

ACT

JUSTLY

HOW WE

TENDERS

MICAH PROJECTS  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2014 / 2015

20 YRS

HUMBLE



MICAH PROJECTS INC

Breaking Social Isolation  
Building Community

## Vision Statement

Our hope is to create justice and respond to injustice at the personal, social and structural levels in society, including government, church and business.

## Mission Statement

To respond to people who experience exclusion, poverty, injustice and social isolation so that they may experience inclusion, economic wellbeing, justice and connection within their community of choice.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In responding to individuals, families, groups, communities and institutions, we believe that every adult and child has the right to:

- a home, an income, healthcare, education, safety, dignity and connection with their community of choice;
- access to a broad range of personal, social, intellectual, economic and spiritual resources for personal and community wellbeing;
- forums to participate in decisions which impact on their lives at an individual, social and structural level;
- equity, acknowledging the impact of age, gender, economic status, disability, sexual orientation, culture and religious belief;
- opportunities for processes that redress past and/or present experiences of neglect and abuse;
- resources to enable restoration of relationships with self, family, community, social and religious institutions.

Micah Projects endorses the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia as the traditional owners of this land and support the right of Indigenous people to self determination and cultural expression.

### CORE BUSINESS

The agreed core business or reason for being of Micah Projects is:

An unwavering commitment, focus and determination to advocate and deliver on our social justice mandate.

The service areas that will be governed by the Board and continuously developed and delivered by the CEO, team leaders and workers are:

- Families, Women and Children
- Domestic and Family Violence
- Adults who experienced childhood abuse in an institutional setting through Lotus Place Statewide
- Homelessness through Home for Good and Street to Home
- Supportive Housing
- Mental Health and Disability
- Social Inclusion:
  - The Hive
  - Jane Street Garden
- Innovation, Research and Evaluation
- Business Services
- Partnerships and Consortia:
  - Inclusive Health Partnerships
  - 500 Lives 500 Homes
  - Partners in Recovery Brisbane South PHN
  - Family Inclusion Network.

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# Micah Projects Board 2014/2015



Above: Micah Projects Board from left: Jill Lang, Terry Fitzpatrick, Sue Bradnock, John Fitz-Walter, Julie Cork, David Gonsalves, Mary Sheehan and Michael Kelly. (Absent: Carol Eapen, Margaret Ridley and Claudine Umashev.) Photography: Craig Holmes.

**Chairperson**  
Michael Kelly  
*Natural Resource Officer,  
Department of Natural  
Resources and Mines*

**Treasurer**  
Sue Bradnock  
*Principal, Total Audit  
Services*

**Secretary**  
Terry Fitzpatrick  
*Priest, St Mary's  
Community Ltd*

**Board Members**  
Julie Cork  
*Organisational Consultant*

Carol Eapen  
*Chartered Accountant  
and Financial Counsellor*

John Fitz-Walter  
*Educator and Facilitator*

David Gonsalves  
*Lawyer, MPN Lawyers*

Jill Lang AM  
*National Coordinator,  
Anti-Poverty Week*

Margaret Ridley  
*Equity Officer*

Mary Sheehan  
*Pastoral Care Worker,  
Mater Health Services*

Claudine Umashev  
*Barrister at Law*

## Micah Projects: Snapshot 2014-2015

20%  
IDENTIFIED  
AS INDIGENOUS

PROVIDED  
ADVOCACY &  
SUPPORT FOR  
**7,037**  
PEOPLE

80  
INDIVIDUALS  
WERE HOUSED

943  
WERE 11  
OR UNDER

2,089  
WERE 25  
OR UNDER

92  
FAMILIES  
WERE HOUSED  
INCLUDING  
**238**  
CHILDREN

96%  
OF PEOPLE WE WORKED  
WITH FELT TREATED WITH  
DIGNITY & RESPECT

+  
ENGAGED IN  
**142,735**  
OCCASIONS OF  
PERSONAL  
CONTACT

107,103  
PHONE CALLS  
WERE ANSWERED

1,055  
WERE RECEIVING  
A DISABILITY  
PENSION

685  
RECEIVED  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
SUPPORT



Former jazz-playing Queensland Conservatorium graduate turned qualified marine biologist, Thomas' life changed in 2011 when cataracts left him partially blind and led to early retirement from the Department of Primary Industries.

Within a year Thomas was cold, hungry and without shelter, living in Ivory Street Park, where he first met members of the Street to Home team from Micah Projects who helped him apply for housing.

It took a number of months of dedicated advocacy, during which time the team stayed in regular contact with Thomas before they achieved success.

"One afternoon the Micah team turned up and said 'Good news: you got a place. We'll come and pick you up in the morning.'"

"They took me to the new place, and it was more than I could have hoped for. I had nothing, but when I got to the unit they had

set up a fridge, some furniture, a washing machine and a TV. They even got me a guitar which I'd been really missing."

"I tell everyone I know who is living in that park 'if I can do it, you can'. But you have to be patient. If there are 600 people on a waiting list you need to wait for them to get to 601."

"If it wasn't for the team at Micah Projects I'd still be living in Ivory Park."



**THOMAS**

Photography: Craig Holmes.

## Chairperson's Comments

Micah Projects has always had a 'make it happen' attitude. For twenty years, discipline, commitment, sound execution and continuous improvement have been the foundations on which the organisation has exemplified this attitude and, consequently, made a difference in peoples' lives.

To sustain such an attitude requires sound organisational health. The ability to align around a clear vision, strategic intent, and culture; to execute with excellence; and to renew the organisation's focus over time by responding to emerging trends, have underpinned the health of Micah Projects. Organisational health also has a hard edge. This can be defined as the capacity to deliver, over the long term, superior financial and operating performance. I believe Micah Projects is a healthy organisation because it has remained true to its vision and mission for two decades while operating efficiently and effectively to make the vision and mission 'happen'.

Micah Projects has actively supported the most vulnerable and continually sought innovative ways to achieve social inclusion, housing, justice and connection for the people we support. One innovative project illustrates this well. The ambitious art project, *From the Ground Up*, initiated and managed by Micah Projects in collaboration with Common Ground Queensland, invited tenants to express their connection with their new homes at Brisbane Common Ground through the creation of a major piece of visual art under the creative guidance of project coordinator John Fitz-Walter, a member of Micah Projects Board (see pp 22-23).

This project is one of many examples of the way in which Micah Projects has made its vision and mission 'happen'.

A community service organisation like Micah Projects relies primarily on government funding to meet specific identified needs. The services provided must necessarily comply with funding guidelines. Importantly organisational fund raising is focussed on complementary funds to value add to the lives of people engaged with Micah Projects.

Micah Projects already has a fine record in raising funds for innovative projects as the Annual Report figures attest. The generosity of donors and the willingness of organisations that choose to partner with Micah Projects by offering financial or in-kind support assist us to achieve our goals and make things 'happen'. This support is valued greatly by the Board and staff of Micah Projects.

I acknowledge Micah Projects Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Karyn Walsh and her contribution to the organisation over twenty years. Her commitment, dedication, integrity and trustworthiness have gained the respect of Micah Projects staff and many in the wider community, including nationally and internationally. The Board also expresses its gratitude to the staff and volunteers of Micah Projects for their steadfastness and commitment.

I thank the Board Members for their dedication, time commitment and willingness to engage in robust debate on key strategic issues. The Board will continue to seek what is best for the organisation, together with the CEO and many others who support Micah Projects. We will continue to be proactive, maintain an effective governance system for the organisation and uphold its fiduciary responsibilities.

**Michael Kelly**  
Chairperson





## CEO's Report

In the past twelve months Micah Projects has continued to grow and develop its vision and mission to respond to the needs of people in the community who live in unacceptable poverty, homelessness and who often experience social exclusion, discrimination and injustice.

This Annual Report outlines all the programs and initiatives that have been undertaken by the organisation during 2014-2015 in pursuit of this vision and mission. As CEO, I am grateful to all who have worked with Micah Projects to make the stories in this report possible: staff, volunteers, partner organisations, government funding bodies and many private and philanthropic donors.

In particular, I thank the people we have supported for the faith and trust they have placed in the organisation and for the feedback they often provide to us to make our support services more appropriate to their needs. This feedback loop is an essential part of our work and one we highly value.

This year the current Strategic Plan comes to an end. This set the strategic agenda for Micah Projects back in 2013 and was a year in the making prior to that. The Strategic Plan was developed with Micah Projects Board and staff and it identified six strategic priorities for the period 2013-2015. I am pleased to report that those priorities have made significant progress and have now become an integral part of our ongoing work. A snapshot account of progress is as follows:

Above: Micah Projects staff at organisation wide training, March 2015. Photographer: Lachie Douglas.

### 1. 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign

This campaign was in planning from 2013 and it culminated in Registry Week across Greater Brisbane in March 2014. Since then, with Micah Projects as the lead agency, the campaign has continued as a collective impact strategy to house individuals and families. It is on target in 2015 to exceed its objective of 500 Lives 500 Homes. We want to continue to work toward involving and extending our stakeholders to include corporate, philanthropic and business communities. In the first two years of the campaign we have extended our partners across health and early childhood education as our data demonstrates the high number of children accompanying their parents and experiencing homelessness.

### 2. Homeless to Home Healthcare Partnership Strategy

This strategy includes: key healthcare partners Mater Health Services, St Vincent's Private Hospital Brisbane and the Tzu Chi Foundation Australia who provide, with Micah Projects staff, a number of integrated, multi-disciplinary healthcare programs; and our funders Brisbane North PHN and Brisbane South PHN. In 2014 this collective initiative was re-branded as Inclusive Health Partnerships to reflect the diversity of vulnerable people now being supported. Inclusive Health provides a shared clinical framework for the integration of nursing and community services extending across five of our programs.

### 3. A social enterprise with people who are economically excluded and socially isolated

This has made significant progress. Starting with a weekly Pop Up Shop in the street front space of the Brisbane Common Ground building, planning for the Hope Street Café is well underway and the café should be operational early in 2016. It is intended to provide employment and training access to people who, otherwise, are often excluded from labour market programs.

### 4. Early intervention family support and early childhood programs

With public awareness of the insidious presence of domestic and family violence in the community, this early intervention strategic focus is more relevant than it ever was. This year we have researched, undertaken training and implemented the Parents as Teachers program. We were also successful as the lead agency for the funding of the Family Inclusion Network to give parents a voice in policies which impact on their lives. Kyabra, Jabiru, Community Living Association and Micah Projects were successful in receiving an Australian Government Department of Social Services grant for Brisbane Partnerships: Strengthening Families and Communities.

### 5. Engagement with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Supporting people to engage in the Commission has been a priority and will continue to be a priority. Lotus Place, in Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville, has been the central

focus of this work across the state and has enabled many Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants to bring their stories of sexual abuse to the Commission.

