

# our community IN FOCUS

Churches of Christ Care Newsletter • Christmas 2011



This Christmas we would like to ask all of our supporters to give a donation to assist with purchasing and distributing gifts to families and children. Your donations will assist not only in giving someone a traditional present, but can also be used to provide a Christmas lunch or dinner, or even something as simple as a phone card to call a loved one faraway.

We would also like to receive your Christmas messages to pass on to people in need. Even if you cannot give a donation of money, your gift of Christmas cheer and love can mean a lot to someone who is in need this Christmas.

“It means that many children in foster care will have a special gift to open on Christmas day.”

## Cheer for Care Pathways children on the Fraser Coast

Last year, residents, family and staff at Churches of Christ Care Fair Haven Maryborough and Fair Haven Hervey Bay Aged Care Services donated more than 100 gifts to Care Pathways. The array of colourfully wrapped presents was collected and placed under a large Christmas tree in the foyer of Fair Haven Maryborough over a three-and-a-half week period.

Lynda Summers, Aged Care Area Manager for Churches of Christ Care, said she was overwhelmed with the support shown from residents and staff at both aged care services.

“Everyone was so supportive and excited about donating the gifts, we will definitely make this an annual event” Ms Summers said.

“The residents in the independent living units also donated presents, and we asked them to write on the card the age and gender of the child suited to the gift.”

Churches of Christ Care Pathways

Service Manager Lisa Roberts said the gifts were given to foster children in care on the Fraser Coast.

“With such an extraordinary number of gifts donated, we were able to distribute them to many children,” Ms Roberts said.

“Christmas time is particularly difficult for our foster children, so it is great to be able to make it more pleasant for them,” she said.

“It means that for many children in foster care they will have a special gift to open on Christmas day.”

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By including Churches of Christ Care in your Will, you will leave a lasting legacy. When making a bequest, be it large or small, you will be helping support people in genuine need.

When making your bequest, consider how it will be used. Churches of Christ Care will follow all due diligence in completing the wishes set out in your Will. Alternatively you can make the gift available for 'general purposes' ensuring your gift will be directed to where it is needed most and will have the greatest impact on people's lives.

If you do decide to leave a gift to Churches of Christ Care in your Will and inform us that you have done so, you will also have the opportunity to become a member of the CRB Club. Named after one of the founders of Churches of Christ Care (Clive R Burdeu) the CRB Club is our way of recognising people leaving a bequest in the present and in the future.

To discuss leaving a bequest or for the correct wording, you or your solicitor/legal representative can contact us on 07 3327 1627 or email [bequests@cofcqld.com.au](mailto:bequests@cofcqld.com.au). Alternatively you can write to as at: Churches of Christ Care Bequests PO Box 508 Kenmore Qld 4069

## Making a difference

As 88 year-old Jean Bryan sat pondering the distribution of her estate once she passed on, her thoughts travelled back to the times in her life when she most needed help.

During World War II, while her husband served overseas, she had to reach out to her local community for help to care for her four children. The local church and charity groups were there for her, helping with meals and moral support during a tough time.

Even in her 80s, when she could no longer care for herself, she found comfort and care with the aged care community that she called home.

Jean knew that the aged care facility's services would be needed for longer

than her life – so after taking care of her family in her Will, she made provisions to leave a bequest so older people like her could continue to receive the same high quality of care.

**Jean's gift was her way of making an impact on her community – her legacy – even after she was gone.**

The money she left helped fund the refurbishment of the aged care facilities dining room and entertainment room. Fifteen years after Jean's death, the facility still remembers her and her generous bequest.

## Receive your FREE Personal Records book

There is so much we need to keep track of in this day and age – superannuation, investments, property ownership documents, insurance policies, medical history, family history... the list goes on.

The Personal Records book is a great tool to help you organise your important personal information and future wishes,

and assists you and your solicitor to work out your optimum estate plan for your Will. It is a great reference for yourself, and also for your loved ones should they need it in an emergency.

For your free copy of the Personal Records book, contact us on 07 3327 1627 or [communications@cofcqld.com.au](mailto:communications@cofcqld.com.au).





## Christine

For Christine, having a place to call her own means somewhere safe to sleep. It also means she has a home to welcome her sons to when they visit her.

Growing up on the Sunshine Coast, Christine had an unstable upbringing with her mother and father. Her parents were unable to provide her with an adequate home or the life she needed, and consequently she was adopted by her grandmother at the age of five. After she left her grandmother and moved to country Victoria, she spent many years working in odd jobs and fixing car motors - something she is passionate about. She also married there and had two sons while living in Victoria.

