

WHAT'S INSIDE

ANDREW'S TRANSFORMATION

CHILDREN'S PLAYHOUSE

BABYMUM COTTAGE



“Caring and Sharing in Jesus’ name”



Action

ISSUE NO 6 SUMMER 2012

Youth and Children’s work remain an important component of Mission

With one in every three marriages ending in divorce and about the same ratio of babies born outside a traditional marriage environment, it’s pretty tough being a kid these days.

So many people we see at the City Mission have come to us for help after struggling for many years with guilt, shame and low self-esteem, caused in many instances through something that happened to them in their childhood or early teenage years.

Our involvement with youth and children is building a foundation for a better future in many of the young lives we encounter. Our Rainbows program helps over 200 primary school aged children every year to come to terms with their grief as they experience loss through family breakdown, death and other causes. On completing the course (one young boy) commented that the best thing he learned from being part of Rainbows was that, “Mummy and Daddy’s divorce wasn’t his fault”.

Youth on Paterson, another service operated by City Mission is making inroads into young people’s lives who are at risk of becoming involved with the youth justice system.



Many positive outcomes have been achieved through programs such as a bike rebuilding program, music and cooking programs, training and employment through the Two Hands Coffee Cart.

All these services rely heavily on the support of our generous community.

We are grateful for the support we receive but are limited on what we can

do in the community from the funds we receive.

If you can help by making a donation, please complete the form on page 4 and send it to us along with your donation. Alternatively, log-on to www.citymission.org.au and go to our donations page.

We hope you find this issue of City Action informative and encouraging.

Andrew was referred to us by Child Protection Services in January 2010. Our youth worker was asked to mentor and support Andrew as he made the transition from Foster care to independent living.

The two met weekly to help Andrew work out a plan to move into his own accommodation. Andrew faced a number of practical challenges as well as having to deal with some significant issues relating to suicidal tendencies, poor self esteem and a lack of personal self belief.

Andrew was referred to appropriate services to work through these areas with our youth worker supporting him throughout the whole process.

This support provided for Andrew a base to come back to when life became confusing and difficult.

In time Andrew's transition to independent living was successful. Through the holistic support the City Mission and other agencies provided to Andrew he was empowered to move into a new quality of life.

During this period Andrew experienced immense anxiety related to numerous issues. At one stage Andrew's youth worker assisted him through a dark period in hospital. Just being there with him was the key. Often the support needed was simply listening and being a consistent, stable person in his life.

Andrew now lives independently, works fulltime and is about to obtain his driver's licence. It is safe to say that he never imagined he would successfully obtain these 3 key achievements. Andrew is now a confident young man, who now holds a position of leadership at his place of work. He no longer requires the City Mission youth worker's assistance and mentoring as he is now a self sufficient Adult. What a wonderful outcome and perfect example of what a little caring and sharing in Jesus' name can do.



Increased opportunities for Children's Playhouse

In January the City Mission's Children's Playhouse Child Care Centre moved from its old premises to its brand new facility across the road in Ravenswood's recently completed Child and Family Centre. Built by the Education Department the centre accommodates the child care centre, an early learning centre and the area's child health nurse rooms. It also boasts well-appointed meeting rooms and facilities for other community groups.

The Children's Playhouse in its previous location was licenced to care for 29 children between the ages of 0 and 6. The new bigger facility allows the centre to cater for up to 45 children.

The centre is strategically placed to help families in the area who need child care services for various reasons.

Having this new facility has not only been a big blessing to Lyn Holmes, the Playhouse's Director, and her staff but will open up new opportunities for the City Mission and other groups to be more effectively involved in the community.

Along with the larger centre a new staff member has joined the team. Graeme Turner has quickly settled into his role as child carer. Having a male presence on the team has already had a positive impact, particularly with the boys where Dad no longer lives at home.

The Centre was officially opened on February 24th.



City Mission managers Maryann Midson and Ray Green with Acting CEO, Stuart Smith (front) check out the new premises and equipment.

The Babymum Cottage gears up to accept their first babymum

"Imagine you have just heard about a place. A home with lots of room and a lovely garden, where you feel safe and people care about you and your baby... They want you and your baby to have a good beginning."

Noelene Booth

Founder, Babymum Australia



New cottage parents, Phil & Di Laidler

It is this good beginning that is so important to the team of Babymum. For some months we have been praying and looking for a couple who would join

our team as Cottage Parents for our first Babymum Cottage here in Launceston. It is with great excitement that we would like to introduce you to Phil and Di Laidler who in just 5 short weeks have already contributed so much to our team.

Phil and Di come to Babymum with a wealth of life experiences, wisdom and so importantly, a heart for seeking God in all things. Teaching, maintenance and a variety of managerial roles are just some of the skills this couple will bring to our team. Add to that their own experience of raising their two children and their involvement in their grandchildren's lives.

As Cottage Parents their role will be to help create a safe family environment for up to 4 young mums and their babies. From helping with the shopping, establishing cottage routines, being part of a team who provides quality time and who will listen to and support our babymums.

As a 24 hour / 7 day a week role they will be there when the babies first smile or take their first walk and when the mums are at a loss of what to do when their baby won't stop crying.