### 6. Develop a family and children supportive housing and multi-function facility

Work is continuing on this priority as the need for this is evident in the work that is done with families and children in our various programs. Micah Projects is partnering with Common Ground Queensland in developing the supportive housing and service model, the financial model and options for model-congruent building design. Progress is being made, albeit slowly, but we are committed to advocating for this evidence-based leading practice response to vulnerable families.

My intention in outlining these strategic priorities for 2013-2015 and providing a snapshot of progress is to emphasise the importance of having a well thought out strategy to guide the development of the organisation. At the heart of strategic planning, of course, are people. They are the focus of our strategic intent to break social isolation and build community. What is important to us as an organisation is:

- our connection with the West End community, St Mary's community and the broader Brisbane community
- our relationships with stakeholders and partners and the people who trust us in our engagement with them
- our impact, ensuring what we are doing is making a difference
- our ability to grow and learn.

It is my privilege to work with a dedicated group of people who, no matter what their role, have demonstrated this commitment to what matters, enabling us to bring to reality the shared vision we have for a more equitable and socially just society in which we can all find the pathways we need to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly personally and professionally.

It is my hope that the strategic priorities of 2013-2015 will be built upon in a new strategic plan and that this will carry Micah Projects into its third decade.

I am grateful to the Micah Projects Board for all the time and effort each member puts into the effective governance of the organisation and for their personal support for me as the CEO. This past year the Board has dedicated time to reviewing its role and prioritising its operations.

I look forward to another year, mindful that what we have achieved in 2014-2015 has been possible by the contribution of many people sharing a vision and participating in a mission grounded in social justice and the social inclusion of all.

Karyn Walsh  
CEO, Micah Projects





TENNILLE AND NICHOLAS AT YMYW'S 4TH TRIMESTER GROUP

Photography: Craig Holmes.

## 2014/2015 Highlights

### YMYW CELEBRATES 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In 1995, shortly after the formation of Micah Projects, the Young Mothers for Young Women (YMYW) program was established as a peer support, education and advocacy service for young women 25 years and under who are pregnant or parenting. The program was established by young women for young mothers to respond to their unique needs as they develop as both parents and young women.

Over the years, YMYW has worked with the Mater Mothers' in the Young Mothers Partnership Program to provide a community based ante-natal program for pregnant women under 22 years of age in the Mater Mothers catchment. Mater Mothers provides integrated, specialist antenatal services, and Micah Projects provides individualised planned support, postnatal groups, education and advocacy to minimise the stress that can impact on their success as both young mothers and young women.

A standout feature of the program from its inception has been the peer support model. YMYW's Peer Support Workers share their wisdom because they are young parents themselves, bringing knowledge, skills, experience and understanding to the program that prides itself on being practical, supportive and non-judgemental.

In the 20 years since YMYW commenced, over 20 young women have been employed as Peer Support Workers. In addition to providing peer support over the years, many Peer Support Workers have become professionals in areas such as nursing, community services, creative industries and small businesses.

### ON TRACK TO HOUSING 500 INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES BY 2017

The 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign is on track to achieve its goal of housing 500 individuals and families by 2017.

The three year campaign, which commenced in March 2014, comprises 34 government and non-government partners who, along with other supporting organisations, work collaboratively to bring an end to homelessness in our city for as many individuals and families as possible. Community members and businesses have contributed \$34,532 to assist people being housed to set up their homes and non-government organisations across the homelessness sector have contributed \$16,150 toward delivering the campaign.

By 30 June 2015, 209 households had been housed through this collective effort, with a young couple and their newborn child the 200th household to be housed. With almost two years to go, we expect the campaign will meet or exceed the goal of changing the lives of 500 individuals and families through collaboration and system change. The campaign highlights the need for greater supply of affordable housing plus the continuum of services required to end homelessness with individuals and families.

### YOUNG MOTHERS FOR YOUNG WOMEN



### COMMUNITY & BUSINESS HAVE RAISED

**\$34,532**

TO HELP PEOPLE SET UP THEIR HOMES

NGOS HAVE CONTRIBUTED

**\$16,150**

TOWARD DELIVERING THE CAMPAIGN



## MICAH PROJECTS SELECTED TO DELIVER A NEW RAPID RE-HOUSING RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE IN QUEENSLAND

In January 2015 the REA Group funded HomeGround Victoria to partner with providers across Australia to trial a new Rapid Re-housing Private Rental Brokerage Program. Brisbane Domestic Violence Service (BDVS) was selected as the Brisbane partner. The trial program is designed to provide financial and practical assistance to women and children to help them remain in their home or safely move to new private rental accommodation.

The main component of the program is brokerage funding to meet the costs of bond payments, removalist costs and the purchase of essential appliances such as fridges and washing machines.

The provision of beds for women and children is also a recurring priority. It is quite common to find that while women go to great lengths to find beds for their children, they rarely think of themselves.

To maximise the impact of the program and provide women and families with the best possible support, BDVS collaborated with Chisholm Inc and Assist A Sista to provide additional support to a number of families. Chisholm Inc is a local women's refuge and Assist A Sista is a volunteer organisation helping women escaping domestic violence to set up new households.

From January to June 2015, a total of 22 women and their 33 children received support from BDVS as part of the trial, including two families who were able to move from a women's refuge into secure, private rental accommodation. During the initial six months the support provided by BDVS prevented one family a week (on average) from becoming homeless.

Beyond the brokerage program, in April 2015, BDVS was successful in obtaining enhanced funding under the Safer Lives, Safer Families initiative. This funding allows us to expand our services to meet the needs of women and children in the Brisbane North and South West regions.

*At 34, with three children under 8, Carla's long-term partner was subjecting her to severe physical assaults, verbal and emotional abuse and controlling behaviour. These acts were most often perpetrated in the presence of the children.*

*Carla wanted to leave her husband, but was aware of the heightened danger women face immediately before and after leaving a violent partner. Carla was fearful her husband would find them and use violence to force them back.*

*Carla fled with the children to her cousin's home in Brisbane, who offered to house the family until they could find a safe home of their own. With the help of her cousin, Carla was able to find private rental accommodation, with friends and acquaintances providing second-hand furniture in preparation for the move. The final hurdle was a fridge, an essential item Carla would need for the family to move, but one she could not afford. Carla contacted the BDVS team who utilised funds under the Rapid Re-housing program to source a relatively low-cost fridge and have it delivered, allowing the family to move into a safe, new home. Carla phoned Micah Projects in tears.*

*"When the fridge arrived I sat on the kitchen floor and I cried," Carla said. "I know it's just a fridge, but looking at it I thought, everything is going to be alright."*

## ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Since its inception Micah Projects has worked in partnership with adults who experienced childhood abuse in an institutional setting, with both one-to-one support for their issues and advocacy in seeking justice for the abuse they experienced and the crimes committed against them. Dedicated Lotus Place centres deliver this support in Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville.

Through Lotus Place, Micah Projects as an organisation has facilitated the Historical Abuse Network to provide written submissions on several Issues Papers released for comment by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Network is advocating for a Framework for Justice, *Unfinished Business*, which incorporates five principles:

- The Queensland Government establish a Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce



### THE PARSONS FAMILY

Photography: Craig Holmes.



*The Parsons family found themselves homeless and couch surfing as a family of seven with a new baby on the way. Unable to secure private rental and facing the very real threat of life on the streets, the family sought refuge in the only accommodation they could find, a single motel room containing three beds with no laundry or cooking facilities.*

*Parents Katrina and Michael worked hard to make the children's lives as normal as possible while living in the motel. After six months staying in the motel, Katrina saw a Micah Projects worker visiting another family on site, walked out and introduced herself.*

*Within six weeks the family was offered temporary housing through Churches of*

*Christ Housing Care in a four-bedroom house. Micah Projects helped secure a rental bond and a rental grant and arranged transport so the family could get to and from the necessary appointments to make a new tenancy happen.*

*"They helped us move the few possessions we had, and thanks to financial donations from a business they were able to buy the furniture and appliances we needed to make a start. We got a fridge, a washing machine and clothes dryer and a bed for every member of the family. It was like Christmas."*

*"I don't know what would have happened to us without Micah. We'd probably still be back in that motel room," Michael said.*





*To meet John today you would not believe that less than two years ago he was experiencing a major depressive episode, and at risk of succumbing to ideas of ending his own life.*

*A series of illnesses in recent years resulted in John having limited mobility and in need of continuous care, lovingly provided by his wife, and the love of his life, Rose. John found his new limitations extremely challenging, and when combined with the ongoing struggles associated with experiencing childhood abuse in institutional care he lost his desire to live.*

*Concerned for his wellbeing, Rose, along with his good friend Bob and Lotus Place worker Mark actively encouraged John to visit Lotus Place CQ in Rockhampton. Hesitant at first, John now lovingly calls it 'The Club' and credits it with changing his life.*

*"I was in a really dark place. But then I found the club. It's a safe place that's all about belonging and understanding. You can't understand how important that is when you've been through hell and back in your life," John said.*

*"Everyone at the club cares about everyone else. We listen to each other. That's really important because a lot of us grew up with no one believing us. There's lots of hugs when we get together. Hugs and cake."*

*"My whole outlook on life has changed. I love the place. It has changed my life," John said.*

## JOHN AND ROSE

Photography: Tracey Beresford.



Above: Micah Projects and Partners' *Close the Gap* event in Small Park, Boundary Street, March 2015. Photographer: Mick Porter.

- Access to mainstream services
- Financial payments
- Specialist support services
- Policy and law reform.

Redress is a standout issue for people who have experienced childhood abuse in institutional care and has been the subject of significant focus by the Commission in 2015. Micah Projects has considerable experience in supporting people to seek redress. We provided support in the past to individuals seeking justice from various churches and the Queensland Government redress scheme was established from 2007-2008 in response to eight years of advocacy following the Forde Inquiry in 1999.

The 2015 testimony given by adults who as children were in out-of-home care called on the Royal Commissioner to include as recommendations in its final report:

- The formation of an independent national redress scheme for survivors of child abuse in institutional care
- The inclusion of all forms of abuse in the redress scheme for survivors of child abuse in institutional care
- The continued resourcing of existing, trusted and specialist support services to help survivors avail themselves of justice; and
- The rejection of any requirement for deeds of release from the survivors.

This call was echoed in an open letter to the Chief Commissioner, the Hon Justice McClellan AM, from Find and Connect services throughout Australia, including Micah Projects.

The Commission is scheduled to continue through to 2017, as will Micah Projects unwavering commitment to supporting the survivors of childhood abuse in institutional care as they seek justice and accountability by governments and churches.

## OUR ONGOING COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION

Micah Projects Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) has now been in place since late 2013, furthering the organisation's strong continuing commitment to the reconciliation process.

