and volunteers, and acknowledge that their fabulous contribution for the love of humankind is awesome. On the whole,

I enjoy being with all of the members of Rosie's friends and take home with me a lot of cherished moments at the end of every day. I take every opportunity to inculcate myself into the Australian culture and tradition; I learn something new from everyone I meet on the streets. I feel happy to mingle with the friends of Rosies as one of them alike. My journey with Rosies in the first few weeks culminates this way; doing is more powerful than preaching.

The Rosies Community

Your generous support of Rosies has enabled our Branches to build a community unlike any other.

Burleigh sets its sights on expansion

Many of us spent a significant portion of time in our homes this year and while it was challenging at times it also made us more appreciative of the creature comforts like A/C, a warm blanket, and a fridge full of food. For many it also highlighted the fact that there are people within our local community that might not be so fortunate or were experiencing the deep loneliness that can occur when you're not having meaningful social interaction.

The Burleigh team has seen an increase in the number of people wanting to volunteer and has just welcomed 22 new volunteers into the Rosies family. This new crop of volunteers were "all ears" as they listened to some real-life scenarios of what we do in the local community and are eager to get out and start making meaningful connections with patrons. Burleigh is heading into its third year armed with plenty of volunteers and fantastic support from the local community with regular donations from The Burleigh Baker, coffee provided by Access Air, and weekly donations from OzHarvest which boosts our offerings to patrons in the form of fresh fruit and staples.



Craig & Carla Trudgett baking pies for Rosies

Award winning pies delight Patrons

CC's on the Range Bakehouse is a staple of the Toowoomba community who has been generously donating their delicious bread and bakery items to us every Saturday for many years to the delight of our patrons. Owners Craig and Carla Trudgett are always so warm and welcoming when our Rosies volunteers arrive to collect the donations. The Rosies team was delighted to celebrate the news of Craig and Carla winning 10 awards at the Official Great Aussie Pie Competition. Craig and Carla embody the spirit and ethos of Rosies and make a difference to so many people in our community through the simple act of baking bread. We are so grateful for their continued support!



L to R Veronica O'Brien, Carolyn Wilson, Oriana Sanicola, Sara Davies, pictured with patrons in Caloundra

Christmas in Caloundra

Under the Christmas lights at the lovely Felicity Park our patrons were treated with donated Christmas hampers, desserts, goodies and festive smiles. The air buzzed with the Christmas spirit as those in need felt the caring joy of the many people who donated their time and effort to making this night a very special one for them. After a fantastic time at Felicity Park the Rosies team had additional hampers and Christmas treats that needed to be handed out. The team had heard that the Caloundra Backpackers might be in need of some festive treats and they were met by 15 very hungry and grateful East Timorese who, with huge smiles and many thanks, were treated to a very Merry Christmas. What an amazing experience to see their smiles, hear their laughter and feel their gratitude. Thank you to all who contributed to this incredible time for not only the patrons and East Timorese friends but also all at Rosies who were treated to such a wonderful night.



216
outreaches
each month

The Rosies Community



Pictured: Santa with Alice, Adam, and family

Beenleigh Community comes together at Christmas

The Beenleigh branch was blessed with so many wonderful donations over the Christmas period ensuring that our patrons experienced some joy this holiday season. We would like to thank the Rotary Club of Logan and the Lion's Club for providing the BBQ as well as drinks and the manpower to set up and pack down our event. Moorooka's Christmas Charity Drive organised by Wayne Jayne and company provided presents for our patrons and items for hampers. We were also very well supported by three local schools, Canterbury College who provided 35 men's backpacks. Shailer Park State School who collected toiletries for hygiene packs, handbags, and raised extra funds for our patrons. And last but not least, Pimpama State Secondary College who provided presents for patrons and hamper items. Our party could not have gone ahead without the tireless support of Trevor Marett and the Church Council at Beenleigh Region Uniting Church, who not only supply our base of operations but they also lent us equipment. The spirit of the evening would not have been complete without the musical talents of the Hamon Family, and of course Bob Johnson as Santa.



14
Branches

1,200
volunteers



Vandalised Vans

The Southport Branch has had a rough start to 2021 with vans being vandalised within weeks of each other. Although this has caused a lot of heartache for our Branch Coordinators, it has also highlighted the fact that our volunteers truly understand the meaning and power of connection that Rosies brings to the individuals who visit with us at outreach. After one act of vandalism our volunteers were so committed to the Rosies vow of not cancelling an outreach if at all possible, that when a replacement van could not be organised they packed up their own cars and caravanned over to Baden Powell Park to ensure that our patrons wouldn't miss out.



