

# ROSIES

*Friends on the Street*

SPRING 2022



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## *Inside Rosies*

- A message from our CEO
- Family finds friendship at Rosies
- Mike & Linda: A legacy of connection
- Reflections with Fr Michael



**Sharing friendship creates belonging. Dare to reach out together.**



## A message from our CEO



Notably colder weather across Queensland this winter meant a significantly higher demand for blankets and sleeping bags for our patrons sleeping rough, in vehicles, or in draughty accommodation. Our patrons

will be very thankful for the respite from the cold as we begin to move into the wonderful warmth and feeling of rejuvenation that comes with Spring.

Despite the joy of Spring, it has never been more challenging for people to keep a roof over their heads, food on the table and generally to make ends meet. The housing crisis is very visible as we see individuals and families struggle under the burden of increasing housing prices and rental accommodation, as well as the rising cost of everyday living.

It is also not surprising that during this difficult time, and in the aftermath of COVID, social isolation, loneliness and a general lack of connection continues to rise, impacting the overall health and wellbeing of so many that we see on the street. Brene Brown has a wonderful definition of connection as "the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard and valued; when they can give and receive without judgement; and when they drive sustenance and strength from the relationship."<sup>1</sup>

Rosies volunteers strive to ensure that no one we meet feels uncared for, unloved or alone. Rosies is that place of connection -- a safe space, providing friendship and support, free from judgement, for those who are struggling with homelessness and hardship, or social isolation and loneliness. A place where people are cared for, loved and no longer alone.

Thank you for being a part of the incredible Rosies Community and the wonderful work that happens out on the street every day of the year.

With gratitude,  
Jayne Shallcross

<sup>1</sup> Brene Brown, *The Gifts of Imperfection*



*Liz, Candice and her family on outreach*

## Family finds friendship at Rosies

By Eunice & Peter Winship

Elizabeth, known as Liz, is one of Rosies amazing volunteers. She heads up a group of volunteers from Papua New Guinea who are called "Turas" that means friends. This group has been cooking hot meals for the patrons for a number of years and were eventually asked to join the Rosies' team as outreach volunteers. Without hesitation, the group responded with a resounding "yes!"

Recently Liz met a woman on outreach who was the mother of a prep student who Liz had met last year at a local school in Cairns.

Candice and her family of 6, including a young baby, arrived at the park on a Sunday night. The family has been doing it tough with cost of living rising and the rental crisis which has only gotten worse during COVID. Worried they wouldn't be accepted or given hospitality because they weren't homeless, Candice hesitantly brought her family to the venue.

"I noticed them in the distance sitting on the grass and went to chat with them" Liz said. As Candice shared her story, Liz encouraged her "not to worry, just come along and Rosies will care for you and your family."

"I have never seen anyone so grateful for what Rosies does. The smiles on the children's faces says it all" Liz said.

The reunion with Liz was a special moment, especially for little Siera, who is an amazing kid. The family has been attending for a few months now and when the Rosies' van arrives at the venue, Siera steps forward and offers to help to carry light items into the venue.

Being with the patrons, sitting and chatting has really helped Candice and her family. They know that each time they attend outreach they will be served by our wonderful and caring volunteers and can relax if only for a few hours.

Candice wanted to share her story because, "there are other families out there doing it tough and need a meal and to see a friendly face – they can find it at Rosies."



## Mike & Linda: A legacy of connection

After more than a decade of service to our friends on the street, Mike and Linda hung up their red shirts and moved south to be closer to family. Although no longer able to volunteer for Rosies, it was important for the couple to stay connected to the organisation that had been such a large part of their lives – leaving a gift in their Will was an easy way to do that.

"Rosies was an important experience for us, and we know that there are ongoing costs like vans, vehicle maintenance, etc to keep it going. In the early days we struggled to get resources for outreach, but we felt like we could help with that. By leaving a gift in our Will we can make sure that Rosies lasts into the future or helps to build a new branch in an area that needs Rosies" Mike said.