Our service delivery teams have built enduring relationships with many Indigenous organisations, agencies and individuals around Brisbane, and the RAP Committee has created its own network of informal relationships with people from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Reconciliation informs all aspects of Micah Projects operations, from the design of service spaces that are inclusive of and welcoming to Indigenous people, to promoting the cultural competence of all staff through compulsory cultural awareness training. Members of the RAP Committee also make



# HOPE<sup>ST</sup>

EAT & DRINK  
CONNECT & CREATE



A social enterprise by Micah Projects providing a space for community and culture, for training and employment, and for events and exhibitions. The Hope Street Café is a non-profit business connecting the community with people who have been excluded from the workforce, advocating for local food production and a diverse, inclusive local neighbourhood.

presentations to new Micah Projects workers at the regular Organisational Orientation sessions during the year, stressing the importance of the reconciliation process as part of our organisation's overall commitment to social justice.

Micah Projects also actively participates in key public events of importance to Indigenous people, including Close The Gap Day, National Sorry Day and the Family Fun Day held in Musgrave Park as part of NAIDOC Week.

## WORKING TOWARDS OUR FIRST SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

A significant amount of behind-the-scenes work has been undertaken this year to transition the much-loved Pop Up Shop at 15 Hope Street South Brisbane into Micah Projects first social enterprise. The current Pop Up Shop, an initiative of The Hive program, operates each Thursday at Brisbane Common Ground, selling fruit and vegetables from local farmers markets along with fresh home-baked goods from the resident chef and tenants of Brisbane Common Ground.

The Pop Up Shop will transition into the Hope Street Café, a social enterprise providing employment opportunities and self-supporting revenue from a ground floor retail space in the Brisbane Common Ground building.

The coming year will see the project move into the implementation stage, with an official launch anticipated in 2016.

Micah Projects is currently seeking expressions of interest from people who are experienced or interested in social enterprise, small business, hospitality and marketing; as well as devoted foodies with an interest in volunteering.

## IMPLEMENTING THE TWO-GENERATIONAL PARENTS AS TEACHERS MODEL TO BREAK THE INTER-GENERATIONAL CYCLE OF POVERTY

Throughout this year, Micah Projects has worked to implement the Parents as Teachers (PAT) early intervention model into our current support services for families at risk of or experiencing homelessness and for young women (25 years and under) who are pregnant and/or parenting.

Parents as Teachers is an evidence-based early childhood model for children from ante-natal to five years that works with parents and children together to emphasise family wellbeing, parent-child interactions and development-centred parenting. The approach is designed to assist parents to learn more about their child's development in order to help them provide the best possible start in life and to feel more confident in their own parenting abilities.

Delivery of the Parents as Teachers model includes working together with parents and children in their own homes, as well as in group connection activities with other families.

Micah Projects chose to implement this model following significant research and evaluation into its efficacy as an early intervention strategy. The model has been subject to a range of international evaluations and research enquiries, including four independent randomised controlled trials and seven peer-reviewed and published outcome studies. It has been extensively evaluated in the United States and is one of only 13 programs to be awarded evidence-based status for home visiting programs by the USA Federal Government.

In early 2015, with funding from the Department of Education, Training and Employment, Micah Projects brought two experienced Parents as Teachers educators from the United States to Brisbane. This enabled a cross-sector training program to be provided to 21 participants. Micah Projects is one of the first organisations in Australia to train its family support and early childhood workers in the application of the full Parents as Teachers curriculum for working with parents of vulnerable children from ante-natal to five years of age.

Research has shown that an evidence-based, two-generational response, such as that delivered by the Parents as Teachers model has the potential to break the inter-generational cycle of poverty and disadvantage by combining family and personal support with early childhood education and care. It also complements the early intervention program with young pregnant and parenting women, which is funded by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disabilities Services.





Jane Street Community Garden Coordinator Melissa Smrechnik and Garden Volunteer Chris Strohfeldt tending the garden on a sunny winter's day. Photographer: Craig Holmes.

## JANE STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN

Jane Street Community Garden in West End is a not-for-profit community organisation which is dedicated to nurturing sustainable living in a city environment. It provides an opportunity for people to become involved in organic gardening and permaculture through volunteering their time in a variety of ways and contributing financially.

The garden has been operating for 10 years and grows around 200 varieties of organically-grown edible plants. It is auspiced by Micah Projects which now provides coordination and administrative support.

The garden intersects with Micah Projects services especially through The Hive team which supports people to participate in garden activities.

Reclink Australia is a partner with Micah Projects in supporting the aims of the Jane Street Community Garden.

## SUPPORTIVE HOUSING: HOUSING WITH SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND HEALTHCARE IS THE SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS

Micah Projects has for the past 10 years adapted its work in line with the growing body of international, national and local evidence that *Housing First* can provide the necessary ingredients to enable people to transition from homelessness to being housed. This improves their quality of life and enables re-connection with family, friends and community.

In the absence of a government policy framework for supportive housing, Micah Projects has developed a supportive housing practice with funding from the Queensland Government in three key areas:

1. Collaboration with Common Ground Queensland in the advocacy for and operation of Queensland's first dedicated supportive housing project Brisbane Common Ground. Micah Projects provides 24/7 support services to tenants, integrated healthcare and connects people to community services,



## PATTY & MARLEY

Photography: Richy Hart.

*Patty has been part of the Micah Projects story since the beginning. Twenty years ago, at the time Micah Projects was being formed, Patty was sleeping rough in a tent in the grounds of St Mary's Catholic Church in South Brisbane.*

*Patty's life up until that time had been filled with challenges including an acquired brain injury as a young child, years of physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her father, and time spent in both institutional care and the foster care system.*

*In the 20 years since Patty started working with Micah Projects, team members have worked with Patty on a range of matters, including helping her to secure domestic violence protection orders against a violent partner, to secure her current*

*accommodation, manage her own budget and access inclusive healthcare. But the greatest joy in Patty's life has come from reconnecting with her grandchildren, made possible with the support of the Homefront team.*

*"I put my daughter into foster care when she was little. I couldn't look after her properly, but that hurt our relationship. We didn't talk for many years and I didn't get to see my grandchildren for a very long time. But Richy from Micah helped us to reconnect and now my eldest grandson comes and visits me every month."*

*"My grandkids know me. They call me Nan. I love them and they love me."*



EMERGENCY



ANNA

Photography: Tharaka Wijerathne.

**Pathways is an Inclusive Health hospital admission and discharge pilot program.** It is a partnership between St Vincent's Private Hospital Brisbane and Micah Projects, funded by Queensland Health. Pathways nurses are integrated into Micah Projects Brisbane Homelessness Service Collaborative (BHSC) team and operate six days per week. The aim of the program is to improve communication and partnerships between community, hospital and health services to develop an Inclusive Health Plan for vulnerable individuals to improve their health, housing and social outcomes.

*Anna loves her job. As a nurse with the Pathways team, Anna combines her love of nursing with her passion for social justice and her belief in an inclusive approach to healthcare.*

*"The people we support have typically had very challenging lives. They can struggle to build relationships with health providers, with support services and with their families as a result, and unfortunately, all too often in their lives they have been put in the 'too hard basket'."*

*"But we don't do that. We understand we need to build that relationship. We need to earn people's trust. We're committed*

*to being the people who don't give up on them."*

*"We can help people with access to medication, help reconnect and sustain positive relationships with their GP, help with transport to and from medical appointments and help them to find emergency and then ongoing stable housing."*

*"And when people are supported to manage their health more effectively that means less hospital admissions, less ambulance call outs and less emergency room visits. That's better for the individual, and it's better for the health system as a whole. Everybody wins."*

opportunities and resources. This combination of services make a significant contribution to the high tenancy retention rates at Brisbane Common Ground. At June 2015, 86% of tenants who received planned support have sustained their tenancies.

2. Homefront provides services which focus on supporting people living with a disability to transition from homelessness to housing, with the dual outcomes of sustaining tenancy and having a quality of life in the community. This year, 98% of people supported sustained their tenancy and, in the 2015 annual survey, almost 60% of those surveyed reported that they have improved their connections with family and community since being involved with Micah Projects.
3. Street to Home supported 132 people in an ongoing capacity who have made the transition from chronic homelessness to becoming tenants and reconnecting with family and community. Of the people supported in housing, 97% retained their tenancy. Significantly three tenancies ended due to the death of the tenants.

In 2013, Housing First research was funded by the Ian Potter Foundation and conducted by Carolyn Mason and Dr Peter Grimbeek, *A Housing First approach to homelessness in Brisbane: Sustaining tenancies and the cost effectiveness of support services.* This research demonstrated that people with extensive experience of homelessness can successfully transition to housing with linked support, with concurrent reduced costs to the broader emergency, justice and health service systems.

We need a supportive housing policy that connects access to affordable housing with human services to ensure that we invest in ending people's homelessness through housing and the right mix of community services and healthcare, rather than just supporting them through our crisis responses to manage their homelessness.

## PARTNERS IN RECOVERY – HOUSING AND RECOVERY FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS

Partners in Recovery (PIR) is a consortium of organisations working in partnership to create a community of care that supports the recovery of people living with severe and persistent mental illness with complex needs.

The 10 program partners in Brisbane South region are led by Brisbane South Primary Health Network (PHN), and include Aftercare, The Benevolent Society, The Brook RED Centre, Freedom Social Justice Growth (FSG), Gallang Place, Harmony Place, Micah Projects, Neami National, Richmond Fellowship

Queensland, and Stepping Stone Clubhouse. By working together, the ten partners provide individuals with tailored support to access clinical and community support services, and to self-manage their mental health and wellbeing and achieve their goals and aspirations. In addition, PIR is working to achieve sustainable system reform.

Micah Projects PIR team specialises in supporting people experiencing homelessness with severe mental ill-health to find stable housing. To address this major challenge, the PIR team hosted a Mental Health, Housing and Homelessness Roundtable, facilitated by John Mendoza from ConNetica. The roundtable was attended by PIR partners, mental health leaders and housing providers.

The roundtable identified critical success factors and key organisations committed to improving housing solutions for people with severe mental ill-health.

Micah Projects will play a leading role over the next 12 months by coordinating and drafting the Mental Health Housing and Homelessness Plan based on evidence-based programs and practices, principles and protocols, in collaboration with housing, mental health and PIR partners.

*Like many people who experience depression and other mental illness, Sally did not realise how serious her illness had become until the situation had snowballed, resulting in a hospital admission.*

*Having heard of the work of Micah Projects from a hospital counsellor, Sally sought a referral and was able to access support as part of Micah Projects Partners in Recovery program, which Sally credits as saving her life.*

*"I cannot explain the impact that Micah Projects and the Partners in Recovery program has had except to say that they have literally saved my life." Sally said.*

*"The depression and anxiety were paralyzing. There were days when I couldn't get out of bed or leave the couch, let alone leave the house to look for housing, pay bills, look for new work or even buy groceries."*

*Sally said the team from Micah Projects treated her with dignity and understanding and provided her with the extensive, professional and consistent support she needed during what has been the most challenging time of her life. The Partners in Recovery team helped Sally to find new housing, meet her daily basic needs, and manage and overcome some of the immediate financial stressors that were contributing to her depressive episode.*





2014 Moonlight Magic revelry. Above: Marlene addressing the 788 strong audience.

*“The Micah team helped me clear the decks so I could focus on getting healthy again. At the beginning I was leaning on them 3 or 4 times a week just to get by. They literally moved me into new accommodation while I was hospitalised and couldn’t manage it myself. But a few months on and I feel the need to call on them less and less with each passing week.”*

## A NIGHT LIKE NO OTHER

There is nothing quite like the Moonlight Magic Dinner Dance on the Brisbane social calendar. It is a night of glitz and glamour, sumptuous food and elegant attire but, in true Micah Projects fashion, it is a night where socially created barriers are toppled and members of the Brisbane community from all walks of life come together as equals, to enjoy each other’s company.

