

WINTER 24

ROSIES



Friends on the Street

SHARING FRIENDSHIP CREATES BELONGING. DARE TO REACH OUT TOGETHER.

INSIDE ROSIES

A message from
OUR CEO

Meet our friends

JAH
SARAH & AVA
JOSEPH
CINDY



DONATE NOW
through our QR code



A MESSAGE from our CEO

“Community provides a rich environment where empathy, collaboration and resilience take hold, nurturing a collective sense of shared strength and belonging. – Anonymous”

In a world that is often focussed on the individual and being self-sufficient, we sometimes forget the **transformative power of coming together as a community**. A strong sense of community generously offers belonging and support, ensuring no one feels alone. This sense of belonging is in fact a fundamental human need that fosters mental and emotional well-being, building much-needed resilience in the face of life's difficulties and challenges.

This spirit of community is demonstrated at every Rosies outreach, fostering connection, empathy and compassion between our volunteers and friends on the street. Rosies outreaches provide an atmosphere that is rich with the sharing of stories, giving every person the opportunity to feel seen, heard and valued. And, perhaps most importantly, **the Rosies community brings hope** in times of adversity and uncertainty.

Whether it's through a shared cup of tea, a heartfelt conversation, or a simple gesture of kindness, the Rosies community embodies the essence of togetherness, uplifting spirits and bringing warmth and a friendly smile at every outreach. It's within this supportive atmosphere that our friends find solace, strength, and the courage to persevere, knowing that they are never truly alone on their journey.

As household stress continues to grow, with no improvement on the horizon and the demand for Rosies services increasing, we are incredibly grateful for the amazing volunteers who help create this wonderful sense of community and greet our friends on the street with open arms and open hearts – making a difference in the world with every interaction.

Thank you for being a part of this Rosies Community through your much-needed support for our friends on the street and the vital work of our volunteers.

With gratitude,

Jayne Shallcross

CEO

Rosies – Friends on the Street

MEET JAH

43 year old Veteran of the Australian Navy, Jah, has been coming to Rosies for the last three years.

Jah is a regular attendee of our Wednesday morning outreach at Hugh Muntz Park in Beenleigh, alongside 30 other members of the community who look to Rosies to provide community, connection and friendship. Like many people who find themselves in a difficult situation, Rosies was the first service that Jah turned to for support.

"Through circumstances I had found myself homeless, I struggled a little bit with some issues and the first guys I found (for help) were Rosies. They put me onto OrangeSky and then Sue from the HHOT team (Homeless Persons Hotline), but Rosies was the first," said Jah. He continued,

"I've made a lot of connections too, you know. I met a fellow veteran's wife who is a Rosies' volunteer, and she's put me onto some other veterans, who have a group and outreach and stuff like that. I wouldn't have been able to do that if Rosies wasn't here."

Food insecurity is a growing issue for the people who attend outreach in the more suburban areas where services are less accessible. Led by the need of the community and the generosity of the volunteers, Rosies Beenleigh has worked to provide more substantial meals for our patrons going beyond staple items like tea/coffee, biscuits and noodles.

"A lot of people look forward to the feed on Wednesday mornings because of the time and effort that the Rosies volunteers put in. A lot of people appreciate that they have really good meals. You know, you'd pay good money to have some of the meals that they provide and it's a kind of comfort. You know, it makes people feel a little bit special.



Jeanette, Jah & Sharna on outreach

It makes them feel, you know, that we still belong" Jah said.

Sharna, who has been a volunteer since 2021, often brings something special to outreach for the patrons, "We take turns. I brought something savoury this week and Jeanette did something sweet – it's just a little thing that I can do to make someone else feel happy and loved."

For Jah it's not just the food that keeps him coming back week after week, "Well, they all know me by my name and that's cool. To the volunteers it's not like we're just people, we're individuals and they know our names and they take the time to say hello, ask how are you? That's personal and that's what a lot of people need is a bit of someone who doesn't know them, who doesn't judge them, and is just there for us. And it's amazing."

