

friends of

ORANA

Volume 8 Issue 1 February 2008

A Queensland Baptist Care Project

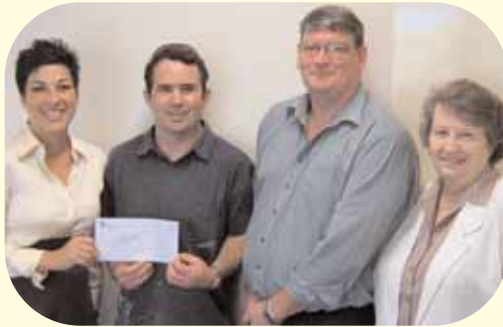


Orana Youth Shelter is a crisis and short-term accommodation facility for homeless and at risk young people aged between 14-18. It is funded through Department of Communities, Queensland Baptist Care and private and corporate sponsorship and is managed by Old Baptist Care.

Orana Youth Shelter

144 Bald Hills Road Bald Hills Queensland 4036 Email orana@qb.com.au Phone 3261 3969

Welcome to Friends of Orana



Lady Mayoress, Lisa Newman, presents a cheque to Dave McNair, Manager of Orana, on behalf of the Lord Mayor Community Trust Fund. The money will be used to pay for food. Paul Suffolk, Executive Manager and Helen Wallace were there to say thanks to the Lady Mayoress.

WELCOME Surviving day-to-day living on the street can be a tough existence as I was recently reminded in the 96.5FM/City Care's Street Sleep where I braved the elements and slept out for one of the

nights. Most homeless people who live on the street become nocturnal, as it is a lot safer to sleep during the day.

Basic necessities like health and hygiene are often taken for granted making it harder to break the cycle of homelessness.

In Brisbane alone there are an estimated 4000 people who survive on the street each and every day. It is staggering to think that 1 in 4 homeless people are young people. Very often these teens are not afforded the support of family and friends to help get them through this difficult time in their lives. For many, Christmas (when family reunions take place right across the country) is a difficult time as they may have fallen out of relationship with their own family – sometimes due to no fault of their own. It is important to remember that each one has a unique story – each one is 'someone's daughter or someone's son'.

Dave McNair, Program Manager

Staff Team Changes

In the last few months Orana has lost four weekend staff members who all contributed greatly to the program at Orana. Orana wants to thank Dave Hockey and Tammy Hynard for being a great weekend team that has worked well together. Orana also wants to thank Tracy Bishop who has been the Church Support person for this weekend and Georgina Claridge who has been the weekend Recreational worker who has covered both weekend teams.

Orana has decided to split the Recreational worker role into two alternative weekend positions to be more sustainable and gain a greater sense of team cohesion. Orana welcomes Matt Sampson as one of these workers and Amanda Pashen changes her



Nikki Brown



Amanda Pashen

alternating Youth Worker position to the other Recreational worker. In Amanda's place comes Jason Henry who moves from the alternative Church Support person and in his place Orana welcomes back Nikki Brown. The other church support person being Suzie Henry. Joining Matt on his weekend are alternating Youth Workers Christel Palmer and Dave Evans. This is a new look team with a great deal of experience and expertise in the field of working with homeless young people.



If you know someone who wishes to be added to the "Friends of Orana" list; if you wish to be removed from the mailing list; or if you wish to receive this newsletter via email, please call Dave at Orana on 3261 3969 or email manager@orana.qb.com.au

Sponsor a bed event



Peter Lindsay CEO receives a big cheque from Bonny Barry MP, Member for Aspley on behalf of the Department of Communities



Ian Ewin, former resident of Orana chats with Ken Maxwell MC



Mobile TY Competition



People texting to win a mobile phone



Michael Handcock chatting with Ken Maxwell



Stu Larsen entertaining the crowd

With a new look and new format the Sponsor A Bed Event at Westfield Chermiside in September last year was a great success. Orana's goal was to raise 315 Bed Sponsors (or 35 Bed Sponsors for each of Orana's nine beds across its two programs) to provide much needed operational funds. It costs Orana approximately \$142 a bed per night to provide support and accommodation to a young person. At the end of the event Orana reached around half of its needed Bed Sponsors, 123 in total which was a great achievement thanks in particular to a whole host of individuals and groups including the Dept of Child Safety and Dept of Communities. Orana greatly appreciates everyone who supported and got behind this event.