2014 marked the annual events’ 11th year. Over 780 guests gathered to share in the celebrations in the beautiful ballroom of Brisbane’s Convention and Exhibition Centre. Almost half of the guests in attendance were individuals supported by Micah Projects activities, and currently experiencing social and economic disadvantage.

Their attendance, as throughout the history of the event, was made possible thanks to the support of the community, both financial (to offset the cost of tickets) and through the donation of new and pre-loved formal and after-5 attire, from which attendees could come and select their ensemble for the evening.

With everyone decked out in glamorous attire, any preconceived distinction between corporate high flyers, elected officials, support workers and people being supported by Micah Projects disappeared.

As is the tradition with the Moonlight Magic Dinner Dance, fundraising auctions, donor appeals and lengthy speeches were left off the agenda in favour of meaningful conversations and the chance to hit the dance floor early (before the first course was even served) and then dance the night away.

While supporters were numerous (please refer to our supporters page), special thanks must be made to the event’s Gold Sponsor: Morgans, our Silver Sponsors: Colour Chiefs and TransitCare, and to the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre who provide the beautiful venue at no cost. Without the help of these organisations, and all our supporters, this magical event would not have been possible.



**MANNY, NILIMA, CHEEKY & BRIDIE**

Photography: Craig Holmes.

*When Micah Projects asked Manny to use her volunteer hours to catalogue DVDs and set up a DVD library for the tenants at Brisbane Common Ground, Manny was initially surprised.*

*“It wasn’t the kind of task that I thought I’d be doing. I didn’t immediately see the connection between organising DVDs and supporting people who have been homeless or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Being able to go and borrow a DVD seems like such a small and simple thing, but I’m learning all the time that it’s the little things that matter,” she said.*

*The DVD library, recently named Hope Street DVD, operates every Thursday, with tenants popping in throughout the day to chat, talk movies and exchange their borrowed DVDs.*

*“Every week there are more and more tenants becoming DVD regulars. We talk about movies, genres and storylines. Enjoying movies is such a universal human thing, and more and more people are gathering and chatting and it’s just wonderful. It feels like friends in a lounge room, having a chat and looking at the DVD shelves before deciding what they’ll watch.”*

*Manny said volunteering has given her far more than she ever expected.*

*“It sounds so cliché, but I really am getting back far more than I give.”*

*People interested in supporting Hope Street DVD can do so by donating new and used, authentic DVDs in good condition.*





## FROM THE GROUND UP ARTWORKS

Photography: Andrew Yeo.



## AMBITIOUS ART PROJECT ACHIEVES ACCOLADE

An ambitious art project, *From the Ground Up*, initiated and managed by Micah Projects in collaboration with Common Ground Queensland, invited tenants to express their connection with their new homes at Brisbane Common Ground through the creation of a major piece of visual art under the creative guidance of project coordinator, John Fitz-Walter.

The project, which took 12 months to complete, resulted in the creation of a striking 13-storey artwork on 13 unique canvasses. Each canvas depicted a diversity of styles, stories and experiences reflective of the community who reside in the supportive housing apartments. The artwork, which was completed in the ground floor art studio, is now on display starting on the first floor of the building and branching up into higher floors.

The goal of the project was meaningful engagement with the tenants, many of who receive active support from Micah Projects teams on an ongoing basis. With this goal in mind the artistic

technique known as collaborative collage was adopted for the project, ensuring that people of all talents and abilities could contribute via painting, cutting or pasting tasks.

The successful engagement with the tenant-artists was recognised in April 2015, when Micah Projects and Common Ground Queensland were announced as the Queensland winners of an Australian Housing Institute Award in the 'Leading Tenant Engagement Practice' category for their work on the project. As state winners the project will now compete for the National Awards to be announced in late 2015.

The project received further public attention when it featured as the cover story in *HousingWORKS* in July 2015.

Most importantly, the tenants have derived a great sense of accomplishment in the completion of the work. The project has strengthened the sense of community within the supportive housing building, provided a creative outlet and revealed natural talent which a number of people are now pursuing further.







**HAYLEY**

Photography: Craig Holmes.

*When it comes to young motherhood, nobody understands it like someone who has lived it.*

*Hayley discovered she was pregnant at 15. Like many young women who are pregnant, Hayley listened as people offered comments about what this would mean for her future. Many expressed concern that her potential academic and professional life was now over.*

*But her incredible determination and commitment to succeed saw her not only complete her high school studies by distance education, but to also take on additional study burdens to complete university midwifery subjects as a guest, paving the way for her entry into a Bachelor of Midwifery course, her dream profession.*

*Her first hand experience of juggling the demands of young parenthood make her an ideal peer support worker in the Young Mothers for Young Women program. A role she is very proud to hold.*

*"I love my job. It is incredibly rewarding to be able to help other young mums. I wouldn't like to call myself a role model. That's not the right word for what I do, but I can look other young mums in the eye and say, 'Don't panic, your life isn't over. It can be okay. I've been there. I've done it. You are not alone,'" she said.*

*Hayley is scheduled to graduate with a Bachelor of Midwifery at the end of 2015.*

*Young Mothers for Young Women is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2015.*

## Micah Projects Our People

What a difference 7,307 days make! In 1995 'Project Micah' had 14 staff members and worked from a small house next to St Mary's Catholic Church in South Brisbane. As of 2014-2015, Micah Projects had 184 employees, and at one point this year, we were working from 10 sites (including our regional offices in Rockhampton and Townsville).

In 2014-2015 we welcomed 30 new employees, a valued mix of administration staff, service delivery workers and team leaders. Micah Projects holds an enviable retention rate of 89.8% - an increase of 3.2% from the previous year.

Micah Projects continues to prioritise professional development for our staff. We recognise that supporting people to develop and improve their skills will always create a more effective environment for the vulnerable people who choose to work with us. We continue to offer all our employees the opportunity to attend workshops, conferences, specialised training, mentoring and supervision so they have multiple options to upskill. A highlight for the year was a two day intensive organisational training for all our staff and students, presented by overseas visitors Suzanne Wagner and Andrea White (Housing Innovations).

We value our partners in staff development, who continue to support our staff with remarkable training. Our thanks go to our long-term partners: Tom Kirk (Cultural Awareness); Chilli Fire (Emergency and Fire Training); Patrick Herd and Ingrid Kemp

(Community Business Australia); Julie Parry (Workplace Ergonomics); Howard Nielsen (NAC Consulting); and external supervisors Patrick O'Regan and Nicole Martin; and to those we met for the first time: Deborah Butkus and Christine Camper (Parents as Teachers); John Mendoza (ConNetica); Stephen Harvey (Harvey Risk Management); Peter Ball and team (Impact Academy); Corey Allen (Queensland Police Service) and the Office of the Public Guardian.

Micah Projects is a popular choice for student placement, and we worked with many keen students from a range of tertiary institutions, including the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, TAFE Queensland – Southbank campus, University of the Sunshine Coast and Griffith University.

Micah Projects began with a large volunteer base, and we are deeply grateful to all the volunteers, and especially St Mary's Community, who have been a vital part of our journey over the past 20 years. Here's to the next two decades! We are delighted that, like our staff numbers, our team of volunteers has continued to grow. We gratefully acknowledge our 83 committed regular volunteers for their essential contribution to many events and programs. We also thank the enthusiastic 261 volunteers who packed and delivered the 2014 Christmas Hampers.

Micah Projects is widely recognised by both the people we support and the public. This year, our staff's commitment to sustainability across all of our operations was recognised with the 2014 Business South Bank Sustainability Award. We believe that a just society is a sustainable society.



# 1. TURNING OFF THE TAP



Prevention and early intervention to stop people becoming homeless

# 2. BREAKING THE CYCLE



Ending Homelessness with Housing & Support

# 3. IMPROVING SERVICE SYSTEMS

Improving and Expanding the Service System in Response to Homelessness

HOMESTAY

PATHWAYS

HOUSING PEOPLE

KEEPING PEOPLE HOUSED

BHSC

500 LIVES  
500 HOMES

Early intervention to prevent homelessness

No discharge from hospitals into homelessness

## STREET TO HOME

Assertive outreach to house rough sleepers and people experiencing chronic homelessness

## HOMEFRONT

Support for people living with disabilities

Brisbane Homelessness Service Collaborative

Ending homelessness in Brisbane one person, one family at a time

- 92** FAMILIES
- 225** CHILDREN
- 58** INDIVIDUALS

- 60** RECEIVED POST-HOSPITAL SUPPORT
- 1,718** OCCASIONS OF DIRECT NURSING CARE

**1,767** INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED | **237** WITH PLANNED SUPPORT

**61** INDIVIDUALS HOUSED

**5,343** OCCASIONS OF DIRECT NURSING CARE

**56** INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED | **98%** TENANCIES SUSTAINED

**SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**  
Hope Street, Brisbane Common Ground  
**151** INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED | **86%** TENANCIES SUSTAINED<sup>†</sup>

**3,199** OCCASIONS OF DIRECT NURSING CARE

**STREET TO HOME**  
Support to stabilise in housing  
**132** SUPPORTIVE HOUSING | **97%** TENANCIES SUSTAINED<sup>‡</sup>

Through the coordinated access model BHSC has:

**ASSISTED**  
**5,436** PEOPLE

**PROVIDED**  
**825** OCCASIONS OF DIRECT NURSING CARE

From March 2014 to 30 June 2015 with Brisbane Local Gvt Assoc and 34 Partners, we have:

**HOUSED**  
**209** INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

**INCREASED ACCESS TO**  
LEGAL SERVICES  
HEALTH SERVICES  
ASTHMA MANAGEMENT  
DENTAL CARE

# Three Strategies to end homelessness

FUNDED BY



<sup>†</sup> with 1 person passing away in their own home

<sup>‡</sup> with 3 people passing away in their own home





## DEEJAY

Photography: Craig Holmes.

