

flourish

LifeCare Newsletter
July 2017



helping people in tough places

flourish



The grand opening of our new Life Care centre has been one of our highlights this year. It was a wonderful celebration of the many people whose lives have been transformed through LifeCare and the many more to come as a result of our amazing new facility. We now have much needed space to enhance and extend our services, including family counselling, play therapy and a food co-op where people who receive food can also participate in the running of the service.

The idea of involving participants in serving connects with our focus on building and strengthening community. As social isolation underpins many of our modern social issues, providing opportunities for people to not only give back as they receive but also join into community helps to facilitate long-term transformation.

So far this year we've had over 600 people participate in our holistic services. We've seen many people work through crisis and break through generational hardship. We've seen many coming out of isolation through our community meals program and by connecting in with Crossway ministries. Seven people have found new life through Jesus in their restoration journey in the first half of 2017.

Gail Cameron
Executive Director, Crossway LifeCare

The spirit of LifeCare is spreading into the community as more and more people are coming forward and wanting to be involved. Not only have our volunteer teams greatly expanded, but we've had volunteers awarded in recognition of their work in the community. Angela Czarnota and Kim Ng received awards presented by Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Leader for the Liberal Party, and Julia Banks, MP for Chisholm.

We thank and honour all of our volunteers, those publically acknowledged as well as those who work quietly behind the scenes without public recognition. The heart and spirit of our people make us who we are so thank you to all who give generously of your time and resources to help make LifeCare, and more importantly our community, flourish!

Jesus has hands in Melbourne

March was an exciting month for LifeCare as we launched the new LifeCare Centre on 19th March, attracting a wide array of media attention.

An article published in Eternity, Australia's most widely read Christian newspaper, described LifeCare's ministry with the words, "Jesus has hands in Melbourne." It is indeed LifeCare's vision to reach out to people who are struggling in our community.

The launch was well attended by parliamentarians, corporate sponsors and supporters from Crossway Church. Our inspiring speaker shared his story of transformation from gang culture to a life of faith and hope.

“
My life today is a far
cry from where I was
then. I was put through
the COACH program
which has been the most
beneficial service for me.
”



Jesus has hands in Melbourne

TESS HOLGATE

One local church is responding to the needs of its local community by caring for people struggling through relationship breakdown, family violence, mental health issues and financial difficulties. Crossway LifeCare, a ministry of Melbourne's Crossway Baptist Church, supported nearly 800 people in its eastern Melbourne community during 2016.

Grace was a single mum and domestic violence survivor when she was introduced to LifeCare's counselling and financial service programmes. "I had lost my inner will power and who I was as a person," says Grace.

LifeCare provided Grace with practical aid, such as food and clothing, as well as surrounding her with community. This helped her life to flourish: "I have a beautiful home, my boy is reunited with me, and my sense of belonging, individuality is returning".

LifeCare is expanding its programmes in 2017, and will officially launch bigger premises on March 19. LifeCare's COO Gail Thannhauser says, "We face growing social challenges, but thanks to our supporters, we have a fantastic new building to facilitate an even stronger impact."

For more information, visit www.crosswaylifecare.org.au

- Eternity News
March 2017

Thank you for
making a world of
difference!

Thanks to supporters like you, LifeCare has raised over \$20,000 to help children like Ben have a brighter future. Ben grew up in an abusive family and developed similar violent behaviours to those he had witnessed at home. It could have been a hopeless situation for Ben if it weren't for the support of someone like you. Within a few mentoring sessions, Ben's attitude began to change and by Year 6, Ben was elected House Captain by his peers! Thanks to you, we're reaching out to more children and youth in need in our community.



Your blessings
have been
matched by
Kevin!

We are humbled by the generosity of AM Kevin Bailey who has matched your donations dollar-for-dollar through this appeal. We spoke to Kevin about his heart for giving and how his family and faith influenced his passion to move "from success to surrender for significance."

Kevin, thank you for matching every regular donation to LifeCare. Can you tell us why you're passionate about supporting LifeCare's work?

"I know that I've got better capacity than others and I will use it for God's purpose. I believe that God loves me so much and He wants me to do more for Him. I always say "Yes" when prompted by the Holy Spirit, even

if it's beyond my capabilities. And I sensed that God is in LifeCare's work. I believe that the contribution that I give to LifeCare can help a lot more people in the community."

"All my life, I've planned, strategized and been intentional about being successful but now, I just want to let go and let God. I believe that I must decrease so that He can increase. Through my obedience, prayerfulness and surrender, I want to show my children how to lead a meaningful life from success to significance. It is not about me but all about building up God's kingdom. If each and every one of us can be dynamic with our faith, we can change the world."



“
So many people are flourishing because of the help LifeCare has given them but they need our help to reach out to even more people. This is our faith in action.
”

Kevin Bailey



Mums helping mums like Grace

This Mother's Day, mums of Crossway Mainly Music and MOPS (Mums of Pre-Schoolers) came together as a community to support domestic violence survivors at LifeCare's Women's Centre. Through a fundraising family portrait, \$640 was raised to help mothers like Grace recover from domestic violence.

28 year old Grace* is a single mum and domestic violence survivor. There were a lot of unhappy childhood memories for her but despite her difficult upbringing, Grace has turned out to be an amazing mum to her son, Dylan. Here is her story:

"I was struggling to survive in all aspects of my life, financially and emotionally. I was alone and was going through a dark phase. I had no housing and my son wasn't with me. I had lost my inner will power and who I was as a person."

After years of physical and emotional abuse by her partner of four years, Grace decided

“Without LifeCare's help, I would still be stuck in that dark place. I now have a beautiful home, my little boy is reunited with me and my sense of belonging, individuality and peace is returning. Crossway Church, LifeCare and the beautiful people are a part of our journey and are bettering our lives.”

Grace, Single mum and domestic violence survivor

to leave the relationship in search of a safer place. She spent nights on various friends' couches and because she couldn't find a stable place to stay, she had to leave her baby boy behind with her ex. Without Dylan by her side and struggling to find money to rent a place, Grace became stressed and anxious.

Then one day, she met a lady, Sarah, who brought her to Crossway Church and LifeCare. Grace was surprised to meet extremely generous people within the community that welcomed her with no judgement. With LifeCare's help and support, Grace was determined to rebuild her life and be a role model for Dylan. Through counselling, LifeCare helped Grace address her anxiety issues and improve her confidence. A financial coach also supported her to get on top of her financial problems by setting goals and working out her priorities.

"LifeCare provided counselling and financial coaching to help me with my emotional and financial problems. They were there to walk with me on my journey. It has been a priceless privilege for me to meet such a pure hearted community that

holds only good intentions to help you without making you feel disadvantaged. In my 28 years, I have never met such great people - loving, open, with so much care in their hearts."

Grace's life may have spiralled out of control and isolation from the community may have been inevitable. Instead, Grace has managed to get her life back on track.

**Grace's name has been changed to protect her identity.*



How you can be involved



Pray

Your prayers are powerful and an important part of LifeCare's ministry. Please pray with us daily for the community we serve, the lives we touch and the good news we share.



Donate

Your monthly gift will bring healing and hope to children, individuals and families who are struggling in our community. Your donations today can make a real difference in someone's life and help them flourish.



Volunteer

Share your time, passion and skills to help LifeCare reach out to more people in need. From one-off volunteer roles to ongoing positions, we have something for everyone.

LifeCare acknowledges and appreciates the valuable support of our sponsors for 2017:



To learn more about how you can help people in tough places flourish, visit crosswaylifecare.org.au or call 9886 3899.



crosswaylifecare.org.au

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