The best thing to open this Christmas is your heart.

Christmas Campaign

“The best thing to open this Christmas is your heart” is again our theme for this year’s Christmas Appeal. Many of us look forward to celebrating the festive season with family and friends, yet for those who are already struggling to make ends meet, Christmas brings the added burden of not being able to afford a gift for a child or enjoy a basic Christmas meal.

Support from the ABC Giving Tree, The Examiner’s Empty Stocking Appeal and generosity from Northern Tasmanians allowed us to provide food, gifts and emergency relief to more than 300 individuals and families in our community last Christmas.

With an increase in the number of people accessing our services over the past year, we anticipate more people reaching out for help this festive season. Every donation made, no matter how big or small, will help to transform local lives this Christmas.

We continue to be grateful for your support over the past year and wish you, your friends and family a very Merry Christmas.

$25 provides a gift for a child

$50 provides a hamper for an individual

$100 provides a hamper for a family

Donate at any Mission Shop, online at citymission.org.au or call 6335 3000

To find out more about our calendar of events, visit our website and follow us on social media.
Message from the CEO

It is not long now until 2020 and as I reflect on this year, I am very thankful for everyone involved with this great organisation.

We had a tremendous year, and the team from City Mission continued to go above and beyond, compassionately caring and looking after those less fortunate in our local community.

We have witnessed firsthand the transformation of many, many lives through our services, and for that we are very thankful to God's ongoing guidance and provision.

- City Mission CEO, Stephen Brown

Amongst the many things City Mission has been involved, some of the highlights of this past six months were:

- Reviewing the AOD, Housing, Inside Out 4 Kids, Mish Youth Services, and Family Services service utilisation recognising that more people are being helped by City Mission staff and volunteers each month
- Reviewing the Social Enterprise team performance as they consistently work together to generate significant income to support the services we provide
- Developing a plan with the North West community for the relocation of Serenity House Alcohol & Drug services into the greater Burnie region
- Initiating the Future Growth Committee to work on innovative solutions for the issues and situations many of our clients experience daily
- Completing the renovation of 37 Frederick Street to accommodate our Mish Youth Services on the ground floor and a commercial tenant (1st floor)
- Completing the acquisition of the Avalon Estate, Newstead in line with our Master Plan, providing us with the space to expand services to youth and adults within a sustainable framework in the future
- Celebrating the 2019 financial year service achievements at our Annual General Meeting in September.

I remain thankful of the dedicated support we receive from the Board members of City Mission. This committed and talented group of volunteers provide prayerful and considered governance, advice and wisdom as the organisation continues to listen and hear from God about how we should serve our community and provide pathways for these precious people to hope and a future.

- City Mission CEO, Stephen Brown

MISH MOVE

The Mish team are very excited to be in their new home at 37 Frederick Street! Having been a boot factory, a glass factory and a pathology centre, “The Boot Factory” building is a similar age to City Mission. The building’s high-set, north-facing windows will provide a flood of natural light contributing to the positive mental health of our young people, while the larger space allows for all Mish programs to be provided under one roof with the potential to expand current offerings. The area includes a large sink and fit-for-purpose flooring enabling delivery of a broader range of arts and crafts, as well as easy access entryways for people with a disability. There are also dedicated permanent spaces for the media and music programs, and additional storage areas for a more efficient utilisation of program space.

TASBUS ASSOCIATION DONATION

On June 1, Operations Manager Client Services Ray Green was invited by Geoff Lewis from Tasmanian Bus Association to attend their annual staff dinner and fundraising auction. Ray had the opportunity to share the work our Inside Out 4 Kids program does for children suffering through trauma, grief and loss. On this wonderful night, staff were encouraged to generously give to charities supporting children in the Tasmanian community. This year, City Mission was honoured to be a recipient of money given by the organisation ($5,000) as well as money raised through the auction on the night ($7,911). The money donated has gone into the Inside Out 4 Kids program to continue the wonderful work they do!
PIFD

Due to the popularity of our Pay It Forward Dinners, both Morton’s Place and Burnie City Kitchen hosted the event this year. The two locations welcomed several hundred guests who heard from City Mission CEO Stephen Brown on the vital service these places provide for those in need. Patrons enjoyed three-course meals, with Tasmanian celebrity chef Massimo Mele alongside David Velvick and The Mish culinary team cooking up a storm in Launceston. Guy Robertson, of Mount Gnomon Farm, delivered a mouth-watering spread at the Burnie event. Guests nominated the value of their dining experience by “paying it forward”, which successfully raised more than $20,000!

Choir

The Choir of High Hopes has progressed into its 12th year with much enthusiasm. In June, the choir – alongside the Launceston Male Choir and the Meander Valley Singers – took part in a concert for The Examiner’s Winter Relief Appeal, raising money for those in need over the cold winter months. The choir has performed in several aged care homes, giving choir members the opportunity to gain more experience, read poetry and perform solo. The choir has been invited back to perform at Carols by the Sea at St Helens, as well as to entertain guests on Christmas Day at the Launceston City Community Christmas lunch. The choir has produced a CD just in time for Christmas, which can be purchased in our Mission Shops.

Spring Drive

A massive thank-you to all the Lions clubs who volunteered their time again this year for our Spring Drive. Their efforts saw us raise almost $10,000 worth of groceries for those in need! Thanks goes to the clubs at Riverside, Westbury, Windmill, Kings Meadows, Hadspen, Wynyard and Devonport.

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Jacqueline Appointment

This year, City Mission has welcomed many new faces into the organisation – including Jacqueline de Jonge to the newly created role of Operations Manager of Youth and Children’s Services.

Jacqueline will be bringing our Youth and Children’s teams together as they consolidate and refine their services following a period of extensive growth. Jacqueline will also be managing some exciting projects that City Mission has under way, related to the sustainability of services and bringing an educational focus to programs. Working out of Burnie as well as Launceston will also mean that Jacqueline has the capacity to look at opportunities for City Mission to be of service to the young people of the North-West Coast. Jacqueline brings extensive experience in the educational sector as both an educator and an administrator, which will be used to help strengthen the strategic direction of this important arm of City Mission.

Tasmanian Leaders’ lunch

On September 5, Morton’s Place hosted the Tasmanian Leaders’ luncheon. The group – a part of Tasmania’s premier leadership development organisation – heard from City Mission CEO Stephen Brown and Mission Health’s Jane Laidlaw. Stephen spoke to the group about the services provided at City Mission across the North and North-West, and on the future of the organisation. Jane shared the story of Mission Health from its inception to now, and the positive impact it is having on those using the service.