"I know that no matter where I am if there is a Rosies, I can stop in and say hi, have a coffee, maybe something to eat and then be on my way again. Even if I don't stay and chat the volunteers don't mind, they are just happy that we are there and that we are happy."

He also stated, "I've been to a couple of different Rosies, the City and Wynnum but nothing comes close to the Beenleigh volunteers. On outreach once my phone was stolen and one of the volunteers just went across the road and bought me a new one and I couldn't believe it. He was so kind, and it was such a relief because I rely on my phone."

For people experiencing homelessness, hardship, disadvantage or social isolation their phone is their lifeline. It's the way they access services, connect with friends and family and so much more. Even something as simple as logging into a myGov account can't be done without access to a mobile phone.

Jah is now in a position where he can help others, "I've worked closely with Rosies and Orange Sky and we've grown a good rapport with each other. You know we can work with each other and help others that have just found themselves in this situation. And that kind of thing rubs off, you know, doing something for someone else, but for nothing in return. It's really important that you feel

comfortable because sometimes it's hard to ask for help, but if someone else is kind of guiding you along the way and introducing you, it's a lot easier. It makes you feel more comfortable. I try and do that for other people who need help."

He continued, "I know this sounds weird, but I'm pretty happy where I'm at, what I'm doing. Just friendship, that's all I want, that's all I need."

If you would like to support the work that Rosies does in Beenleigh and across Queensland to ensure that patrons like Jah have a safe space to share friendship, please donate today.

MEET SARAH & AVA

"She's a runner," Sarah said as her two-year old daughter Ava jumped down from her chair and started to "cut laps" around the parking lot where the Rosies Logan Outreach occurs each week.

Sarah and Ava have been frequent visitors at our Logan Outreach since shortly after Ava was born. Sarah was drawn to Rosies to connect with others after her daughter's birth; as a single mum she struggled with isolation but found comfort on outreach.

Sarah often spends time on outreach in the company of Judy and Ryan, two regular patrons. On this occasion, Ryan spent most of the outreach chasing after Ava trying to grab hold of the soft pink and purple butterfly leash backpack she wears as Ava cackled with delight.

"For a few hours each week I get a break from having to do everything myself and I don't feel alone. Ava is well looked after and I can just sit and chat with everyone," Sarah said.

She continued, "I'd been doing better financially so I stopped coming for a few weeks. I didn't want to come and take things or accept food if other people needed it. But I noticed my mental health is better when I come. I can relax and just enjoy the good company. I feel safe here."

Kate who has been volunteering with Rosies since May of last year said, "We always try and give Sarah extra things



for her and Ava, but she will never accept it – she only takes what she needs and doesn't want others to miss out."

Looking out for the needs of others is often something our volunteers witness on outreach. "I've often given a blanket to a patron only to watch them give it to someone else 'who needs it more' or take apart a toiletry pack and hand back the items they don't need. Some of them have so little but they are always happy to share or give to someone else," Kate said.

The Logan Outreach is a wonderful example of what makes Rosies special, a group of strangers coming together finding commonality, connection and friendship.

**name changed to protect patrons' privacy*

MEET JOSEPH

It was his church newsletter that first brought Joseph to Rosies. The long-term Logan resident wanted to support his fellow parish member, Margaret Harvey, who at the time was the Branch Coordinator.

"I read about Rosies outreach services in the church newsletter at St Pauls and decided to see what it was all about. My friend Margaret was in charge and I wanted to support her."

