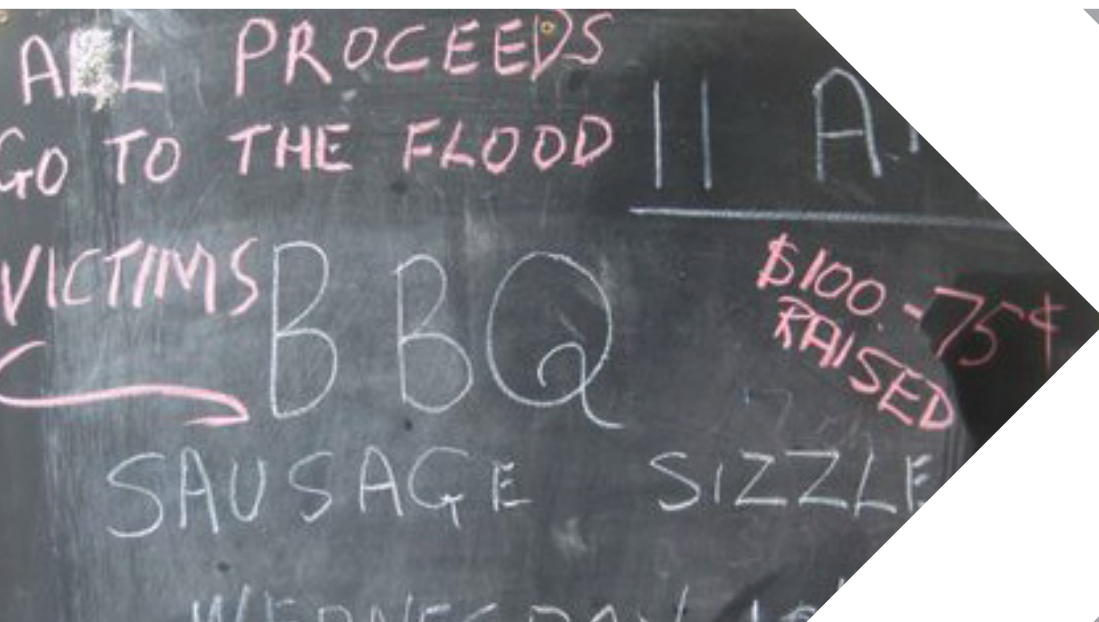


HOPE STREET

Autumn / Winter 2011 **NEWS**



BACKSHED CAFE GOES GLOBAL

By Tim Kurylowicz

A story about one of our cafes went global in January when news got out about the volunteers and regulars at the BackShed Cafe raising funds to support QLD flood relief. The story was picked up in newspapers around the country and the world.

We commend our community members - particularly those who are living homeless at the moment - for acting so quickly and with such compassion for others in need, and

we're proud as punch of our staff, who went the extra mile to make the whole thing happen. We also commend the regulars of our Have a Chat cafe in Glebe (in partnership with the Glebe Area Tenant's Group and the Wheelie Warriors) for putting on an Aussie Day bonanza which raised over \$1000 for flood relief efforts

Our Community Development efforts in both Glebe and Woolloomooloo are all about creating spaces and

activities where community members can be safe, celebrate each other and grow towards the fullness of life for which they were created. Seeing two of Sydney's 'poorest' communities demonstrating such rich generosity is what HopeStreet is all about.

To read the news story, visit www.news.com.au and insert 'homeless dig deep for flood victims' in the search field.

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WHAT HAPPENED TO CHRISTMAS?

At Christmas, we all like to be remembered and to give gifts as a sign of our love and support. We also love that feeling of warmth and wanting to share by giving to others who aren't so fortunate. At HopeStreet, we also like feeling that love and support, and receiving your donations every year is crucial for us because it means we can continue to give gifts of love and support to our inner city communities.

But something very strange happened last year with our 2010 Christmas Appeal. To date, we have received just 15% of the total donations that were given in the previous year's appeal, and honestly, we don't know why. We were confused when we saw the numbers, and are keen to understand what happened. Was there a specific reason that people chose not to support HopeStreet in 2010 or was it simply that people were just busy and overlooked the opportunity? Please let us know.

It's not too late to give and we still really need you to dig deep and help us out. We are committed to assisting those living on the margins of inner city Sydney and the last thing we want to do is now scale back programs

that are helping people who already experience so much disadvantage.

Did you know that if all our current supporters gave just \$2 a day that would increase our income by over \$700,000 per year! Isn't it amazing the difference just \$2 (less than the cost of a cup of coffee) can make when it is multiplied? And so we ask you, our faithful supporters, please take a moment right now and think about what you can afford to give because we can't afford to let this ministry down. Together we can make a real difference to the lives of people struggling with homelessness, poverty and social exclusion.

So here's what we need you to do today:

Ask God what he wants you to give and faithfully pledge that amount as a one off donation, or If you are able to give a monthly donation, that would be an even greater help.

Just go to the website or fill in the donation slip on the back page of this Newsletter to make your contribution. Donate today and help us to give our fellow Aussies the opportunity for real change this year.