*Deejay, like many Australians, was not especially keen on going to the dentist. Now 25 years old and living with an intellectual disability, Deejay was kicked out of home at just 13. Deejay's housing arrangements have been unstable for the majority of years since that time. All these factors had led to Deejay's teeth deteriorating into a very bad condition that had started to impact upon his overall health.*

*With the encouragement and support of team members from the Social Inclusion and Resident Support Programs, Deejay overcame his concerns about the dentist and worked with Brisbane Dental Hospital to develop a plan for his dental health.*

*Once the initial plan was in place, Deejay independently managed his dental appointments. His compromised teeth were removed and he received new upper and lower dentures, alleviating his dental pain and improving his ability to eat a healthy diet.*

*Deejay said it makes him feel better about himself to have attended his appointments by himself and to have his new teeth. He encourages other people who are having trouble with their teeth to ask for help, because life is much better when you have teeth that work.*

*"Go see Micah. If your teeth are broken, Micah can help you get to the dentist and get some new teeth."*

# Breaking Social Isolation Connecting with community

## PARTNERS IN RECOVERY

Partners in Recovery (PIR) is a consortium of organisations led by Brisbane South PHN, working in partnership to create a community of care that supports the recovery of people living with severe and persistent mental illness with complex needs.

# 118

### RECEIVING SUPPORT

## BOARDING HOUSES & HOSTELS (RSP)

The Resident Support Program (RSP) is a flexible, creative outreach service which provides support to adults with a disability, often including psychiatric illness.

# 72

### RECEIVING SUPPORT

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT PACKAGES

The Social Inclusion Program supports individuals with a disability who have been allocated their own funding to participate in communities of their choice and to maintain their living arrangements.

# 18

### RECEIVING SUPPORT

## SOCIAL INCLUSION (THE HIVE)

The Hive Team supports people to re-engage and participate in the community by providing a suite of in-door and out-door activities to break down social isolation and build social connection. This vital part of Micah Projects social inclusion agenda works within the South Brisbane metropolitan area.

# 120

### PARTICIPATING



# 1995 – 2015



1. No Vacancy banner, St Mary's Church, 2008.
2. Close the Gap banner, St Mary's Church, 2006.
3. Make Poverty History banner, St Mary's Church, 2005.
4. St Mary's House extension, C2004.
5. Esther Centre gathering at St Mary's House, 2006.
6. Karyn and David at Moonlight Magic Dinner Dance, 2005.
7. Moonlight Magic Dinner Dance, 2010.
8. MC David and Karyn at Moonlight Magic Dinner Dance, 2013.

1. Micah Projects Signage, C2005.
2. Micah Projects Staff, 2007.
3. Anna Bligh opening Young Mothers for Young Women's Caterpillar House, 2008.
4. Kate Fanton and Peter Kennedy, 2007.
5. Inaugural Leadership Training graduation for Lotus Place participants (formerly Esther Centre), 2003.
6. Original artwork for Lotus Place, representing the journey from adversity to hope, 2003.



# MICAH PROJECTS INC 20 YRS

In 1995, Micah Projects Inc was formally constituted as an incorporated association in Queensland.

In the twenty years since then, it has developed a reputation for an unwavering commitment to social justice and for upholding the rights of vulnerable people: the right to housing, healthcare, educational opportunity, justice in the legal system, freedom from violence, redress because of institutional abuse, and gender equality.

The commitment to social justice and human rights can be traced back to its origins as Project Micah, a social justice initiative of the St Mary's Community in South Brisbane which aimed to put into action the words from the Book of Micah, **Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly**. Although much has changed since then, the original inspiration has remained and is still encapsulated in the organisation's name.

In twenty years, Micah Projects has come to be recognised as a community service organisation that is effective in achieving lasting outcomes for people and for exploring and finding innovative responses to what some might regard as intractable social issues.

In responding to homelessness, it has committed to **ending** homelessness, not just **managing** homelessness. This commitment has been based on a Housing First approach augmented by providing a suite of integrated support services which enable vulnerable tenants to sustain housing and prevent re-cycling back into homelessness. In recent times the organisation has developed innovative healthcare programs with key healthcare providers including Mater Health Services, St Vincent's Private Hospital, Brisbane and the Tzu Chi Foundation. These programs have won national awards from the Australian Government, Catholic Health Australia and St Vincent's Health Australia.

The approach taken in response to homelessness is an indicator of how the organisation has always worked, that is, to move beyond **crisis** responses to actual **prevention**. This is also evident in many of the family programs where the emphasis is on strengthening parenting skills and nurturing relationships with targeted programs whether housing support, healthcare or educational. Similarly,

other programs in disability and mental health have been informed by this approach.

Micah Projects has been an effective advocate in many policy areas and has a demonstrated record for persistence and working long term for outcomes. Its work in supporting Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants in Queensland and nationally is illustrative of this. Events like the 2008 National Apology and the Queensland Government's Redress Scheme of 2007 owe much to the effective advocacy undertaken by the organisation with many dedicated people who, as children, experienced abuse in out-of-home care institutions. This model of advocacy, working with and alongside people, has been the Micah Projects way for twenty years.

Research and evaluation have been embedded in the Micah Projects agenda from the beginning. It has retained a commitment to this and to ensuring that its work is evidence-based and evaluated, notably with the input of the people it works with. The 2003 report, *More than Just a Roof*, undertaken with a number of partners, brought the reality of family homelessness to public attention and underpinned what Micah Projects staff knew anecdotally. The inclusion of stories of families experiencing homelessness and who were being supported by staff added a 'real life' dimension to the research report.

It is impossible to capture Micah Projects twenty year old story in a few hundred words, or do justice to it. Suffice to say that it is a remarkable story of an organisation which has stayed true to its founding spirit, cultivated in a small community of people who wanted to live out the words of an ancient prophet. Significantly, these words are relevant in a much wider human context today, well beyond the confines of a faith community. They can inspire many committed people in many walks of life.

In 2015, those words find an echo in this assertion: *Solving homelessness, domestic violence, discrimination and poverty is possible but requires more than the efforts of individuals doing good work. Real change comes through innovative systems that enable ordinary people, as citizens, to create the solutions and belong to a community.*



1. The 2011 Brisbane flood peaked at 4.46 metres on January 13, 2011. Photographer: Tim Wimborne.
2. The sleeping quarters, RNA Showgrounds, 11 Jan 2011.
3. Adele brings order to the Registration Desk. At the flood evacuation centres in January 2011, we:
  - registered 1,613 evacuees
  - assisted 732 people to exit evacuation centres
  - managed approximately 210 volunteers.
4. On-site at Brisbane Common Ground from left: Cameron Hemming, Rosanne Haggerty, Paul Bickham, Kerry Batchler and Karyn Walsh, Sept 2011.
5. Support and Advocacy Worker Jessica delighting in Christmas Hampers, 24 Dec 2011.
6. Premier Anna Bligh speaking at the 50 Lives 50 Homes Community Forum, June 2010.
7. Acting Inspector Corey Allen speaking at the 500 Lives 500 Homes Community Forum, April 2014.





Rachelle came to Australia as a 14-year-old refugee, fleeing the war-torn Congo with extended family in 2006. She lost contact with her own parents during the conflict.

At just 15, changed circumstances meant living with her extended family was no longer an option. But Rachelle was determined to make a life for herself here in Australia. She knew education was the key, though she had not been allowed to attend school in her home country.

*“I didn’t know a word of English, and I didn’t even know how to hold a pencil.”*

Rachelle’s situation improved once she started living at Brisbane Common Ground (BCG). As a tenant Rachelle was able to receive ongoing support from Micah Projects that assisted her to fulfill her obligations as a tenant and to work towards her aspirations and dreams.

With stable, supportive housing in place Rachelle could focus on her education in order to complete Year 12. The Supportive Housing team helped Rachelle secure a volunteer position with the St Vincent’s Private Hospital food services team. After four days of volunteering they hired her.

She has worked for them for 18 months. Having secured a steady income, Rachelle decided to move from BCG into her own private, rental accommodation.

*“I could have stayed at BCG, but I told myself no. Life is about learning and moving on. I learned what I needed to know. I couldn’t have done it without Micah Projects. Now I want to see what I can do. I want to make a wonderful life for myself.”*

**RACHELLE**  
Photography: Craig Holmes

## Valuing Children, Supporting Parents Aspirations · Safety · Equality

### FAMILY CRISIS

The service supports families experiencing homelessness transition from a crisis situation into long term, secure and affordable housing. We provide proactive outreach support to families to break the cycle of homelessness and achieve positive outcomes.

**107**  
FAMILIES WITH  
**258**  
CHILDREN

### YOUNG MOTHERS

Young Mothers for Young Women (YMYW) provides family support, peer-led education, advocacy, early childhood programs and access to specialised antenatal care for young, pregnant and parenting women, 25 years and under, their children and families.

**149**  
FAMILIES  
SUPPORTED

### HOUSING + SUPPORT

Connecting support with long-term housing to end homelessness, promoting self-sufficiency, empowerment and enhancing quality of life through accessing resources and opportunities in the community.

KEPT  
**61**  
FAMILIES  
HOUSED

### BRISBANE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE

Brisbane Domestic Violence Service’s goal is to support women and children to reach a stage where they are safe and free from fear of domestic and family violence.

**685**  
SUPPORTED



# Working Together

Micah Projects acknowledges the state, federal and local governments as the primary funders of our work. We acknowledge all of the government, businesses, community organisations and individuals with whom we partner and collaborate to deliver better outcomes for the people we support.

## Queensland Government

Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships  
 - Community and Personal Histories' Unit  
 Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  
 - Child, Family and Community Services  
 - Corporate and Executive Services  
 - Disability Services and Seniors  
 - Strategy, Engagement and Innovation  
 Department of Education and Training  
 - Early Childhood Education and Care  
 Department of Housing and Public Works  
 - Buranda Housing Service Centre  
 - Capalaba Housing Service Centre  
 - Chermerside Housing Service Centre  
 - Fortitude Valley Housing Service Centre  
 - Inala Housing Service Centre  
 Department of Justice and Attorney General  
 - Office of Public Guardian  
 - Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages  
 Queensland Corrective Services  
 - Probation and Parole  
 Queensland Health  
 - Community Child Health Service Coorparoo  
 - Homeless Health Outreach Team  
 - Mental Health Service Woolloongabba  
 - Metro South Hospital and Health Service  
 - Prince Charles Hospital Social Work Services  
 - Princess Alexandra Hospital  
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Liaison Staff  
 - Mental Health Services  
 - Prison Mental Health Service  
 - Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital  
 - ATSI Liaison Staff  
 Queensland Ombudsman  
 Queensland Police Service  
 State Penalties Reinforcement Registry  
 TAFE Queensland Brisbane  
 The Public Trustee

## Australian Government

Centrelink  
 - Homeless Outreach Team  
 Commonwealth Ombudsman  
 Department of Social Services

## Brisbane City Council

Access and Equity Team  
 Inclusive Communities, Connected Communities Branch

## Universities / Research

Griffith University  
 - School of Human Services and Social Work  
 - School of Nursing and Midwifery  
 Macquarie University, Parents as Teachers Program  
 Parents as Teachers, USA  
 Queensland University of Technology  
 - Health Clinics  
 - School of Early Childhood  
 - School of Public Health and Social Work  
 University of Queensland  
 - Centre of Excellence for Behaviour Support  
 - UQ Health Care  
 - Institute for Social Science Research  
 - School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work  
 University of Sunshine Coast  
 - Health and Sport Science  
 VIA University College Denmark

