

Hope of New Beginnings for Marginalised Women

According to the movies, women in the sex industry are beautiful, empowered and sassy individuals, who love the adventure and freedom of the work. The sad truth is that prostitution is far removed from this glossy image. For twelve years, in a small terrace house near Kings Cross, the staff of The Women's Space have offered friendship, acceptance, and hospitality to street-based sex workers. For the women that come the daily reality is about juggling the chaos of drug addiction, symptoms of post-traumatic stress and other mental health issues, ongoing violence, pregnancy, as well as the economic necessity

of sex work. Many have lived with abuse and exploitation for years, often beginning in childhood.

During open house times the women are free to drop in to do their laundry or to make some breakfast. Others may watch a movie, or access a referral to a detoxification program. Over time many come to share their stories of sorrow and despair.

Kerry provides a voice for all the women when she comments, "Some days I feel like I'm sitting behind a brick wall. On other days it's more like a vicious roller coaster I'm on, that I can't get off!"

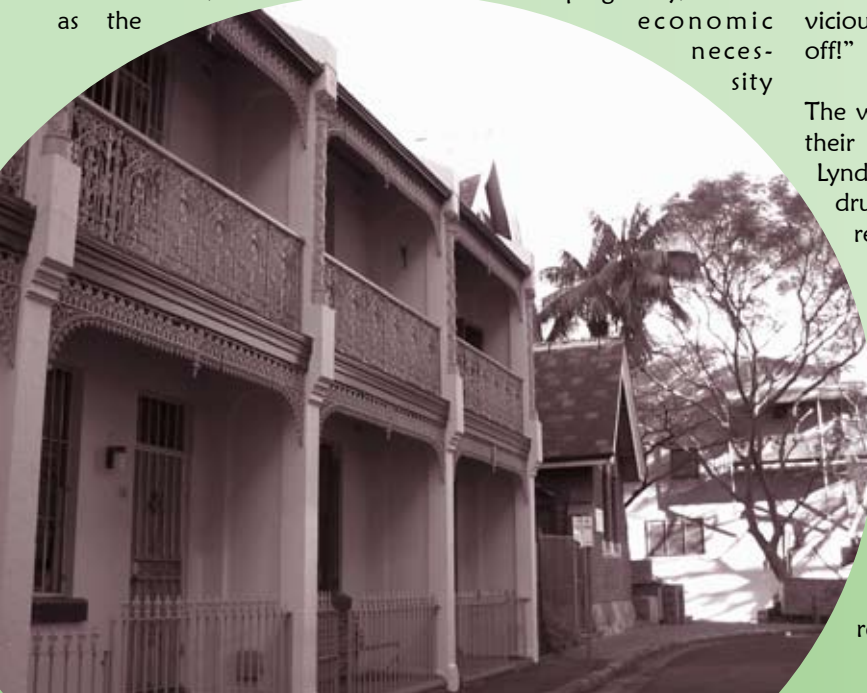
The women also come to talk about their hopes and healing journeys.

Lynda, who has just given up drugs, adds, "I have gained direction towards rehabilitation here and the staff have been gentle, kind, and comforting at the right time. I am learning to accept myself as I am at The Women's Space."

We believe it is the persistent love of God, expressed in simple and practical ways, which can help to bring a transformed picture of reality. This persistent love of God
continued page 2...

inside this issue

- Fun Run & Walk
- HopeStreet Celebrates 24 years
- A Gift That Lasts
- HopeStreet says Thanks
- Current Needs



Practising justice, compassion and hope in the inner city

Homeless persons program

- Long-term semi-supported accommodation
- Support and assistance for homeless people

Employment training program

- Cleaning service
- Job placement

Community development

- Direct benevolent assistance and food relief
- Op shops, drops-ins and community centres
- Aboriginal community work

Safe House for women sex workers

- Outreach, drop-in, and support

Inner city gambling counselling

- Individual counselling, support groups
- Deaf and NESB access

Church planting

- Glebe community church
- Relationship and individual counselling
- Woolloomooloo Baptist fellowship
- Street church and breakfast
- 2010 church plant

...continued from front page.

also encourages us, in the face of overwhelming sadness, to maintain hope. We have learnt to keep looking with a fresh perspective, and to keep embracing the small glimmers of light in each woman's life.