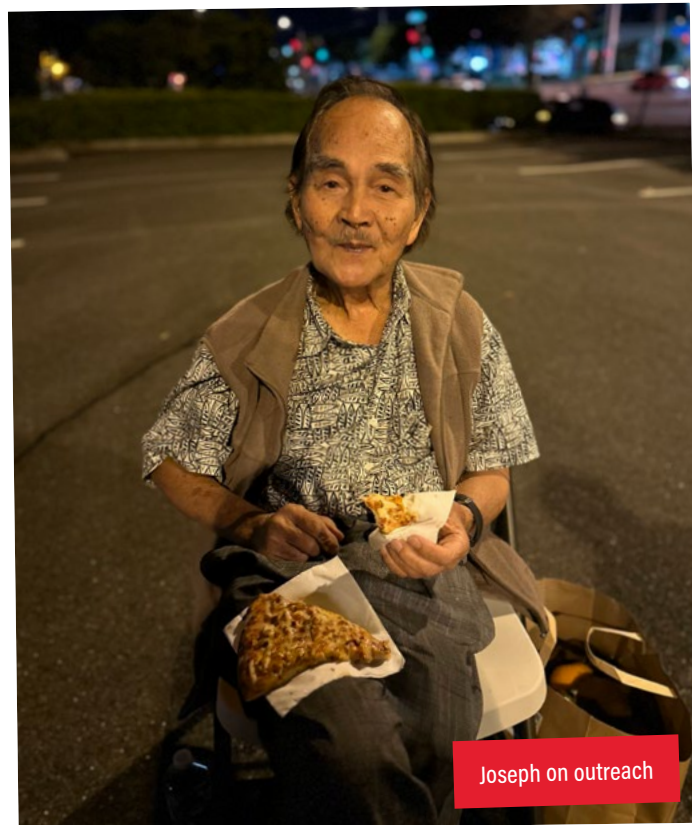
Joseph continued, "Now I can't stay away. I come every week because I have a lot of friends here."

"Sometimes I can't come because of some of the other work. I look after some elderly people and sick people. Sometimes they need me, and I can't come but if they are okay, then I come and spend time with my friends."

Joseph, a retired accountant and local Tai Chi teacher, found the atmosphere at outreach to be warm and welcoming. "It's good company and the volunteers who are looking after the food section are welcoming to the people going up there to pick up some food and some drink. They're very attentive and like family. I can't help, you know, I keep coming back. They're lovely people and I like to spend time with them."

Joseph is just one of many people who access the services that Rosies provides but is not experiencing homelessness. He just "likes the community and being with everyone" and often gets upset when people make disparaging remarks or say unkind things about individuals experiencing homelessness, hardship and disadvantage.

"I don't call them homeless people or street people, I call them my friend, my brother and my sister. I don't like it when other people call them homeless people or street people, they are just like everyone else. They are good people, and it could happen to anyone. Me, you, anyone. They are nice people."



Joseph spends most of the outreach sitting quietly chatting with patrons and volunteers, soaking up the atmosphere or smiling softly as the children run around him.

If you would like to support people like Joseph who have found connection, family and friendship on outreach please considering donating to Rosies now. Your financial support can and will make a difference.

MEET (INDY)

It took 50-year-old New Farm resident Cindy seven years to gain access to stable accommodation through social housing.

"I had to wait for seven years but I really like the location because I'm close to a library and I can get the free ferry to the city or walk a lot of places. I have some dodgy neighbors who steal things off the clothing lines, drink, smoke and gamble but as I've gotten older, I've decided it's better to have a roof over your head especially when it rains rather than moving around so much," Cindy said.

Before being housed, Cindy was on the street searching for a safe place to rest. "I was on the street for two and a half years initially. I couch surfed a lot. I lived in short-term accommodation. I did share rooms and things. A social worker I met rented me a room for \$50 in Beenleigh. And I would stay with people - they were happy to put in a good word for me because I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't do drugs, and I don't steal from people."

"When I first got into housing, I wasn't coming to Rosies as much because people would say to me, 'You can't go there, you've got accommodation' but I'm not wealthy and the Rosies people never said that to me."