## 500 Lives 500 Homes Partners

Anglicare Southern Queensland,  
 Homelessness Services, Women and Children  
 Australian Red Cross  
 Brisbane City Council  
 Brisbane Housing Company  
 Brisbane South PHN  
 Brisbane Youth Service  
 Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi  
 Foundation Australia

## Centacare

Checkup  
 Churches of Christ in Queensland  
 Common Ground Queensland  
 Department of Housing and Public Works  
 Footprints in Brisbane  
 Gateway Community Group  
 Homeless Health Outreach Team  
 Institute for Urban Indigenous Health  
 Kyabra Community Association  
 Local Government Association of Queensland  
 Mater Health Services  
 New Farm Neighbourhood Centre  
 NEXTT  
 Ozcare  
 Queensland Council of Social Services  
 Queensland Injectors' Health Network  
 Queensland Police Service  
 Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House  
 Services Collaborating for Young People  
 Silky Oaks  
 Southside Community Care  
 St Vincent de Paul Society  
 Supported Accommodation Providers' Assoc  
 The Big Issue  
 The Salvation Army Pindari and Youth Outreach Service  
 Wesley Mission Brisbane  
 Youth Emergency Services

## Businesses, Organisations and Individuals

139 Club  
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (ATSICHS)  
 - ATSICHS Woolloongabba  
 - ATSICHS Northgate  
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service  
 Aboriginal Hostels  
 Acacia Ridge Districts Community Centre

Accentis  
 Access Arts  
 Access Community Services  
 Adults Surviving Child Abuse  
 Advantage  
 Alcohol and Drug Foundation Queensland  
 Alcohol and Drug Homeless Health Outreach Team  
 Alliance of Forgotten Australians  
 Anglican Church of Australia, Professional Standards Commission, Brisbane  
 Anglicare Southern Queensland  
 - Anglican Womens' Hostel  
 - St Mary's Supported Accommodation for Young Women  
 Anna Borges Psychology  
 ARAFMI Queensland  
 Arrow Accountants  
 Assist A Sista  
 Aunty Heather Castledine  
 Aunty Mabel Hopkins  
 Aunty Valda Coolwell  
 Australian Alliance to End Homelessness  
 Australian Common Ground Alliance  
 Bahloo Womens Youth Shelter  
 Bayside Tenancy and Advice Advocacy Service  
 BDO Australia  
 Bellas Accountants  
 Bric Housing  
 Brisbane Catholic Education Office  
 Brisbane Council of Elders  
 Brisbane North PHN  
 Brisbane Partnerships: Strengthening Families and Communities  
 - Community Living Association  
 - Jabiru Community Youth and Children's Services  
 - Kyabra Community Association  
 Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors Support Centre  
 BSI - SW to provide contact  
 Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation Australia  
 Career Keys  
 Carinity Communities Talera  
 Carinity Southside Education  
 Carolyn Mason, Partnering Works  
 Case Management Society of Australia  
 Catholic Church Insurances  
 Caxton Legal Centre  
 Chillii Fire  
 Chisholm Inc  
 Clare Homes  
 Coda  
 Common Ground Tasmania  
 Community Solutions, USA  
 Compass Housing Services  
 Conrad Gargett  
 Dennis Ryan  
 Dovetail  
 Dr Brett McDermott, Child and Youth Mental Health Service, Mater Health Services  
 Dr Brian Donohoe  
 Dr Hope Paton  
 Dr Jim O'Connell  
 Dr Lewis Atkinson  
 Dr Lisa Bohlscheid  
 Dr Peter Grimbeek  
 DVConnect

Elypsys  
 Encompass Family and Community  
 Flexi Care  
 Foodbank Queensland  
 Forde Foundation  
 Gavin Lake  
 GEA - IT  
 Givit  
 Hammers Cleaning Services  
 Harvey Risk Management  
 Healthworks West End  
 Healthy Waterways  
 Helen Wallace, 99 Consulting  
 Help Enterprises  
 HomeGround Services  
 Housing Innovations  
 Howard Nielsen, NAC Consulting  
 Iain De Jong, OrgCode  
 Immigrant Womens Support Service  
 Impact Academy  
 Inala Community Centre  
 Inala Indigenous Health Service  
 INCH Housing  
 Infoxchange  
 Inkahoots  
 Jigsaw Queensland  
 Jobs Australia  
 Julie Parry, Intuit Works  
 KidSafe Queensland  
 Knowmore  
 Kummara Indigenous Family Care  
 Kurbingui  
 Legal Aid  
 Life Without Barriers  
 Link-Up (Qld) Aboriginal Corporation  
 Lori Rubenstein, Strategic Futures  
 Mangrove Housing  
 Mater Foundation  
 Mater Health Services  
 - ATSI Liaison Staff  
 Mater Parent Aide Unit  
 Mater Research  
 Mater Young Mothers Partnership Program  
 Medicare  
 Members of the Combined Womens Refuge Group  
 Members of the Queensland Domestic Violence Services Network  
 Mental Health Australia  
 Mission Australia  
 Mobiles Galore  
 Moggill Uniting Church  
 Moonyah Detox and Rehab  
 Multicultural Centre for Mental Health and Well-Being Inc  
 Multicultural Development Association  
 Murri School  
 Murri Watch  
 - Bowman Johnson Hostel  
 - Diversionary Centre  
 National Dental Foundation  
 Norelle McHugh, Encompass Family and Community  
 Nundah Neighbourhood Centre  
 Open Minds PHAMs Workers  
 OzCare  
 Patrick Herd, Community Business Australia  
 Peakcare

PIR (Partners in Recovery) Consortium  
 - Aftercare  
 - FSG Australia  
 - Gallang Place  
 - Harmony Place  
 - Neami National  
 - Richmond Fellowship Queensland  
 - Stepping Stone Clubhouse  
 - The Benevolent Society  
 - The Brook Red Centre  
 Playgroup Queensland  
 Presbyterian Church of Queensland  
 Promote Property  
 Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation for Alcohol and Drug Dependence Services  
 - Jesse Budby Healing Centre  
 Queensland Centre for Intellectual and Developmental Disability  
 Queensland Child Protection Week Committee  
 Queensland Shelter  
 ReLink Australia  
 Reconciliation Australia  
 Reconciliation Queensland  
 Red Cross Training Services  
 Results Leadership Group Australia  
 Reverend Dr Marie Fortune, FaithTrust Institute  
 Sandbag Community Centre  
 Sarina Russo Job Access  
 Second Bite  
 Sisters of the Good Samaritan  
 SNM Security Services  
 Social Leadership Australia  
 Southside Toyota  
 St Vincent de Paul Housing Services  
 St Vincent's Health and Aged Care  
 St Vincent's Mission Office  
 St Vincent's Private Hospital Brisbane  
 - Professor Harry McConnell  
 Strategic Grants  
 StreetSmart Australia  
 SupportLink  
 t3 - Think, Teach, Transform  
 Telephone Interpreting Service  
 The Salvation Army  
 - Brisbane Recovery Services Centre (Moonyah)  
 - Professional Standards Office, Sydney  
 The Social Change Agency  
 Tom Kirk  
 Towards Healing Professional Standards Office  
 Toyota Fleet Management  
 Transforming Life and Change  
 TransitCare  
 True North Psychology  
 Uncle Des Sandy  
 Uncle Sam Watson  
 UnitingCare Queensland  
 Welfare Rights Centre  
 West End Centre for Psychotherapy and Counselling  
 West End Mental Health Service  
 Womens Legal Service  
 Yoga Therapy Brisbane  
 Young Parents Program  
 Your Psychology Clinic  
 Yulu-Burri-Ba  
 Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre



Micah Projects acknowledges the many schools, businesses, government and community organisations, community groups and individuals who provide their time, effort, goods and give financially to support the people who access our services. Your generosity is vital and we are very grateful for it.

## Donors, Supporters & Volunteers

### Trusts and Foundations

Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation Australia  
Crommelin Family Foundation  
English Family Foundation  
Flannery Foundation  
Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust Brisbane  
Mater Foundation  
Mercy Foundation  
Morgans Foundation  
The John Barnes Foundation  
The Marian and E.H. Flack Trust  
The Pratt Family Foundation

### Businesses, Schools, Organisations and Individuals

15 Can Challenge Group  
4510TV  
612ABC  
98.9 Murri Radio  
Aboriginal and Islander Independent Community School  
Absolute Dental Care  
AGAPI  
Algester Medical Centre  
All Area Rubbish Removals

Allclear Print and Signs  
Allens Lawyers  
All Hallows' School Brisbane  
Annerley Branch ALP  
Alternatives to Violence Project  
Ananda Beauty Therapy  
Archicentre  
Ashgrove Baptist Church  
Ashurst Australia  
Australian Alliance to End Homelessness  
Australian Coalition for Economic Justice  
Avid Reader  
Beau Tangles Hair Salon  
Berwicks Office Technology  
BHP Billiton Petroleum Employee Matching Program  
Brisbane Boys College  
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre  
Brisbane Grammar School  
Brisbane State High School  
Brisbane Times  
Bunnings Warehouse Cannon Hill  
C3K Arnwood Place  
Capitol Apartments  
Carol's Gift Baskets  
Catholic Church Insurance

Catholic Women's League Corinda Graceville Chapter  
Caxton Legal Centre  
Celebration of the Female Form  
Chapman and Bailey Brisbane  
Chris Harkin  
Christian Brothers Oceania Province  
Circles of Life  
City Express and Removals  
Collier Creative  
Colour Chiefs  
Combined Womens Refuge Group  
Commercial Images  
Common Ground Queensland  
Community Business Australia  
Community Plus  
Connect 2 Employment  
Councillor Helen Abrahams  
Councillor Shayne Sutton  
Councillor Steve Griffiths  
Councillor Vicki Howard  
Craig Holmes Photography  
Dale and Michael Keenan  
Dandelion Gifts  
Daryl Clifford  
Dandelion Gifts  
Department of Education and Training Coorparoo  
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection  
Department of Infrastructure, Local Government & Planning - Community Recovery & Resilience  
Department of Science, Information Technology & Innovation - One-Stop Shop  
Di Farmer MP  
Ditzy Dames of Drewvale  
Dr Adele Chynoweth  
Eagers Holden  
Echo Valley Eggs  
Everyday Hero - various supporters  
Fallon Solutions  
Firefly Lighting  
Food Connect  
Gabrielle and Peter Chisholm  
Georgiou Group  
Girl Guides Jindalee  
Givit  
Grill'd West End  
Gwenneth and John Roberts  
Hidden Door Sydney  
Holland Park Lions Club  
Holy Cross Primary School  
Wooloowin  
Holy Spirit Northside Hospital  
Holy Trinity Anglican Church  
Wooloongabba  
Honourable Jackie Trad MP  
Human Technologies  
IBM Australia  
Indietreats  
Infinity Holidays  
Inkahoots  
Intuit Works  
James Stewart