But after various life disturbances and ups and downs, Christine returned to Brisbane alone about three years ago. She had no where to go, almost no money and ended up living in a hostel on the outskirts of Brisbane.

**“It was scary. You couldn’t walk out of your room without seeing people bashing each other up on the stairs. There were drug addicts and drunks, and drug deals happened right in front of you. I was petrified.”**

“I lived in this hostel for two-and-a-half years in one tiny room; it was so small I could barely move. I still have scars from all the bed bugs that infested the beds. The kitchens were shared; the bathrooms were shared and were always dirty. It’s not a place that any woman – or anyone for that matter – should be. I really lived in fear.”

Christine was then assigned a social worker and was put on the social housing register. She was applying for various houses through different programs, but was unsuccessful.

“But then my social worker found out about a new Churches of Christ Care housing development. We applied for it and crossed our fingers. When I found out that I got it, I just couldn’t believe it. When I walked in here with my social worker on the first day, I could not have imagined the place would be this beautiful. I am so thankful; it has been an absolute blessing for me.

“The thing I love most about the place is having my freedom. I don’t have to walk outside and be scared. I don’t have to worry that my belongings are going to get stolen, or that there is going to be a fight outside my door. I was also given a new full sized fridge, microwave and some furniture to get me started.”

“It really means so much, and that is from the heart. Instead of being frightened, I am safe. I am doing things here I could never do otherwise. I can have my neighbours over for coffee. I still find it incredible that I have this place for myself.

“When my sons come to see me, they have somewhere to stay. I am so proud of them, they are both successful and happy. I can put a mattress on the floor and they can sleep here.

**It’s those simple things that I can now do, that I haven’t been able to do for so long, that I appreciate the most.**

“All the residents are very friendly. We are like a big family here.”

“Without this place and Churches of Christ Care I would not be here today. That’s the truth. I just hope we can get everyone’s support to help build more houses like these and to help more people get off the streets and out of hostels.”



If you have a fundraising idea or would like to discuss a project or need in your community, please call our Fundraising Coordinator on **07 3327 1627** or email **fundraising@cofcqld.com.au**



# Helping young people achieve their goals



## Churches of Christ Care Pathways Mackay/Whitsundays is celebrating its successes after helping two teenagers make their dreams a reality.

After running foul of the law at a young age, 16-year-old Liam found himself working through a probation order with youth justice. But after entering the Semi Independent Living Program this year, he has turned his life around. After completing a Certificate II in Construction, his TAFE teacher recommended him as a likely candidate to a prospective employer. The employer, impressed with Liam’s work ethic and results, is keen to take him on as an apprentice.

After her long-time kinship care placement broke down, 17-year-old Kathy has not let this deter her from succeeding at school. She could have used the turmoil moving from care to the residential Semi Independent Program as an excuse but she has become an active member of the school band and regularly performs at school functions and community events.

However, she sometimes feels disconnected from the other students as they are mostly well-off compared to her – she receives \$200 a week youth allowance from Centrelink. She worries about her financial future especially affording university.

But with the assistance and support of people who have generously donated to the “Happy Memories” appeal and Churches of Christ Care Pathways, Kathy attended her high school formal and has applied to QTAC to study Psychology.



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This newsletter is printed on 'Revive Pure Silk' – it is Certified Carbon Neutral and is 100% recycled. The pulp used is Process Chlorine Free and is manufactured by an ISO 14001 Certified mill.

Your message of Christmas cheer will be greatly appreciated by children and families in need this Christmas.

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## Support your community

First name	Surname	
Address	Postcode	State
Email address	Tel (H)	Tel (W)

Please accept my donation of:  \$25  \$50  \$100 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my cheque/money order payable to Churches of Christ Care. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Please charge my credit card  AMEX  Visa  Mastercard

Credit card number	Expiry date
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in receiving more information about leaving a bequest to Churches of Christ Care

Please send me my Personal Records book

Churches of Christ Care values your privacy and only collects your information to notify you of information and events related to our organisation. We will not pass your details to a third party. Should you wish to have your name and contact details removed from our records please phone 1800 600 900.

**Donate online at:**  
[www.care.cofcql.com.au](http://www.care.cofcql.com.au)  
 or send your donation to  
 PO Box 508 Kenmore Q 4069  
 or phone 1800 600 900

\*Due to privacy, images are representative only