The live music from singer/song writer Stu Larsen and our inaugural MobileTY speed predictive text

challenge with a brand new mobile phone up for grabs set the tone for the event. 96.5FM also conducted interviews in the lead up to the event. There was a great line up of guests including former Brisbane Bronco Michael Hancock, Lord Mayor candidate Greg Rowell and Labour politicians Yvette D'Ath, Stirling Hinchliffe and Bonny Barry. Kris Foreman from Bracken Ridge Baptist Church shared how their youth group ran a 'Night Is Young' sleep-in at their local church to raise awareness of youth homelessness. But the event belonged to Ian Ewin a former resident from Orana who shared about his life on the streets and how Orana helped him to get his life back on track. It was very fitting that he took out first place in the MobileTY competition. Orana wishes him all the best in his future life. Ian showed us that each individual has a unique story to tell.



sponsor a bed
program

Orana Youth Shelter Providing accommodation and support to homeless young people

Would you like to sponsor a bed? Telephone Queensland Baptist Care on **3550 3737** or **3261 3969**

Homeless focus

With the newly elected Federal Government, there has been a recent focus on Homelessness with each member having to visit a homeless shelter in the first week to understand the turn away rates than many shelters face on a daily basis. In November Brisbane City Council and Volunteering Queensland held the third "Homeless Connect" event at City Hall. Homeless people were the guests of honour receiving access to free health and medical services as well as a whole range of other appropriate connections to services. This event has put Brisbane on the map. The front cover of November's edition of "QWeekend" focused on its main story of 'Streetlife' with this caption, "Welcome to the Smart State where 26,000 people are homeless; where any low-to-middle income family is three, maybe four, bad turns from the gutter." Of those 26,000 homeless people 1 in 4 is a young person between 12 to 18 years of age.

In the article by Trent Dalton, he interviews some of the unique characters living on the street and suggests that no one is immune from homelessness. "When people look at homeless people they should ask themselves: 'who do I know that could be in that situation, but for the fact that someone lent them \$1000 or provided them with a temporary form of accommodation or supported them at a dark time.'" Dalton further suggests that Queenslanders are now facing their darkest hours – on the street, primarily due to a housing crisis and a help yourself economy.

In Queensland the housing crisis is where 33,000 people wait to be allocated one of 64,787 housing commission homes, where only 1.5 per cent of private rental accommodation is available for the 50 strong people who battle auction style to secure these properties. Rents in the past five years have risen to record levels of between 22 to 44 per cent with the average weekly rent for a three bed-room house in Brisbane is \$325 a week. When you think that Centrelink payments are around \$420 a fortnight it makes a lot of rental accommodation out of the reach



of those receiving payments for one reason or another.

A young person starting out renting has many hurdles to jump over especially when they may have never rented before and therefore may not have any referees. Real estates or owners of property are more likely to favour other people over them due to their age and rental inexperience. Many young people are forced into house sharing given the high cost of renting and even this is fraught with danger. If there are any problems this could affect their long term rental record. The situation is made even worse if a young person is homeless and does not have the support of family. Many young people choose to live longer with their parents so they can save money, but homeless young people are not afforded that luxury. They are forced to fend for themselves transitioning between various places of accommodation.

Praise and Prayer points

For those of you who pray, please pray for:

- Give thanks for the staff who have recently left Orana and for the contribution they have made. Pray for the new staff of Matt, Christel, and Dave as they learn about how Orana works and operates and that they develop a good rapport with both residents and other staff.
- Give thanks for the 'Teeing Off For Homeless Teens' Golf Day in November and for everyone who was involved on the day making it a great networking event.
- Give thanks for the 'Sponsor A Bed Event' in September and for everyone who got behind that event. Give thanks for all the new Bed Sponsors and that Orana now has just under half the bed sponsors it needs.



The Night is Young by Kris Foreman

Over the past few months youth leaders from "Delirious" (Bracken Ridge Baptist Church Youth group) had been thinking about how they could challenge their youth to take Jesus' call to love and serve homeless people seriously. Around the same time Dave McNair from Orana House contacted Delirious suggesting they hold a "sleep out" as a way of raising awareness about homelessness and raising funds for Orana House. It was an idea they enthusiastically embraced and the result was "The Night is Young" held on Friday night, Aug 24. What follows is a report on the night by Delirious Leader Kris Forman.

