

# Flourish

LifeCare Newsletter  
Dec 2016



Helping people in tough places flourish

# An incredible year of lives **transformed**



Left to right: Gail Thannhauser, COO LifeCare; Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Minister for Employment, Minister for Women; Julia Banks, Member for Chisholm; Christina Lim, Head of Services, LifeCare.

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Lifecare offers such warm and embracing support for those in need in our community. It is a wonderful institution because of the passion and dedication of the people who run the organisation and the heartfelt volunteer support.

— **Julia Banks,**  
Member for Chisholm

My heart is full of joy as we celebrate the incredible year we've had at LifeCare. We've seen lives transformed from anguish and hardship to lives that are flourishing emotionally, socially, economically and spiritually. We've seen relationships restored, children grow in resilience, cycles of abuse and poverty broken and people empowered with life skills, community and hope! We've helped nearly 800 people and have witnessed 31 people make first time faith commitments! What a blessing to know that we are making a difference in the lives of those who are most in need!

As this year comes to a close, we give thanks for the lives transformed. However, we recognise that we face growing social challenges. Thanks to you, our supporters, we now have a fantastic new building to facilitate an even stronger impact in our community. **We couldn't do it without your kindness and selfless generosity - those of you who pray for us, volunteer your time and give financially.** To all of you who have teamed up with LifeCare to reach out to the most vulnerable in our community, please accept my heartfelt thanks. **With your support we are able to show the love of Christ in practical ways!**

Have a blessed Christmas!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'G Thannhauser'.

**Gail Thannhauser**  
Chief Operating Officer

P.S. As you read the inspiring stories of lives transformed, please prayerfully consider how you can show faith in action. For more information, visit [crosswaylifecare.org.au](http://crosswaylifecare.org.au)

Sharing the true meaning of Christmas  
with over 200 people at our B-Together  
Christmas celebration



Here is a preview of some of the exciting events coming in **2017**.  
Mark your calendar and bring your friends along to share what we  
are doing together to help those most in need in our community!

## March

5<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>

**LifeCare  
\*Sundays**

19<sup>th</sup>

**LifeCare Centre  
GRAND OPENING**



5<sup>th</sup>

**August**

**Flourish  
GALA DINNER**



15<sup>th</sup>

**October**

**Melbourne  
MARATHON**



# Together we're helping people in tough places flourish

## Support for Ellie

Ellie\* a single mother, struggled to provide for her five children, aged between five and sixteen. She couldn't keep up with the cost of daily living and had gone into debt to pay her bills.

Through LifeCare's financial care program, Ellie received practical advice on managing her finances. She took control of her situation, set up payment plans and paid off her debt. With a well-managed budget, Ellie was even able to save for a family weekend with her kids. "The best part of the program was having someone to talk to about money concerns. I felt inspired and supported immensely." Because of the generosity of LifeCare's supporters, families like Ellie's have the support they need and hope for the future.



## Lisa is Loving Life

Three years ago, Lisa\* came to LifeCare feeling angry and hurt: "I hated this world and I felt like God hated me." Lisa starved herself to the extent of clinical anorexia. One day, she consumed an entire bottle of vodka to numb the pain and ended up in hospital. It was at this point that Lisa cried out to God for help.

Lisa found LifeCare to be a place where she could be completely open and honest, without feeling judged. Through her counsellor, she developed better understanding of herself. "I have come a very long way. I am loving life and I have a wonderful relationship with God. I have started eating healthier. God has done a huge amount of work in me." Lisa is now working in aged care as she wants to give back to the community and serve others.



## Hope for Danny

Danny\* grew up in Vietnam and was only an infant when his mother, Mary, broke away from an abusive relationship. Danny never knew his father. Although life in Vietnam was challenging, Mary worked hard to provide for Danny. When Danny was a teenager, they moved to Australia and life became even harder. Not only did they struggle with finances, they frequently fought as Danny struggled to fit into our Australian culture.

In desperation, Mary contacted LifeCare. Through the COACH program, Danny was matched with a mentor who helped him build positive relationships and get the best out of himself. Within a short time, Mary noticed an improvement in Danny's confidence and in his academic results. Thanks to LifeCare's supporters, both Danny and Mary found hope and are now flourishing.



\*Names have been changed to protect privacy.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

**Jeremiah 29:11**



# LifeCare **Classic Hollywood** Ball

LifeCare's annual fundraising ball was a big success in 2016, with over \$80,000 raised from ticket sales, auctions, and donations! In a fun-filled evening hosted by Fiona Hall, three hundred guests came in Classic Hollywood style and walked the red carpet to support and celebrate lives transformed. Guest speaker Kevin Bailey encouraged everyone to reach beyond success to achieve significance as he shared his personal story and his passion to give back to the community.

Flourish awards were given out to several participants whose lives have been transformed by LifeCare. We heard many amazing stories, including that of Sam.\*

Sam had been involved in an outlaw motorcycle club for over four decades. When his

daughter Zoe\* was born, he knew that he needed to sever ties with his past and start afresh for her sake. Sam paid a high price for leaving the club. He was beaten up and occasionally got into trouble with the police because of his history. One day, Sam felt desperate and without hope. He drove around aimlessly for help and came to Crossway LifeCare. Through LifeCare's support, his life began to be transformed.

Sam found healing and hope. He put his faith in Jesus and found friends who walked alongside him through the darkest times. Crossway and LifeCare have become a significant part of Sam and Zoe's lives.

\*Names have been changed to protect privacy.

