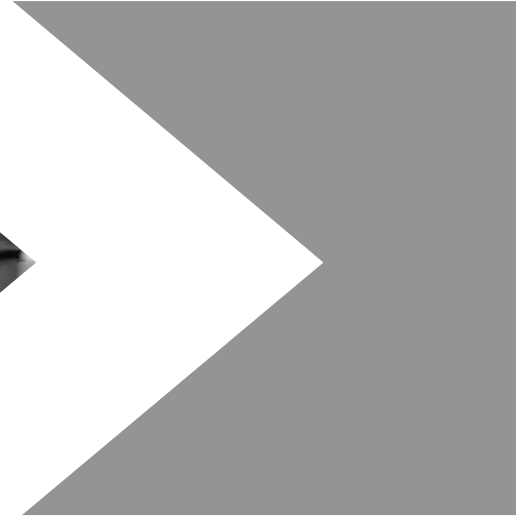


HOPE STREET

Summer 2008 NEWS



PROVIDING HOPE IN THE FACE OF CRISIS

Economic crisis, financial crisis, credit crisis; however you phrase it the doom and gloom associated with the current monetary climate is not good news. For many of the people HopeStreet walks alongside this is nothing new.

The Australian Institute of Health & Welfare¹ recently reported that two-thirds of public housing tenants were unemployed between March and April last year, with just 7 percent of tenants in full-time work. The report also found indigenous people and single parents were also over-represented among the nations 330,000 government supported households.

HopeStreet is present in the public

housing estates precisely because this is where most of the disadvantage and poverty occurs in Australian urban communities. For many within these housing estates finances were already extremely limited even before the economic slowdown.

This raises the question about what hope we can provide as finances are squeezed even further. Of course there is our benevolence cupboard and Op Shop which provide a welcome stop-gap for those that are really struggling to last until the next support payment. Longer-term HopeStreet provides employment training for those who are looking to move back into the job market. Short-courses on budgeting and managing finances are also appreciated by

those who are trying to make the little they have stretch that much further.

All these initiatives provide hope in the face of crisis. However, beyond these hope is shared by being an ongoing presence in the community; by being available to listen to the various struggles, and to journey with people through the up's and down's. At the end of the day people draw immense hope by knowing they are not alone in the face of crisis. Thank you for allowing HopeStreet to be your hands and feet to some of Sydney's most disadvantaged and marginalised people.

¹Labour force participation and employment in public rental housing in Australia', 24th October 2008 - <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications>

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**HOPE STREET**
URBAN COMPASSION

CONTINUING THE VISION OF RAWSON HOUSE

It has been important for us at HopeStreet to live amongst the people that we seek to serve whenever we can. In the inner city we face the challenge that outside public housing, real estate prices are very high. So we were thrilled when John and Dianna Rawson offered us their property in Bourke Street at cost.

Over the last five years, a series of "tentmakers" have supported themselves whilst getting involved in ministries at HopeStreet. Over the years, tentmakers have provided vital leadership to our churches in Woolloomooloo, Darlinghurst and in Glebe. They have reached out to people in the community through the employment training program, through support groups for people who are HIV+ and for ESL students, and through the Terrace.

The house has been a hub for heaps of community connections, lots of

BBQ's and yummy dinners, where people who are often left out have felt very welcome.

This year residents of the house have been part of the 2010 Church Plant (now called Imagine) through providing promotional skills, art exhibitions, music and connecting with residents at the Terrace.

The time has come when the Rawsons need to sell their property, so to continue this important part of our ministry we need someone sympathetic to buy it. We are trusting that there is a supporter or supporters who would be interested in buying the property and leasing it to HopeStreet for similar purposes under similar terms. We have already had some interest in forming a syndicate to do this. If you are interested in being involved please contact Colin on 8354 3120 or via email at director@hopestreet.org.au.



Rawson House in Bourke Street for which HopeStreet is seeking another owner or owners who can continue to support the vision of residential communities.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE 2008

HopeStreet has a wonderful opportunity each Christmas to bless the homeless and less fortunate in the housing estates with a Christmas Hamper. Of course, providing around 500 hampers would not be possible without the amazing support of churches, businesses, corporations and volunteers who donate all the goods and the time to sort and pack the bags. All the details for this year's Christmas Hamper Drive are on the News & Events page of the website at www.hopestreet.org.au.

Alternatively you can contact Fiona Simpson direct on community@hopestreet.org.au or 8353 9908.