Our suburban setting meant the "sleep out" needed to be a "sleep in"- inside the church building (due to noise), so we faced the challenge of needing to simulate an "on the streets" environment inside a contained building. A few measures helped us create this:

We started the night with an enlightening video that included stories and experiences from several tenants at Orana House, as well as comments from Dave McNair. It also included the testimony of Kenny Gosso, a young man who spent time on the streets

and also in prison as a result of the trouble his time on the streets got him into. This launched a discussion on the issue of homelessness and especially what some of the challenges that homeless people face are.

We then held a Bush Dance, that besides raising funds, helped the youth appreciate how uncomfortable it can be to be sweaty and smelly but have no access to a shower to clean up before bed.

After a 9pm soup kitchen we issued a ban on all food & drink and at 10pm it was bed-time. Though "bed-time" really isn't the right term. You'd hardly call what we allowed "bedding". There were no blankets, no sleeping bags, no pillows and no teddy bears (unless they had a letter from their mum). All we allowed were sheets of butcher's paper and some thin cardboard. Most of the youth didn't sleep during the night both because the other youth wouldn't let them, but also because they just couldn't get comfortable tucked up under a sheet of butchers paper on a pillowless, carpeted concrete floor.

Being inside gave us the advantage of having a Sound System at hand and thus we interrupted the night

several times with canned sounds of trains driving past and traffic honking by too. It went down well!

After many long hours of lying, sitting, wandering and squirming without sleep we brought to "stay-out" (renamed from "sleep out" by this time since almost no-one slept!) to an end with a time of reflecting on the night. The tired-looking youth largely agreed that the "stay-out" helped them empathize at least a little with homeless people and the challenges they face. Some of the challenges they identified were safety/theft concerns, communication (no electricity to charge mobile phones, no internet, no car), warmth (in winter), bathing/toileting, food and protection from the elements. When finally asked "what do you think of being homeless?" one girl, Rebecca, captured the opinion of most of the group with her answer; "It Sucks!"

If your church youth group or young adult group is interested in doing a 'Night Is Young' Sleepout we would love to hear from you and provide you with a starter kit. Orana thanks Ashgrove, Keperra and Bracken Ridge Baptist Youth Groups for kicking off the Sleep Out Events in its first year.

sponsorabed program



Thank you to all our Bedsponsors for your ongoing support. You are an invaluable part of the team. If you are not a Bedsponsor, why not become one today. For just \$1.50 a day you will make a difference in the life of a young person. You will also receive your own copy of *Bedsponsor*, a quarterly Newsletter written exclusively for Bedsponsors.



For more information please contact Orana on 32613969 or email orana@qb.com.au



Cup a Soup for Homeless

The week of 20-27 July Australians will be encouraged to have a Cup a Soup to raise funds on behalf of the homeless. Satchels of soup will be provided by Continental Cup a Soup in exchange for a gold coin donation.

Baptist churches, home groups, work places, schools and businesses are encouraged to order satchels of soup and instead of a cup of tea or coffee, have a cup of soup instead to help out the homeless.

Money raised in Queensland will go to fund QBC's youth programs: Orana Youth Shelter, Orana Transition House, Southside Education Centre, Glendyne Education & Training Centre, and the Yeppoon Youth Centre.

To order your free satchels of soup, call Elaine on 3550 3737. For more information, look at our web site www.qbc.com.au and look for National Soup Day.

Thanks to all those who provided recent support for Orana through donations of money, parcels of food and Christmas presents.