Christmas Carols at Caboolture

While we've seen a slightly smaller number of patrons visiting with us on our Caboolture Friday night outreaches due to COVID, good spirits and laughter were not in short supply at our Christmas party. Patrons were provided with gift bags filled with goodies along with presents for the children hand packed by our volunteers Annie and Mary. A great night was had by all with pizzas and drinks provided by a Good Samaritan and delicious shortbreads, gingerbread biscuits, and Christmas cakes baked by Justin and Annie. Rick and Anne serenaded all those in attendance with some snappy renditions of classic Christmas songs on the harmonica and guitar while volunteers played games with the children.

Pictured: Muhammad, Rick, Anne and Amelia





Local business gives back

Volunteer Jillian Clifford has been with the Ipswich branch for a little over a year, allocating time once a month to develop meaningful connections with our patrons. In an effort to increase the amount of support she provides to Rosies she got her business, Smartline Personal Mortgage Advisers involved.

They collected food, toiletries and other essential items to support those in need in the Ipswich community. Thank you to Jillian and the team for this donation during what can be an exceptionally hard time of year.

Pictured: Jillian & Barry at the Ipswich Hub



Random Act of Kindness

Our volunteers are usually the ones that are doing good in the local community, so it was a real treat to be on the receiving end of someone's generosity. David P an employee at the BP station in Benowa reached into his own pocket to pay for the petrol to operate the Rosies van at outreach. Robyn and Team A were so very grateful for his kind and unexpected contribution.

Pictured: L to R Bashar, Karen, Jordan, David, Rosie, Robyn, Amelia



Portable home for regular patron

A regular patron of the Cairns branch known affectionately as 'Dobbie' was presented with a BackPack Bed in January just in time to protect him from the Tropical Storms rolling through the region. Thank you to the local pastor from the Seventh day Adventist group for your generous donation.

Pictured: Church Member, Dobbie, Gina, & Pastor Eunice

Fairholme Students make a difference

The Toowoomba branch is very grateful for the continued support of the students at Fairholme College. When the students learned that some of the families who come to visit us at outreach might have a bit of trouble purchasing all of the necessary items that their children need for the start of a new term, they decided to do something about it. The amount of care and consideration that went in to all the items the Fairholme students collected demonstrates that they have truly taken the message of Rosies to heart. The Rosies team had so much fun packing each child a bag filled with their supplies and handed them out as families in need presented at outreach. Our patrons were delighted by this unexpected offer of support and the generosity of the Fairholme College community.



Fairholme College students with the items they've collected for children in need.

From patron to volunteer, this is Len's Story

By Kate Schmidt

No one grows up wanting to be homeless, but the unfortunate fact is that 1 in 6 Australians will experience homelessness in their lifetime.*

People who are experiencing homelessness in one form or another are struggling, they don't want to be thought of as bad people or ignored, it could happen to anyone. They've just fallen on hard times; people have ended up on the streets from many different reasons often through no fault of their own, particularly during COVID.

Forty-Four year old Brisbane North Team Leader Len McCandless understands this more than most - he lived on the streets during his formative teenage years - and he doesn't think enough attention is being paid to homelessness in Australia.

After being removed from an abusive home, he was shuttled between 47 foster homes and a dozen institutions in just five years, eventually leaving the system at the tender age of 13, because for him, living on the street was the safer, more stable option.

"I think there needs to be more acknowledgement and awareness so we can help prevent it (homelessness) and offer better support to people who fall on hard times," he said. "The government funding isn't enough to pay rent and start to get ahead."

Len started volunteering for Rosies four years ago while unemployed as a way to give back to the community and get some experience on his resume.

At first, he said the employment agency didn't like him doing volunteer work, but he believed it gave him experience to help him gain employment (Len is now a mental health support worker, primarily caring for those with a disability and autism) and gave him a purpose by being able to give back to the community.

He said while he was living on the street, services like Drug Arm and Rosies were the only thing that gave him some sort of social interaction and stability in his life - two things he said he never had, homeless or not.

"I think of the people who visit us at Rosies as the forgotten Australians, these are people who haven't had things work out for them for whatever reason and have no one else to turn to," he said.

"I can relate to them because I've been in their shoes and I know that sometimes it just takes a bit of advice or the right conversation to help you break the cycle."