Staff at The Women's Space have noticed that many women seem to come out of detoxification programs and have nowhere to go. They are often alienated from family and have few 'straight' friends who will support them in a new life. They can quickly end up back on the streets, beginning the vicious cycle once again. With much prayer, and in consultation with key stakeholders in the inner city, HopeStreet believes that a residential facility is needed as a second stage to the program. This will help to provide more intensive support to a small number of women who are ready for the next step.

We hope a longer-term supported home environment will help to bring the secure foundation women need to get off that roller coaster and make sustainable and life-affirming changes. It will enable the women to be stabilized in their general and mental health, and receive further drug and

alcohol rehabilitation as well as therapeutic counseling. They will also have access to significant educational opportunities and job training. The original vision for The Women's Space always included a second stage, and our current service will continue to provide an important and wide range of support.

We know this is a bold endeavour, and that there are some major hurdles to overcome in setting up the project like this. However, we are hopeful about the possibilities that are beginning to emerge, and we wanted to share our dreams for The Women's Space with you at this time. Thank you for your continuing prayer and support as we seek to take the next step in this exciting journey.

For more information about The Women's Space stages 1 and 2 please contact HopeStreet at support@hopestreet.org.au.

**Lauren McGrow, Women's Space Coordinator,
HOPESTREET - Urban Compassion**

Supporters Hit the Streets

for the 5th Annual

**fun
run
& walk**

The annual fun run & walk event really is great fun for those involved. This year we had teams from Minter Ellison Lawyers, Bain & Company, Toongabbie Christian School, and Baptist Community Services, as well as a bunch of keen individual entrants. Once everyone had made the trek from Glebe to Woolloomooloo we were able to enjoy ice-creams, a fabulous BBQ breakfast, and some wonderful music from the One Debt Owed brass band. All funds raised through the fun run event go towards supporting HopeStreet's projects with those doing it tough in the inner city.

A huge thank you to our generous sponsors of this event, with particular appreciation to Louise Palmer from Bain & Company who organized all the food for the BBQ.

Thanks also goes to:

- Street's/Unilever for yummy ice-creams and the ice-cream trolley
- Frucor Beverages for the bottled water that kept our participants refreshed
- Table For 20 who donated a dinner for two;
- The Wiggles Merchandise store for the amazing Wiggles Charity pack;
- Dolphin Watch in Jervis Bay for donating a number of gift voucher's;
- Everyday Hero online fundraising;
- Gordon Baptist Youth for their help on the BBQ; and

- Toongabbie Christian School for helping mark out the course.



Celebrating 24 years of HopeStreet



We celebrated 24 years of HOPESTREET - Urban Compassion on Friday 23rd June with Common Ground, Sydney's Homeless and Street Band, providing the entertainment. Bubbles filled the Campbell St Surry Hills venue as Tanya Plibersek (local member for Sydney) opened the art exhibition, which was entitled "Water of Life". A record number of paintings filled the venue with many comments about an even higher standard of art than the previous year. Displays from each of the HopeStreet projects punctuated the art, giving viewers a glimpse of our projects on the ground. In the formal part of the evening we heard from Koh Sun Hui who spoke of the welcome she had received in joining the Glebe church and the opportunities for serving in the community that this had opened up, from Adam who through gambling and relationship counselling and living at The Terrace had found new stability and hope in his life, and a letter was

read from a women who drops in at the Womens Space, in which she said, "This is the only place where I am treated like a human and that has kept me sane". Other highlights were the great increase in visitors to the Women's Space this year, the great level of participation amongst the Glebe congregation and the first outreach initiative from 2010 - HopeStreet markets. Sondra Kalnins was honoured for her 10 years service with HopeStreet and after hearing Tanya Plibersek exclaimed, "That is radical!". We are thankful for the to serve God and people in the inner city. Join us on June 20 for our staff affirmation prayer, radical opportunity we have Celebration 2008!