While there will be challenges, Babymum Australia along with Phil and Di have the assurance that this is where God wants them to be. They know for certain that God is with them and He is bigger than any situation that can arise.

Phil and Di have asked that we pray for them, for wisdom in relating to their growing family and knowing how to respond to each situation that arises. Also that God's love will flow from them to each one that comes their way

Welcome to the team Phil and Di, we are excited to have you on board.



Burnie business keeps our trailer on the road

Our Burnie Outreach Trailer has had some additions made recently. Due to the increased weight of the trailer, brakes needed to be fitted. The trailer had to be taken off the road for a short period which resulted in City Kitchen, (providing food to marginalised people in the Burnie area) being off the run over Christmas and part of January. However, "Steering, Brake and Clutch Services" at Cooee came to the rescue. They supplied and fitted the brakes to the trailer free of charge. This unexpected cost to the City Mission would have amounted to over \$1,000 but the management decided to waive the cost. They did this simply because they, "value the work the City Mission does in the community".

There are many organisations in Tasmania who, like Steering Brake and Clutch, have seen the need and just wanted to do something to help. Thank you to all the businesses, churches, community groups and individuals who have seen the need and done something to help. Your generosity extends our ability to do more.

City Mission announces new CEO

Launceston City Mission is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Chief



Executive which the Board of Directors consider will position the organisation for further expansion and consolidate the assistance provided to all who have a physical, emotional, social or spiritual need, through the Mission's varied programs of both social and evangelistic activities across Northern Tasmania.

Following a process that commenced in late 2011 upon the retirement of former CEO Mr Albert van Zetten, Mr Michael Walsh, Chairman of Launceston City Mission advised that Mr Stephen Brown has accepted the role of CEO of the City Mission and will commence in early March 2012. Mr Brown will immediately focus on the commencement of the Board's strategic planning process to consider and evaluate opportunities for consolidation and expansion of services and activities.

With an extensive background in the commercial and not-for-profit sectors of the health and training Industries, including over three years with national trainer Esset Australia, Stephen has developed a keen entrepreneurial sense for identifying, securing and implementing client-focused opportunities and facilitating the recruitment, training and equipping of staff and volunteers. Mr Walsh stated that Stephen's pastoral care experience gained through service with the Salvation Army, Churches of Christ and Australian Christian Churches, coupled with his consultative and collaborative management leadership style will ensure the continuation of mission focused operations that achieve successful outcomes for the communities the Launceston City Mission serves.

Based in Launceston the City Mission has grown from its small beginnings in 1854 to a well-respected organisation, caring for people in the local community who are marginalised by poverty, loneliness and addiction. It now has a total workforce of well over 400 people, most of whom are volunteers who work tirelessly bringing care and compassion to those in need, in Jesus' name.

More than \$50,000 raised through Christmas Appeal

Without the support of our community the City Mission would be powerless to do much of the work it does in changing people's lives and circumstances. Our recent Christmas Appeal saw many organisations and individuals find ways to help us through donations, food and toy collections and offering in-kind support.

Throughout the year we are also grateful to Government Departments who continue their support through allocation of grant monies to us so we can go on providing necessary services to those in our community who need it most.

A number of these government grants along with the services they assist are listed next column:

Child Care Services Support Program
Dept of Education
 Employment and Workplace Relations
 Emergency Accommodation
Dept of Health & Human Services
 Place of Safety & Sober Up
 Sulphur Creek
Dept of Health & Human Services
 Place of Safety & Sober Up Launceston
Dept of Health & Human Services
 Alcohol & Drug Recovery
Dept of Health & Human Services
 Emergency Relief
Dept of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs
 Emergency Relief
Dept of Premier and Cabinet
 Improved Services for Drug and Alcohol Problems
Dept of Health & Ageing & Alcohol Problems

Mission Beat Food Van Services
Dept of Premier and Cabinet
 Family Assistance Program
Dept of Premier and Cabinet
 Education Fun-Da-Mentals Program
Dept of Education



Andrew Finney (Rotary Club of Kings Meadows President) with Bonnie Owens (Centro Properties Marketing Manager) and David Young present a cheque to Stuart Smith (City Mission Acting CEO)

We're on Facebook



Like us on Facebook

Now you can find out what is happening at the Mission everyday through our new Facebook site. All you need to do is log onto Facebook, search for **Launceston City Mission** (it's the one with our logo on it) and "like" us. You will receive the posts we put up on a regular basis to keep you up to date.

Thank you. Thank you to the many organisations who endorse the work of City Mission through their valued support.



Yes! I want to bring hope.



Please fill in, cut out and post together with your donation to: Launceston City Mission, PO Box 168 Launceston 7250

Contact person: _____

Company Name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Authorised by: (please print) _____

Signature: _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS: (Please Tick) (all cheques must be made payable to 'City Mission')

Bank Transfer: Account Name: Launceston City Mission BSB: 067 600 Account #: 28005964 Ref: Summer 2012

Please find my donation enclosed \$ _____

Cheque

Direct Deposit/Bank Transfer

Credit Card VISA

MasterCard

Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: ____/____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Signature: _____