It is because of individuals like Len that Rosies sends their dedicated team of volunteers out each night to offer friendship and community for those who need it most.



Pictured: Left to Right volunteers Liberty Stockwell, Sess Celere, Kylie Bone, Stephanie Celree, & Len McCandless



Pictured: Len packing the van for outreach

Of his life between patron and volunteer Len said things were “interesting” for him - breaking the cycle was about trying to re-teach himself different values. He said having set goals helped, but it was a challenge. While Len was a ward of the state he had no one to rely on, so he said he decided to teach himself the value of better living and found his own accommodation.

“I had lived a life full of mistakes on the wrong side of the law and one day I started a self-discovery of what I was doing wrong. After deciding to make a change I then did a Diploma of Community Service and a Diploma of Alcohol and Other Drugs (Mental Health). The diplomas put me in a position in life where I’m now proud of my achievements.”

Through all the challenges that he experienced, Len is uniquely equipped to provide comfort and support to those that visit with us on outreach.

Len shared a story of a recent outreach: “I was on my way to the train station to head home and saw someone camping out behind some shops, all alone in the cold. I went back to the van and got a sleeping bag and a few other items to take down to them to provide some comfort, because I know something like that can make all the difference.”

He said services like Rosies give people a sense of community, which is hard when you have had little to no stability, been institutionalised and have lost a lot of trust in the system and in people generally.

On the importance of being involved in outreach Len said “you’re not just meeting volunteers, but other people like you. People who have experienced the same hardships and know what it’s like to go it alone”

“Volunteering with Rosies is also a big part of my journey to socially interact with people. I never had that when I was younger, so I get a lot out of it (connecting and being present for patrons) to this day. I’m helping people who really need it,” he said.

Do you have the ability to keep Rosies volunteers like Len, fully supported as they deliver vital services to those who are homeless, at risk or the socially isolated within our local communities? Please donate today to keep our vans on the street and fully stocked.

If you too would like to play a role in keeping Rosies volunteers like Len, fully supported as they deliver vital services to those who are homeless, at risk or socially isolated please donate today.

*ABS Source(s): General Social Survey 2014

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



Making Rainbows with Liv

By Kate Schmidt

Learning about homelessness can be confronting - especially for a young child. The knowledge that people "slept on the floor", made six year-old Gold Coast resident Olivia-Rose Stanbank incredibly sad, but it also lit a fire inside her and she declared she wanted to "make money for them." So, the budding artist put pen to paper and created beautiful paintings to sell and raise money for the homeless through Rosies.

"Everywhere she goes and sees it (homelessness), she talks about it and says it makes her sad," Olivia-Rose's mother Kayla Stanbank said.

"She thought if she did pictures and made money she could help them." Kayla said after school wrapped up at the end of 2020, her daughter got to work. So far she's sold about 10 canvases through her fundraiser Making Rainbows by Liv. Her mother said the idea is someone will order a painting through her fundraising page and then Olivia-Rose will get to work, spending a few hours hand drawing before going over with paint, creating things like Ferris wheels and submarines, all with a rainbow trademark.

"We're very proud of her and she's proud of herself," Kayla said. "

It makes her happy to make others happy. She's very kind-hearted. It's amazing at such a young age she knows that (the world) is not all good, not happy fairies. She knows she's lucky and she's thankful at dinner time to have food on her plate."



Business is booming for little Olivia-Rose with over \$235 raised so far, her pencil case is nearly full and ready to be donated. Olivia-Rose's future plans include one day having a shop and if she can't keep up with demand, has a friend standing by ready to help. You can buy a painting for \$5 and a large one for \$10.

Find out more about Making Rainbows by Liv and her creations at www.facebook.com/makingrainbowsbyliv

Where can you find us on the street?

Beenleigh - South Brisbane - Nundah - Brisbane CBD - Caboolture - Cairns - Southport - Surfers Paradise
Nerang - Burleigh - Ipswich - Logan Central - Mareeba - Caloundra - Toowoomba - Wynnum Manly

Friendship – A good investment

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Surname _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Gift details - I would like to donate (over \$2 tax deductible)

\$50 \$150 \$ 500 \$ 1,000 Other: \$ _____

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Please also email us a copy of your bank EFT receipt to finance@rosies.org.au

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Debit / **Credit Card**

Visa Mastercard AMEX Diners

Card No. _____

Expiry date ____/____/____

Name on the card _____ Signature _____

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