"When I was homeless, I had someone (at Rosies) who consistently talked to me. I like those friendships even if it's not the same volunteers every time - you can just chat to people."

"I live by myself and I don't necessarily feel lonely very often but that's why I think I'm quite a smart person. Not because I can solve all my problems, but because I know who to go to for help. I know if I'm lonely I can go to Rosies and have a drink and a chat and then I'm happy for the rest of the day."



Denise, Cindy & Sandra at Jeays Street

"I think the world is a lot harder, with all the stabbings and all the murders and things, when you can go and talk to people that are just kind to you and they don't need to know your whole life story but they don't treat you like you're less of a person because you've got no money or because of your situation."

Cindy also spoke about the social interaction that she gets from attending outreach, saying that it's not something that she can easily find elsewhere. "I'm a mature aged student so while I talk to the other students a lot of them are 22 and don't really want to socialise with a 50-year-old. A lot of the women that have come back to school as mature aged students have got kids, so they don't wanna sit around and study because they've gotta rush home and you know, take care of their kids. So, I don't have the social outlets that I would like." At Rosies things are different for Cindy,

“

When you come to places like this and you can have a conversation, well this just changes things because I don't need to feel sorry for myself constantly. It is just nice to have people talk to you like you're a human being.

”

"When I first was homeless, I would stay away from Rosies because I was a little scared of the other people. But when I talked to a volunteer, it was so lovely, and they encouraged me to come for a while, and I realised you don't have to spend hours there. You can come in, get food, a drink, a chat, and be on your way. But the volunteers will take you aside and have a conversation and just touch base."

"When you've got no one and you're homeless, it makes a big, big difference. They get to know you and they care. It's just like if you went missing, would anyone know and report you? And so, when you could get to see regular volunteers, they know you're alive and they go, 'oh how are you going? How is study? How is this, how is that?' And you feel like you've got purpose again. And then when you talk to people regularly and they ask how you are, it makes you feel like you're a normal person."

"I grew up middle class, I went to a good school, my dad loves me. I've got it better than most. I think when you grow up poorer you get used to a little bit less from society. Like when Centrelink treats me like dirt, housing commission treats me like dirt, people who grew up in the housing commission are aware of that when you are middle class you think 'no they can't treat you like this' and they shouldn't, but that's not how the world works."

"(at Rosies) it's just nice to have someone fuss over you. And I don't wanna cry, but people don't fuss over you when you're broke."

"You know, if you are a celebrity, people fuss over you constantly, but if you've got no money, people don't give a sh*t. So, it's nice just to have someone treat you a bit special."

"Last week when I came here, I asked Sam for a milo, and he made it but as he was giving me the cup, he felt that it wasn't hot enough and he wanted to remake it because it wasn't perfect. And I was like, 'dude, calm down, you're a volunteer. You made me a drink; I'll still drink it.' But he wanted it to be just right for me."

To have people worried about your feelings, that's not a common thing. So to have people just wanna treat you like a human being, I don't think people realise how often that doesn't happen."

"I think most people are walking around on their phones like zombies. And they're not necessarily being rude, but sometimes people bump into you and don't even apologize. So for people to actually listen to you and just make sure that you are okay, I mean I didn't have to have a new drink, but he just couldn't have been nicer to me."

It's good for me to get out of the house and be with good people. I could sit there and say poor me I was abused as a child, and I have anxiety and depression, but I could also go somewhere and be treated with kindness.

"I worked when I was homeless and studied when I was homeless, but my mental illness is a bit worse now than it was then. But you know, I'm trying to study and trying to work on my issues and hopefully one day I'll get some more part-time work and move out of housing commission"

If you would like to help us remain a positive and consistent presence for people like Cindy, please donate today. Every donation will help us to make a difference in the lives of our patrons.



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

Friendship - A good investment

Please donate online at www.rosies.org.au OR via the QR code

OR return your completed form to PO Box 908, WYNNUM QLD 4178



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