Jason, Toby and Shauna Schulz  
Judith Wright Centre  
Junction Park State School  
Kay and Ian Johnston  
KBR Giving Programs  
Kedron State High School  
Kenmore Rugby Union Club  
KindyRoo  
Kmart Cannon Hill  
Kuril Dhagun  
Kurilpa Community Childcare Centre  
Lady Gowrie  
Leontine Circle  
Levesys  
Lions Club of Ekibin  
Lorraine Gorman  
Lusso Hair and Skin  
Lutwyche Catholic Parish Community  
Madonna McGahan  
Marcia's on Montague  
Mater Health Services  
McDonald's Bracken Ridge  
Medico Legal Reporting Services of Australia  
Michael Belcher  
Milton Fruit Bowl  
MLIG Group Life  
Moggill Markets  
Monday Walkers  
Moonlight Magic Dinner Dance  
guests who donated to cover the cost of supported tickets and those who donated wardrobe and their services  
Morgans  
Mt Alvernia College Kedron  
Mt Maria College Mitchelton  
Murri Watch  
NAC Consulting  
Netsuite  
News Limited  
Nia Dance Community of Brisbane  
Nous Group  
Oz Harvest  
Pallet Café Bar and Brew  
Parmalat  
Plus Dry Cleaners  
Pondera Physio and Pilates  
West End  
Prince Charles Hospital Social Work Services  
Queensland Council of Unions  
Queensland Domestic Violence Services Network  
Queensland Health - Mental Health Alcohol & Drugs Branch  
Queensland Urban Utilities  
Queensland X-Ray  
Rani's Cuisine  
Red Suit Advertising  
Residential Tenancies Authority  
River City Ballroom  
Robert Perrier  
Rock Community Care  
Ruby Yaya

Salvation Army  
Sanofi Consumer Health Care Savvy  
Scene to Believe  
Second Bite  
Senator Claire Moore  
Sisters of Mercy Brisbane  
Skerritt Superannuation  
Snap South Brisbane  
Southside Toyota  
Souths Leagues Club  
Space Property Agents  
State Library of Queensland  
St Joachim's Primary School  
Holland Park  
St John's Community Transport Service  
St Laurence's College South Brisbane  
St Mary of the Cross Primary School Windsor  
St Mary's in Exile South Brisbane  
Street Smart Australia  
St Vincent De Paul Society of Queensland  
St Vincent's Health Australia  
St Vincent's Private Hospital Brisbane  
Sutton Family Farm  
Swags for Homeless  
Tadpoles Early Learning Centre  
TAFE Queensland Brisbane  
Tender Disposals  
Terri Butler MP  
The Framer  
The Gap Farmers' Market  
The Honourable Kevin Rudd 26th Prime Minister of Australia  
The Other Green Bagz  
Toowong Milton Body Repairs  
Transport and Allied Insurance Services  
West End Community Childcare Centre  
West End Community House  
Westender  
Winter Angels  
WWILD  
Xavier Children's Support Network  
Yellow Cabs  
Zeus Street Greek  
Zonta Club of Brisbane  
Zonta Club of Brisbane East  
Zonta Club of Brisbane North  
Zonta Club of Brisbane River

**Our volunteers are an important presence in our activities that aim to build social inclusion within the community. Their efforts are highly valued by the individuals and families we support.**

Alana Patti, Alice Jenkins, Alison McCaffrey, Anna Allan, Astrid Lenz, Belinda Small, Brittany Graybill, Cameron Harris, Cassandra Cooney, Celia Sargent, Chris Allory, Daniel Aring, Demi Porter, Dora Skagos, Gabrielle Chisholm, George Porter, Gillian Smith, Gwen Ibarra, Holly-Ann Auckram, Jaclyn Kay Tarrant, Janet Able, Jennifer Protheroe, Jenny Dex, Jenny Spyve, Jenny Power, Jordon Martin-MacKay, Joy Shearer, Joy Reiken, Judith Greive, Judy Draper, Juliet Brooker, Kate Doolan, Kathren Martin, Kathy Schultz, Katrina Brockhurst, Kieran Kannan, Kimberly Spragg, Kris Bentley, Lachlan Whitwell, Lesley Yates, Lester Stimpson, Lin Lin Ho, Lisa Cattanaach, Louise Wegner, Lucy Miles, Madeline Kerswill, Madonna McGahan, Manny Holmes, Margaret Bambrick, Margie Gamble, Maria O'Neill, Marie McCreesh, Marilen Handley, Mary MacMahon, Michael Fahey, Michael Deed, Michaela Blunt, Nancye Read, Naomi McSkimming, Natalie Schultz, Natasha Kenealy, Nathan Campbell, Pat Vaughan, Rebecca Tweedy, Robert Perrier, Rodney Greive, Roger Brand, Ronald Sherwood, Rosemary Stoker, Scott Strong, Seb Robbins, Shane Crotty, Shelley Mullins, Teresa Smyth, Tess Parker, Toni Pye, Tracey Warburton, Virginia Khyriem, Wendy Lowe, Zach Trestrail

The 2014 Christmas Hamper Appeal was once again strongly supported by the local community. On Christmas Eve, **295 volunteers** helped to pack and deliver a record number of **567 food hampers**. We received \$22,109 in donations and hundreds of non-perishable food items to make it all possible.

We acknowledge and thank St Mary's in Exile, an independent faith community, and the West End community for their ongoing commitment and generosity in supporting our work.

**From all of us, thank you.**





# Thank You

## UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR MORE THAN A DECADE

In 2005, eminent stockbroking and wealth management firm Morgans, established the Morgans Foundation as its philanthropic arm, with the goal of making more meaningful contributions to selected charities with pooled funds from the company, its clients and staff. Micah Projects was one of the inaugural charities to receive funds from the Foundation and we are grateful that the support has continued.

Morgans funding strengthens our social inclusion and innovation agendas. Morgans Foundation has supported the Moonlight Magic Dinner Dance since it began. As Gold Sponsor of the event, the Foundation's support allows ticket prices to be offset for individuals we support, giving them a greatly anticipated opportunity for a gala evening of fine food, great music and lively dancing. Moonlight Magic is a truly inclusive evening unlike any other in Brisbane.

For a number of years Morgans Foundation has also provided us with \$25,000 per annum to invest in new or ongoing programs or operations that will truly 'make a difference'. The flexibility of these donations allows the organisation to direct funds where they will have the greatest potential impact at any given time.

Above: Young Mothers for Young Women's 4th Trimester group at the new premises of Wellspring Coorparoo. Photographer: Craig Holmes.

The ongoing generosity and support of Morgans Foundation makes a great difference to the people who access our services, and we sincerely thank them for their continued support.

## EARLY INTERVENTION SUPPORT CONTINUES

The Flannery Foundation has made another generous contribution to our work with families with a second contribution of \$30,000, making a total of \$60,000 since June 2014, to make the new premises at Wellspring Coorparoo a welcoming and enjoyable space for both adults and children to learn, share and grow. It is a great base for our early intervention and support services for young families.

The John Barnes Foundation, building on their grant last year, has made a second financial contribution of \$25,000 to our early intervention program for young pregnant and parenting women and their children.

The program is part of a two-generation, evidence-based approach to working with vulnerable families, aimed at breaking the inter-generational cycle of poverty by combining family and personal support with early childhood education and care.

More information about our Parents as Teachers program can be found on page 15.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH MLRSA

Medico Legal Reporting Services of Australia (MLRSA) has been a long-time supporter of Micah Projects, generously supporting art groups and community meals. In the lead up to Christmas 2014, MLRSA wanted to help change the lives of a vulnerable family in the Brisbane

community and joined the Giving Back Christmas Appeal for 2014, an initiative of Micah Projects and the 500 Lives 500 Homes partnership.

From October to December a proportion of every referral appointment made with MLRSA was allocated for this purpose, generating an impressive final amount of \$8,000. The funds raised were used to purchase essential household basics for a family of eight as they moved into their own home after being temporarily accommodated for six months in a single motel room.

The commitment of the MLRSA team gave each member of the large family their own bed and bed linen and provided the family with essential electrical goods, including a washing machine and fridge. Businesses like MLRSA can have a huge impact on the lives of vulnerable families here in Brisbane and we take this opportunity to thank them for their generous support.

## GIVIT AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas can be a challenging time for many of the families supported by the Families, Women and Children teams. To brighten the holiday season, Micah Projects hosts a Christmas party at a local pool where families swim and share a meal together and the children all receive a gift from Santa.

This year's party was particularly memorable thanks to the support of GIVIT, who provided over \$1,000 worth of gift cards to support the event. The GIVIT donation provided a new pair of bathers and a beautiful new beach towel for each child, as well as toys and equipment to make the day as magical as possible. All thanks to the team at GIVIT, and the people who support them.

## THE FUTURE OF GIVING – SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Micah Projects schools partnership program provides students with an opportunity to learn more about the life experiences and challenges faced by different people and to experience the pride and joy that come from contributing to the community, without the expectation of reward.

We greatly value the highly successful school partnerships we have established to date. Schools involved in the school partnership program have helped to raise much needed funds and donated goods to support vital programs including community meals, welcome home packs, Christmas hampers, personal hygiene packs and the provision of emergency accommodation.

This year we make particular mention of Brisbane Grammar School, Brisbane Boys College, St Laurence's College and All Hallows School. For example, All Hallows School students provided Micah Projects with a steady stream of household start-up packs throughout the year. These packs comprise items necessary for an individual or family to set up home, providing the basic essentials for a dignified and welcoming home as people transition from homelessness into their own home.

The packs include crockery, cutlery, cooking items, linen, bedding, pillows and electrical goods. Demand for the packs is high, as an average of 7-8 families per month are supported to transition from homelessness to stable and secure housing. We thank all the school communities who are so dedicated and loyal in their support of Micah Projects and the people we support.





**RANI**  
Photography: Craig Holmes.

*With a love of cooking stemming from growing up in Mauritius, and her own experiences with epilepsy, depression and isolation from family, devoted cook Rani jumped at the opportunity to coordinate the free monthly community meal as part of The Hive program.*

*"I have been lucky in my life, but there was a time while studying in Canada when I was struggling with medications for my epilepsy and living thousands of miles away from my family. I felt alone and isolated. I desperately wished that someone would come to help me. I still remember how badly that felt," Rani said.*

*"If I can do something to help someone else from feeling as unhappy as I was, from feeling that alone and vulnerable, then I need to do it."*

*Each month Rani sources food donations from Brisbane businesses and then directs a team of volunteers to prepare a meal based on the donated produce.*

*"The volunteers, the businesses donating the food and the Micah Projects team make the community meal possible. I'm just a small part in a much bigger team."*

*"But it's been a wonderfully rewarding experience. It has reminded me that there are good people out there. People want to help others but don't necessarily know how. So if you have been sitting back and waiting for an opportunity to make a difference, this is it."*



Above: Karyn Walsh congratulating Guest Speaker Helen Carter at the candlelight vigil for Domestic and Family Violence, May 2015. Helen bravely spoke of the trauma of losing a partner to DV. The large audience included Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Dame Quentin Bryce, Chair of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, Leader of the Opposition Lawrence Springborg and Queensland Police Commissioner Ian Stewart. Photography: Julie VanDore.