“  
**I am now volunteering and helping out in LifeCare in whatever ways I can. I often wonder how many more “Sams and Zoes” are out there grasping for hope and direction in their life. How I wish they can all come to know what Zoe and I came to know - that is Crossway LifeCare.**  
”

— **Sam,**  
**Flourish Award Winner**



Donated by Adele and Steward Rooke for the silent auction, this 1959 Pink Cadillac was a highlight, in the Classic Hollywood theme!



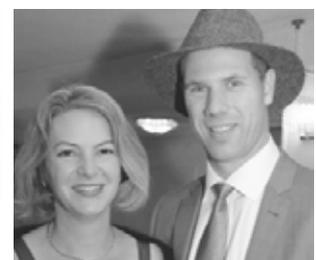
Kevin Bailey



Fiona Hall



Senior Pastor Dale & Pastor Edi Stephenson



Jodie Green & David Green



## You can walk, run and fundraise for LifeCare!

For the fourth year in a row, LifeCare finished number one on the Melbourne Marathon leader's board! Seventy-one passionate supporters walked, ran and raised over \$25,000 for people who are doing it tough in our community. We spoke with one of our highest fundraisers, Wanda Lee, about why she supports the work of LifeCare.

"I participate in this ministry as it means a lot to someone who needs counselling, coaching, etcetera," she said. "LifeCare can change someone's life. On the other hand, it is also a good platform to evangelise."

Together with the ladies in her Life Group, Wanda walked 3km to fundraise for LifeCare. "I really enjoy the walk with my sisters-in-Christ and I really appreciate support from my home country, they have supported me for a good cause."

So, would she do it again?

"Certainly will! And I'd like to encourage anyone who is thinking of supporting LifeCare's work with the verse from Matthew 10:42 "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."



To find out how you can fundraise for LifeCare, go to  
**[crosswaylifecare.org.au/get-involved/fundraise](https://crosswaylifecare.org.au/get-involved/fundraise)**

# Meet some of our **passionate** supporters

## The Cuddon Family

Dave and Katrina Cuddon have been a big part of LifeCare from the very beginning. Dave supports the work of LifeCare through work place giving and is also a volunteer with the LifeCare B-Empowered program. Katrina volunteers in the Prayer Ministry program. Their children, Steph and Lachie recently raised funds for LifeCare and ran in the Melbourne Marathon. Here, Dave shares what inspired his family's journey and their support for LifeCare.

"We have been financially supporting LifeCare from the beginning through our offering at Church. I have also been involved in the Financial Care team since its inception after completing the initial COACH training with my wife, Katrina. I believe that LifeCare is there to serve

people who are struggling. We don't just give people handouts, we try to equip people with the knowledge, skills and encouragement they need to work their way out of their situations.

"My passion and my calling are to help people who are struggling become more confident in what they are doing. Being a part of the LifeCare team offers a personal sense of achievement from helping people in need. It is a great way to give back to the community and provides lifelong friendships.

"I would encourage anyone to consider being a part of the LifeCare team. It is a great place to be actively involved in the ministry of the church. Through giving, volunteering or praying, you can change someone's life and help them flourish."



"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

**Matthew 5:16**

## Jodie's Heart for Women in Our Community

Jodie serves at the LifeCare Women's Centre as part of the team supporting single women and children who are survivors of domestic violence and abuse.

"I have been volunteering in the Women's Centre and it has been great to see the women grow and flourish through the Centre. I love seeing how 'care' is made real in such hands-on and practical ways," Jodie said.

Jodie shared that she has been blessed by the women she has met. "One really fond memory is of a time when some of the women shared their life stories - I laughed and cried and was so moved by their

honesty and the amazing healing they were experiencing."

"The staff and volunteers have taught us a lot about perseverance and trusting God. Being a part of LifeCare helps us put our desire to serve into practice, and not do it on our own!"

**At LifeCare we take to heart God's call to love and serve the marginalised in our community. LifeCare is making a real difference in the lives of people who live in our local neighbourhood, so join the team and get involved in whatever capacity you are able!**



A child survivor of domestic abuse drew this beautiful picture of the LifeCare Women's Centre.



## Julie's Passion to Serve

When she first heard about COACH at a Crossway service, Julie was inspired to become part of LifeCare's ministry. Her first thought was, "I could be a coach!" Julie recognised that there were people struggling in the community and she could see LifeCare reaching out to them in many ways.

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**People are usually interested to hear of my past work as a coach - they are often surprised that it is not a difficult task - really, just being there for someone who needs to know you are there for them, without judgment, but also who is committed to being a friend to them for the course of the coaching term.**  
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It was a natural progression for Julie to support LifeCare's work financially. "I am thankful that I am able to make a regular monthly donation by direct debit - I don't really notice that amount being taken out of my bank account, but when I think about it, I am happy to be helping and supporting."

## Become a COACH or LifeCare Volunteer

You can make a positive difference in the life of a family, young person or child experiencing hardship. On going commitment: 1-3 hours a week.

Expressions of interest:

**[coach@crosswaylifecare.org.au](mailto:coach@crosswaylifecare.org.au) or 9886 3899**



## How you can be involved



### Pray

Your prayers are powerful and an important part of LifeCare's ministry. Please pray with us daily for the community we serve, the lives we touch and the good news we share.



### Donate

Your monthly gift today will bring healing and hope to children, individuals and families who are struggling in our community. Your donations today can make a real difference in someone's life and help them flourish.



### Volunteer

Share your time, passion and skills to help LifeCare reach out to more people in need. From one-off volunteer roles to ongoing positions, we have something for everyone.

**For more information:**

**[crosswaylifecare.org.au](http://crosswaylifecare.org.au)  
2 Vision Drive, Burwood East  
Victoria 3151  
9886 3899**