Wills and Bequests *A Gift That Lasts*

Remembering HopeStreet in your will ensures an ongoing legacy for those most often left out. To make a bequest, the appropriate wording is as follows:

I give:

- a) the sum of \$.....; or
- b).....% of my estate; or
- c) the rest and residue of my estate

to the Baptist Union of NSW for the exclusive use of HOPESTREET - Urban Compassion, for the general purposes of HOPESTREET - Urban Compassion, and I direct that the receipt of the Secretary or other proper officer of that Union shall be sufficient discharge to my executors for this bequest.

Please supply this wording to your solicitor to compliment their professional advice. HopeStreet would appreciate being notified of your intentions for our encouragement and future planning. Details of your intended gift can be sent to Laurie via admin@hopestreet.org.au, or by calling our office on 02 9358 2388.



Black Stump

Visit HopeStreet at this year's Black Stump festival by coming to our stall in the Village, or to either of two workshops we will be running over the weekend.

Current Needs at HopeStreet

HopeStreet relies on donations and goods in kind to keep our overheads as low as possible. A few of the current needs include:

- A digital camera with at least 4 megapixels and 6x or more optical zoom (our previous one is broken)
- Computers that are minimum Pentium IV or equivalent with minimum 512 megabytes of RAM.
- A compact dishwasher for the Back Shed Cafe at Woolloomooloo
- A tradesperson is required for electrical and plumbing upkeep at a couple of our locations.

Please contact Brendan Wood on 02 9358 2388 if you are able to assist with any of these needs.

Annual Report 2006/2007

Now Available

We are pleased to advise that the Annual Report for 2006/2007 is now available. To save on mailing and printing costs this report can be accessed online at www.hopestreet.org.au, and by visiting the News & Events page.

Alternatively, you can request an Adobe PDF version of the report by emailing Brendan at support@hopestreet.org.au. For those that prefer a hard copies please call 02 9358 2388 for a report to be mailed to you.

Coming up at HopeStreet

2007

SEPTEMBER

- 14 - Business Networking Luncheon
- 16 - Urban Orientation
- 28 to 1 Oct - Black Stump

OCTOBER

- 21 - Urban Orientation
- 27 & 28 - Xpose Glebe

NOVEMBER

- 18 - Urban Orientation

2008

MARCH

- 2 - HopeStreet Sunday

JUNE

- 20 - Annual Celebration

AUGUST

- 3 - Fun Run & Walk

Thank you from HopeStreet



The response to this year's Winter Appeal was such an encouragement to the staff and volunteers at HopeStreet. Your generosity allowed HopeStreet to reach out to many who were doing it tough in what was at times a very cold and wet season.

Donations to the Benevolence Cupboard were also very timely and much appreciated. One delivery arrived just an hour before a family in need arrived on our doorstep. While we couldn't give the money that was requested, we were able to bless this family with a large hamper full of quality food and other goods.

This Spring we are encouraging our supporters to consider regular giving to HopeStreet. A regular monthly or quarterly gift to HopeStreet communicates your commitment to this work and keeps our administration costs to a minimum. Please tick the appropriate box on the donation form below to authorise your regular donation to HOPESTREET Urban Compassion.

I want to offer hope this Spring

Name Rev/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr.....
 Address.....
Postcode.....
 Daytime Phone Number.....
 Email.....

\$50 \$100 \$500 Other.....

Visa Mastercard

Credit card number
 _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry Date ___ / ___

Name of cardholder.....

Signature.....

1. I authorise HopeStreet Urban Compassion to automatically debit my charge card every Month Quarter for the amount shown, until I revoke this authority in writing to HOPESTREET - Urban Compassion

OR
 2. Please debit my charge card with a one-off payment for the amount shown.

OR
 3. Please find a cheque or money order made out to HOPESTREET - Urban Compassion enclosed for the amount shown.

DONATIONS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Please send this completed coupon to HopeStreet 91 Forbes Street Woolloomooloo NSW 2011 or fax to (02) 9358 4728