Recent Donors

The Grange Baptist Church
North Pine Community Baptist Church
Bridgeman Baptist Church
City North Baptist Prayer Circle

The Gap Baptist Church
Clontarf Baptist Church
Clayfield Baptist Church
Bracken Ridge Baptist Church
Graeme Draper
Barbara Fulker
Fred and Ivy Simon
Greg Thompson
Louise Lloyd - Clayfield Baptist Church
Brownesholme Village
The Nurses CC Unit Prince Charles

Hospital
Lynne Matthews
Matt & Leanne Bigg - City North Baptist Church
Shaun Horn
Maxine Brasch
Guides Association - Aspley Trefoil Guild
Narelle & Kevin Town
Mr & Mrs G Ansell
Kristen Ellis



Teeing off for homeless teens

In late November Orana had its 1st 'Teeing Off For Homeless Teens' Golf Day at Virginia Golf Club. The aim of the event was to have a fun social and networking event that would raise the profile of Orana. Ten teams participated and we thank everyone who was a part of the event. In particular I want to thank Terry Young from Drummond Golf Lawnton who helped us out with prizes on the day. Ian Jones, the creator and illustrator of

'The Pearly Gates' Comic Strip was our guest speaker. He talked about how only a creator of a character can truly understand and convey that character with all their emotions, thoughts and expressions. He compared it to the way in which God knows us and wants to relate to us, his creation. From the general consensus it seemed like people were keen to have another event so we have tentatively booked in for 21st November 2008. This will be confirmed closer to the event.



Guest speaker Ian Jones



Facts and figures...

This number place was spotted in a shopping centre



In the 1st half of 2007, we accommodated 96 young people. 30% had been out of home for a year or more (11% out of home for the first time). 24% of the young people were referred to Orana because of relationship and family breakdown. 19% referred from rent-free accommodation (17% from crisis accommodation), 29% living at the time with unrelated persons. 28% of the total young people accommodated came from single parent families. 30%

claimed to have experienced domestic violence and 26% physical violence and emotional abuse. 28% claimed to have offended in the past and 23% claimed to have abused substances in the past. 31% of the total youth accommodated were attending school. 247 young people were turned away during this half of the year due to lack of accommodation available.

Bed Sponsors... (a number of sponsors have multiple sponsorships)

Vicky Alley
 Alwyn Peffer & Company
 ANZ Bank Staff - Virginia
 Aspley ALP EEC
 Bonny Barry MP
 Greg Bean
 Donald Beck
 Bidvest Brisbane
 Bridgeman Baptist Community Church
 Tim & Catrina Carroll
 Belinda Chilton
 Steve & Liz Cichocki
 Steve & Monica Courtney,
 Courtney Quality Meats
 Curves Strathpine
 Michael Dean
 Department of Child Safety
 Department of Communities

Mr Henri Du Toit
 Dominique & Karina Duhme
 Ashley Forbes
 Helen Ford
 Lillian Gander
 Dr Frank Golik
 Stirling Hinchliffe
 Gavin Hulcombe
 Inner Wheel Club of Strathpine
 J.J. Richards & Sons Pty Ltd
 Mrs Betty James
 Kedron Wavell Services Club Inc
 Ian Kendrick
 Jason Langer
 David & Debra McNair
 Merrin & Cranston Architects
 Noterom Pty Ltd
 Peter O'Sullivan

Oxley Nursing Service
 Oxmar Properties
 Phil Burgess Associates Pty Ltd
 Pine Rivers Locksmith
 Programmed Maintenance Services
 Saunders Havill Group
 Noel & Noeline Shackleton
 Jason Shannon
 South Pine Community Church
 Sarah Sweeney
 Talbot Hotel Group
 Thinc Projects
 Brad & Mary-Anne Thorn
 Mr & Mrs S Vidler
 Peter & Hazel Walsh
 Windsor Road Baptist Church

Orana Youth Shelter Donation Pledge Form



I / We are pleased to pledge support for Orana Youth Shelter through its "Sponsor A Bed" campaign.

I / We wish to make payment of our donation as follows:

Single (1) donation of \$500 Half Yearly (2) donations of \$250

Quarterly (4) donations of \$125 Monthly (12) donations of \$42

The first donation is to be made in the month of 2008.

OR I would like to give a One off donation of \$

I enclose my cheque/money order for my donation of

I authorise Queensland Baptist Care to debit my Credit Card.

Master Card Visa Card Amex

Card No

Name on Card Exp Date

Signature x

Address Details (Please Print)

Name

Address

Post Code Phone No.

Email

To make your donation complete this coupon and send to Queensland Baptist Care PO Box 6166 Mitchelton Qld 4053 or Telephone 07 3550 3737 with your credit card details.

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