MY YEAR AT HOPESTREET

By Amy Junor,
HopeStreet Intern 2010

How can I best describe 2010? A massive learning curve, to say the least. From the beginning of my internship with HopeStreet until my last day, there was rarely a dull moment.

I have found Hopestreet to be a diverse, complex and challenging group of people who have stretched my understanding of what it means to serve God and have shown me what it really means to love people unconditionally. I was inspired by the staff at each of the projects I visited, like the Women's Space, Glebe Community Development, and Urban Education. I also got involved in other bits and pieces including events, churches, fundraising and training days. And I'm especially

excited to keep journeying with the Imagine community beyond 2010.

HopeStreet's projects are unique and gave me the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life. The contrasts were just one of the great teachers of my internship, giving me a deeper insight into the complexity, colour and "aliveness" of these inner city communities. At times I felt as though I was jumping in the deep end but overall, the people I encountered along the way made the past year a real pleasure. There was a raw honesty about them that was so vibrant and beautiful. They taught me so many life lessons and the stories that they shared, particularly the stories of hope, will remain etched in my mind. They are stories of people who have overcome incredible trials;

people who make choices to leave experiences in the past and move forward; people who look out for each other, who visit each other and know and understand each other - this is what community should be about.

2010 has shown me the power of people working together to make their neighbourhood a better place to live, the ownership that this brings, and the empowerment that follows. The value of each and every person and their unique contribution is something that has inspired me to consider my own contribution to life and how I respond to what I have experienced at HopeStreet. The things I have heard, seen and learned this past year will stay with me. It has definitely changed the way I view life.

NEW FACES AT HOPESTREET



NAME: STEVE

I feel blessed to be part of the wonderful HopeStreet community. I have spent most of my career self employed, running a small advertising agency. I now enjoy the working experience that HopeStreet offers, being part of a dedicated and hard working team of people that really want to help the inner city community.

I enjoy boating, walking and being in nature. When I'm not doing these activities I like to read. Eva and I have been married for 28 years and she was instrumental in helping me to reorganise my working life after I retired from my advertising business.

With anticipation and good will my hope is that I continue to learn and grow at HopeStreet



NAME: AMANDA

Amanda joined the HopeStreet team in October 2010 as a support worker with the Employment Training Program.

“Having spent the last 18 years as a swimming coach, working primarily with people undergoing rehabilitation and people living with a disability, I feel well equipped for this role and excited about this opportunity.

I feared I was beginning to develop fins and gills as a result of the hours spent in the water each day so I decided to make the move to land. Whilst this has been a huge lifestyle change for me, I believe it was the right time – I was ready for a new challenge. I'm slowly getting to know everyone at HopeStreet and am finding my new role very enjoyable and fulfilling”.

THE POWER OF GOOD - BOOK REVIEW

The Power of Good, a compilation of Australian essays published by McCrindle Research.

From small acts of charity to selfless acts of kindness, The Power of Good, features seventy short, heart-warming true stories with contributions by prominent Australians, including comedian Jean Kittson, writer Peter FitzSimons, news presenter Tracey Spicer, Youth Off the Streets' Father Chris Riley, media personality David Richardson, Wayside Chapel's Reverend Graham Long, politician Pru Goward, Pulitzer Prize winner Geraldine Brooks, and many others. Among the 'many others' you'll even find a stirring story from HopeStreet's own Helen Dwyer. The book is an optimistic look at what can happen when we look past our own backyards and offer a helping hand to others.

McCrindle Research has also pledged a dollar from each book sold to the work of HopeStreet. Tell your friends!

RECOMMENDED FOR - Anyone who has ever offered to help for a good cause.

AVAILABLE - Online, just visit www.mccrindle.com.au/ publications



SUPPORTER'S SPOT

HOW HOPESTREET HOOKED ME...

By Kate Sowden

My interest in HopeStreet began in 2008 when I met Jo through a mutual friend. Jo and I hit it off right away and as we opened up about our lives, I learned about Jo's connection to HopeStreet. Jo is married to Mike Hercock, the pastor at Imagine church. Jo would share their HopeStreet stories and it was hard not to be inspired by the practical nature of their Christianity: the way they bring community together and the very real change that the ministry was bringing to the lives of people in the inner city.

Another connection that I already had with HopeStreet but had never really explored was through my Dad, who is one of the organisers for Ride

To The Top (an annual bike ride from Sydney to Mt Kosciusko that raises vital funds for HopeStreet).

The more I learned about HopeStreet and the needs of the local area, the more I felt compelled to not only find out more about the problem of homelessness but to actually do something that could have a positive impact. I got involved with the Ride To The Top committee, helping them with fundraising ideas, but still, I wanted to do more...

One night, while on holidays with Jo and Mike, the idea of HopeMonth came to me. Why shouldn't there be a whole month where Sydneysiders focus on the issue of homelessness? It seems to be an issue that is swept under the carpet, pushed into a

small area of the city to be forgotten. "Knowledge is power", as they say, and if we can become more aware of the issues facing Sydney's homeless and how long term programs can really help, then perhaps together we can make a real difference.