"It was hard to leave Rosies, all the friends we'd made - volunteers and patrons included, and we wanted to give back for all the beautiful things that we received. We wanted to make sure that there was a fund to keep it going. You can't just go say hello and then walk away – you have to commit, and we want to play a small part in keeping Rosies going as long as possible. We want Rosies to continue long after we are gone" Linda said.

For the couple it was important that the organisation they helped build (the pair helped establish the Logan branch in the early 2000s)

was taken care of and after consulting their lawyer they decided to leave a percentage of their estate to Rosies. "One of the things we decided when we wrote the Will was that if we left a certain amount, you don't really know what that amount will mean when you do pass. A percentage was a better way to leave our gift and to make sure that it was really worthwhile for Rosies" Mike said.

Linda continued, "We have seen firsthand what Rosies can do – it was easy to leave a gift in our Will. The ministry of presence is so rare these days, Rosies provides practical support to our friends on the street and we want them to be able to do so for a long time."

If you would like more information on making a Gift in your Will, please contact our Engagement Manager Lacey Hennessy Overton on 07 3396 4267 or [overtonl@rosies.org.au](mailto:overtonl@rosies.org.au)



Mike and Linda today

## FNQ Emergency Services Gala a great success

A fantastic evening was had by all at the Far North Queensland Emergency Services Association Gala Ball on Saturday 6 August. Rosies – Friends on the Street was selected as the charity partner for the event with all funds raised going to directly support the FNQ Branches, including the purchase of a new vehicle in Cairns. We are so grateful for the FNQESA Committee, especially their President John-Byron Bacalakis, for all of their wonderful efforts bringing the event to life. We are proud to say that all monies raised will go a long way in supporting the work of all of the amazing FNQ volunteers and make a fantastic belated birthday present to the branch who turned 30 in July.



# Reflections with Fr Michael

St Eugene de Mazenod OMI founded the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1816 in France and 163 years later, the Oblates founded Rosies in 1974 at Rosebud, Victoria before establishing Rosies here in Queensland in 1987.

Rosies heritage comes through St Eugene but actually this heritage reaches further back to the life, care and ministry of Jesus and that is why the Rosies prayer focusses on that inclusivity that Jesus sought to bring. St Eugene interpreted it in post-revolutionary France, and we interpret it at the many branches, encounters of friendship and genuine care at each Rosies outreach.

St Eugene has been declared the patron saint of families in need. This means there is a belief that St Eugene is someone that, even in eternal life, is a support for families in all of their many circumstances. Family life can loving, complex, challenging, rewarding, disappointing, scary, life-giving, manipulative and every emotion on the spectrum of humanity.

Contained in this newsletter is a rich and rewarding story of family life and it definitely had me thinking about the richness of our Rosies family spread all over the State with participation and contributions from so many areas of life.

From the view of faith, Christian belief understands that Jesus belonged to a family and in his ministry included and invited everyone as members of it. He challenged the social notions of belonging and genuinely looked for ways to include others.

There is a particular grief and loss that many in our Rosies family might have felt with their own biological family, especially when relationships have fractured for a multitude of reasons. There is also the highest of joys to be found in family life.

Rosies seeks to become friends and family on the street and has



Robert telling a story to his friends

found a way to include others for many decades. Wherever you find yourself in the Rosies family, please know that you matter, have meaning and definitely have a dignity that is treasured.

As a way of further strengthening that, you might like to make use of the Rosies Prayer as a Family Prayer as the words are equally as applicable.

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

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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### Donation options

☐ Please debit my credit card: (circle one)

**Visa American Express Mastercard Diners**

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 1:** I'd like to make a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 2:** I'd like to make a single gift

☐ \$50 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Cheque/Money order**

Enclose and make payable to Rosies Youth Mission Inc.

☐ **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)**

CommBank BSB 064 451 Account No. 1003 7818

Reference No <your name>

☐ **Please send me information on leaving a bequest to Rosies in my Will.**