RIDE TO THE TOP 2009

A bunch of committed cyclists have been riding from Sydney to Kosciusko each March for the past 14 years, with funds raised for various causes including HopeStreet more recently. The next ride being planned has a renewed focus on supporting the projects of HopeStreet.

The dates for the 2009 ride are March 7 - March 14, with the cost to each rider being \$450. Entry for the 2009 Ride to the Top is now open with a deposit of \$50 required by the end of November, and the balance due by the end of January. There is a maximum 24 riders so if you would like to experience the joys of this 6 day ride please contact the committee ASAP on ride2thetop@gmail.com.

URBAN EDUCATION AT HOPESTREET

Education is a vital part of our work and mission at HopeStreet. We believe that is vital to help people understand the issues of the inner city as they seek to get involved. We believe it's vital that we get to know people, not just facts, so our programs allow time to share stories and listen to others. Consistently we see schools, youth groups, church groups and ministry students changed by the experience of seeing what God is doing in the inner city first hand.

Here are six ways you can get to understand the city better:

- 1. Urban Orientation** – walking tours of the inner city that are free and occur on the third Sunday of each month;
- 2. Xpose Tours** - Xpose is a 24 hour long experience of homelessness. You'll eat and sleep on the streets as well as learning about the forces that push people to the margins in the city through walking tours, simulation games, and analysis of current data;
- 3. High School Program**
- HopeStreet offers a series

of provocative and inspiring presentations and guided walking tours designed specifically for high school students.

'Homelessness' unpacks an issue which affects 100,000 Australians through multimedia, simulation games and guided discussions. Homelessness and youth is given special focus.

'Life on the Edge' presents the forces of problem gambling, drugs and alcohol, sex work, runaway gentrification and mental illness with candour and compassion, and challenges us to contemplate what we value, individually and as a society;

4. Urban Internship - become an intern at HopeStreet and receive training, experience and mentoring from the team. Internships run for 6 or 12 months, and a scholarship is available for one person each year;

5. Residential Community - move in to our residential community, Rawson House, and make justice, compassion and hope a way of life; and

6. Ngage Intensive – a week long

learning experience that tackles the various aspects of Urban Ministry (April 2009).

To find out more about any of these programs, go to <http://hopestreet.org.au/ministriesProjects/urbanEducation.htm> or contact the Urban Education Coordinator Tim on 02 8354 3130 or via email at education@hopestreet.org.au.



STAFF PROFILE

NAME: Tim Kurylowicz

ROLE: Urban Education & Volunteer Coordinator

"I am 27 years old, married to Sophie and gaga about her. I live in a share-house in Surry Hills. I tend a beautiful, worm-filled compost heap which is the closest thing I have to a pet.

My professional background is as an actor, but these days I'm more interested in encouraging other people to tell their own stories than in acting them out myself.

I'm currently researching a masters degree which explores some pretty exciting connections between three of my passions: dramatic performance, Christian ethics and community development."

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

The most urgent need as we approach Christmas is funds to support HopeStreet's vital programs in the inner city. Our projects operate on a very tight budget, but still need costs covered for essential staff and resources. Every contribution makes a real difference!

Volunteer opportunities are updated every month on our website at www.hopestreet.org.au

Glebe Community Development are in need of a BBQ that will be used to host monthly community meals. Estimated cost is \$300. Please contact Brendan Wood on support@hopestreet.org.au or (02) 9358 2388 if you are able to assist with this need.

Thank you for the wonderful response to our last newsletter.

WHAT'S COMING UP AT HOPESTREET

December

15th & 16th - Christmas Hamper Drive drop off at Glebe
16th to 18th - Christmas Hamper sorting & packing at Glebe

January

18th - Urban Orientation

February

15th - Urban Orientation

March

1st - HopeStreet Sunday
7th - 14th - Ride To The Top
15th - Urban Orientation

April

18th to 23rd - Ngage Urban Ministry Course
26th - Urban Orientation

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

PRACTISING JUSTICE, COMPASSION AND HOPE IN THE INNER CITY

- > Homeless persons program
- > Employment training program
- > Community development
- > Safe house for women sex workers
- > Inner city gambling counselling
- > Christian fellowships

HOPESTREET CHRISTMAS APPEAL

HELP US BRING HOPE TO SYDNEY STREETS THIS CHRISTMAS

Donation amounts:

- \$45 \$135 \$500
 \$90 \$250 Other \$.....

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 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

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

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email address _____

Telephone _____

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