HopeMonth is a concept that I developed over the dinner table as I enjoyed a meal with a group of friends. I felt so convicted to do something to raise awareness and support for the work of HopeStreet that it seemed as though the whole city of Sydney should also be involved!

And so HopeMonth was born.

CELEBRATE HOPEMONTH WITH US THIS MAY

HopeMonth is a movement of people reinventing the idea of what it is to have friends over for a meal.

How exactly does the idea work?

The idea is simple. You just do what you were already going to do - invite a group of friends to come over to your place for a breakfast, lunch or dinner. You then cook up a feast (or get someone to cater) but either way, you will enjoy a good meal with friends. The difference is each person you invite makes a donation on the HopeMonth website to secure their place at your party and all proceeds go to the inspiring work of HopeStreet - Urban Compassion.

Hosting a HopeMonth meal is easy.

Think of a group of friends, colleagues or neighbours to invite to your place. Then just go to www.hopemonth.com and follow the prompts. Together, we can create hope at the dinner table.

Why is this something that Sydneysiders should host or attend?

Despite Australia's strong economy, there are still families across the country living in poverty.

Two million Australians now live below the poverty line; and each day one in every 200 Australians is homeless. Of the 105,000 Australians who are homeless right now, half are women and one quarter, children. Many live in Sydney's inner city.

HopeMonth happens in May every year. We want hundreds of brunches and dinner parties to happen this May to raise awareness and much-needed funds for fellow Aussies doing it tough, so tell your friends and start cooking!



HOPESTREET URBAN COMPASSION MISSION PARTNERS

PLEASE PRAY WITH US...

- > Give thanks for number of women coming to the Glebe Bible Study and beginning to form together as a fellowship group.
- > Pray for our Glebe Church services, for direction and new ideas.
- > Give thanks for conversations, connections and relationships formed in our Cafes each week.
- > Pray for those undergoing medical treatments at present, for the overstretched health care system - especially in areas of mental health care.
- > Pray that we will always have time for those we minister to within our communities.
- > Pray for the mentor programs that we will be establishing, that God will raise up the volunteers required.
- > Pray for wisdom and insight for Andrew Dawkins as he commences his new role as HopeStreet Director (formerly in an Interim role).
- > Pray for the homeless of the city as the cooler months draw closer.
- > Pray for financial support to increase over the next three months.
- > Pray for our HopeStreet Board Chairman, Prof. Cliff Hughes and the Board members in their strategic leadership role.

HOPESTREET APPEAL

Help us continue to bring hope to Sydney's streets

Donation amounts:

- \$25 \$50 \$100
 \$250 \$500 \$.....

I authorise HopeStreet Urban Compassion to automatically debit my charge card every month / quarter (tick appropriate) for the amount shown, until I revoke this authority in writing to HopeStreet Urban Compassion.

I enclose a cheque/money order made out to HopeStreet Urban Compassion for the amount shown, or
Please charge the amount to my card Visa / MasterCard

□□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____ Expiry Date _____ / _____

- Annual receipts - please send a receipt at the end of the financial year
- No receipt required
- I do not wish to be informed about the continuing work of HopeStreet

Surname
Rev/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr _____

First name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email address _____

Telephone _____

Name on tax receipt _____

DONATIONS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Please send this completed coupon to
HOPESTREET 91 Forbes Street
Woolloomooloo NSW 2011
Or Fax to (02) 9358 4128



WHAT'S COMING UP AT HOPESTREET

May – HopeMonth Create hope at your dinner table

HopeMonth is a movement of people reinventing the idea of what it means to have friends over for dinner....The idea is simple. You just do what you were already going to do - invite a group of friends to join you for a meal. You provide the food (cook it yourself, or order in!), but each diner makes a donation on the website to secure a seat at the table, and all those dollars you raise support HopeStreet.

June to August - Winter Appeal

Please support our Winter Appeal this year. Don't forget all donations above \$2 are tax deductible so if you get your donation in before 30 June, you won't have to wait long to claim part of it back.

28 August – City2Surf

Our City2Surf team is growing stronger each year and we want 2011 to be our best year yet. Keep an eye out for registrations and when you sign up make sure you build your Everyday Hero fundraising page and select HopeStreet – Urban Compassion as your charity. We'll be in touch with you once you've registered.

Please call 9358 2388 or visit www.hopastreet.org.au for details about these events.

THANKS, RIDE TO THE TOP TEAM

This March marked the 12th annual Sydney to Mt. Kosciusko "Ride To The Top". We're so grateful to the bike riders and can't thank them enough for the enormous support and awareness they have raised for HopeStreet over the years.

As we go to print, the ride had just finished and already over \$18,000 in donations had been

received which puts the team in a great position to smash last year's grand total of \$24,000.

If you're as inspired as I am by their efforts and wish to support the cause– just visit www.RideToTheTop.org and you can sponsor the team or an individual rider.

Thanks team, you're the best!



NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman of the HopeStreet Board, Professor Cliff Hughes AO, has just announced the appointment of Andrew Dawkins to the role of HopeStreet Director. Andrew's permanent appointment follows his term as Interim Director.

Congratulations Andrew!