## Treasurer's Comments

The year began with some uncertainty by the Australian and Queensland Government in relation to the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) which impacts on several of our services. Agreements were not signed until after August 2014, which meant that the organisation had to ensure that all financial commitments and liabilities for these programs were covered in the interim. Secondly, funding for the Find and Connect program was reduced and changes had to be made to services provided under this program. Additionally there was uncertainty regarding State Government contracts.

As the financial year progressed, government funding became more certain and actually grew. Grants from Federal, State and Local Governments increased during the year with over \$15.2 million in grant monies received. This included funding for individual disability packages. In addition to the programs that Micah Projects continues to provide, the organisation successfully tendered to work in the areas of domestic and family violence, family inclusion and early childhood development. These successful tenders account largely for the growth in government funding.

Donations from the community and philanthropic groups have also increased, and these now exceed \$550,000.

Expenditure for the year is consistent with the growth in revenue. As a service organisation, salaries and wages represent the largest component of expenditure.

A change in auditors from Arrow Accountants to BDO Audit Pty Ltd has resulted in changes to the organisation's accounting procedures in line with best practice in not-for-profit (NFP) financial reporting. This change has meant that our prior year balances have been restated.

The overall result for the financial year was a surplus of over \$1 million. This is due in part to the receipt of back payment of wages supplementation from the State and Federal Governments from prior years, and the write off of leasehold improvements over a longer period. Fundraising has also contributed to the surplus.

The equity position at 30 June 2015 is \$1.5 million. Funds have been allocated to the development of a social enterprise, Inclusive Health Partnerships projects, website development and change management.

The Finance Team, part of Micah Projects Business Services, facilitates the financial management of the organisation. The team had an interesting year with a change in accounting software and auditors. They have persevered! The Board acknowledges the contribution of the Finance Team, Rajkumar, Miseon, Rebecca, Trish, Gita and their Team Leader Sherryn, and recognises that it is fortunate to have the services of highly skilled and dedicated members of staff.

The Board is confident that Micah Projects is in a sound fiscal position.



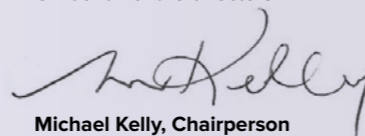
## Director's Declaration

The directors of Micah Projects Inc. declare that in their opinion, the concise financial report of Micah Projects Inc for the year ended 30 June 2015 complies with Accounting Standard AASB 1039 Concise Financial Reports.

The concise financial report is an extract from the full financial report for the year ended 30 June 2015. The financial statements and specific disclosures included in the concise financial report have been derived from the full financial report.

The concise financial report cannot be expected to provide as full an understanding of the financial performance, financial position and financing and investing activities of the consolidated entity as the full financial report, which is available on request.

On behalf of the directors



Michael Kelly, Chairperson  
Monday 28 September 2015

## Independent Auditor's Report



Tel: +61 7 3237 5999  
Fax: +61 7 3221 9227  
www.bdo.com.au

Level 10, 12 Creek St  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
GPO Box 457 Brisbane QLD 4001  
Australia

### To the Members of Micah Projects Inc. Report on the Concise Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying concise financial report of Micah Projects Inc. which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended, and related notes, derived from the audited financial report of Micah Projects Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2015. The concise financial report does not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards and accordingly, reading the concise financial report is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report.

### Directors' Responsibility for the Concise Financial Report

The directors of Micah Projects Inc. are responsible for the preparation of the concise financial report in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 1039 Concise Financial Reports, and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, and for such internal control as the directors determine are necessary to enable the preparation of the concise financial report.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the concise financial report based on our procedures which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

We have conducted an independent audit, in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, of the financial report of the Micah Projects Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2015. We expressed an unmodified opinion on that financial report in our report dated 30 September 2015. The Australian Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report for the year is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the concise financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the concise financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the concise financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Our procedures included testing that the information in the concise financial report is derived from, and is consistent with, the financial report for the year, and examination on a test basis, of audit evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures which were not directly derived from the financial report for the year. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the

concise financial report complies with AASB 1039 Concise Financial Reports.

The concise financial report and the audited financial report do not reflect the effect of events that occurred subsequent to the date of the auditor's report on the audited financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

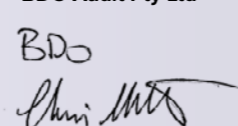
### Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Professional Accounting Bodies. We confirm that the independence declaration which has been given to the directors of Micah Projects Inc., would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the concise financial report of Micah Projects Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2015 complies with Accounting Standard AASB 1039 Concise Financial Reports.

### BDO Audit Pty Ltd



CJ Skelton  
Director  
Brisbane, 30 September 2015

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part of the international BDO network of independent member firms. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation, other than for the acts or omissions of financial services licensees.

## Statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2015

|  | 2015              | 2014              |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | \$                | Restated*<br>\$   |
| <b>REVENUE</b>                                 |                   |                   |
| Other income                                   | 15,828,011        | 14,694,675        |
|  | 598,938           | 649,730           |
|  | <u>16,426,949</u> | <u>15,344,405</u> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                |                   |                   |
| Employment expenses                            | (10,995,721)      | (11,044,133)      |
| Property and energy expenses                   | (1,270,204)       | (951,781)         |
| Administration expenses                        | (1,341,142)       | (1,342,873)       |
| Motor vehicle expenses                         | (624,459)         | (599,304)         |
| Client related expenses                        | (1,057,257)       | (1,144,150)       |
| Depreciation expense                           | (58,590)          | (44,568)          |
| Finance costs                                  | -                 | (1,588)           |
| Other expenses                                 | (69,547)          | (116,953)         |
| <b>PROFIT BEFORE INCOME</b>                    |                   |                   |
| <b>TAX EXPENSES</b>                            | 1,010,029         | 99,055            |
| Income tax expense                             | -                 | -                 |
| Profit / (loss) for the year                   | <u>1,010,029</u>  | <u>99,055</u>     |
| <b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>              | -                 | -                 |
| <b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b> | <u>1,010,029</u>  | <u>99,055</u>     |

\*Refer note 2 regarding the restatement as a result of adjustments



# Statement of financial position

## as at 30 June 2015

|                                      | 2015             | 2014             | 2013             |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                      | \$               | Restated*        | Restated*        |
|                                      | \$               | \$               | \$               |
| <b>ASSETS</b>                        |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                |                  |                  |                  |
| Cash and cash equivalents            | 5,213,991        | 3,666,180        | 3,070,072        |
| Trade and other receivables          | 364,315          | 74,657           | 233,659          |
| Other current assets                 | 282,486          | 124,716          | 60,020           |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>          | <b>5,860,792</b> | <b>3,865,553</b> | <b>3,363,751</b> |
| <b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>            |                  |                  |                  |
| Property, plant and equipment        | 378,826          | 25,011           | 15,225           |
| <b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>      | <b>378,826</b>   | <b>25,011</b>    | <b>15,225</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                  | <b>6,239,618</b> | <b>3,890,564</b> | <b>3,378,976</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                   |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>           |                  |                  |                  |
| Trade and other payables             | 765,296          | 534,806          | 750,110          |
| Financial liabilities                | -                | -                | 9,804            |
| Current tax liabilities              | -                | -                | 3,989            |
| Provisions                           | 856,229          | 897,160          | 1,126,587        |
| Other                                | 2,595,676        | 1,462,159        | 773,754          |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>     | <b>4,217,201</b> | <b>2,894,125</b> | <b>2,664,244</b> |
| <b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>       |                  |                  |                  |
| Financial liabilities                | -                | -                | 16,090           |
| Provisions                           | 496,155          | 480,206          | 281,464          |
| <b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> | <b>496,155</b>   | <b>480,206</b>   | <b>297,554</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>             | <b>4,713,356</b> | <b>3,374,331</b> | <b>2,961,798</b> |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                    | <b>1,526,262</b> | <b>516,233</b>   | <b>417,178</b>   |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                        |                  |                  |                  |
| Reserves                             | 49,828           | 49,828           | 49,828           |
| Retained surpluses                   | 1,476,434        | 466,405          | 367,350          |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>                  | <b>1,526,262</b> | <b>516,233</b>   | <b>417,178</b>   |

\*Refer note 2 regarding the restatement as a result of adjustments

### Note 1. Significant accounting policies

This concise financial report is an extract from the financial report. The financial statements and specific disclosures included in this concise financial report have been derived from the financial report. The concise financial report cannot be expected to provide as full an understanding of the financial performance, financial position and financing and investing activities of the entity as the financial report. The presentation currency used is Australian dollars and there are no significant events occurring after the reporting date to be reported.

### Note 2. Prior period adjustments

Changes in accounting treatment were required to bring the financial statements in line with the current Accounting Standards. The following adjustments were necessary:

- Increase the provision for Long Service leave
- Decrease the provisions for non-vesting sick leave and other costs
- Increase to salary and wages accruals.

Comparative figures have been restated to reflect the adjustments. A reconciliation between the original and the restated comparative balances is shown on page 47. This only reflects those line items impacted by the above and the impact on total balances (see p47):-

### Note 2: Prior period adjustments

| Statement of Comprehensive Income                    | Previously stated<br>30 June 2014 | Adjustment     | Restated<br>30 June 2014 |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
|  | \$                                | \$             | \$                       |
| <b>REVENUE</b>                                       | 15,344,405                        |                | 15,344,405               |
| Employee benefits expense                            | 10,320,074                        | 485,058        | 10,805,132               |
| Property and energy costs                            | 1,422,833                         | (471,052)      | 951,781                  |
| Motor Vehicle costs                                  | 609,917                           | (10,613)       | 599,304                  |
| Profit / (Loss) for the year                         | 102,448                           | (3,393)        | 99,055                   |
| <b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>                    | -                                 | -              | -                        |
| <b>TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b> | -                                 | -              | -                        |
| <b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>       | <b>102,448</b>                    | <b>(3,393)</b> | <b>99,055</b>            |

| Statement of Financial Position | Previously stated<br>30 June 2013 | Adjustment       | Restated<br>30 June 2013 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                 | \$                                | \$               | \$                       |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>              |                                   |                  |                          |
| Current provisions              | 1,368,881                         | (242,294)        | 1,126,587                |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>        | <b>3,206,391</b>                  | <b>(242,294)</b> | <b>2,961,798</b>         |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>               | <b>174,884</b>                    | <b>242,294</b>   | <b>417,178</b>           |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                   |                                   |                  |                          |
| Reserves                        | 49,828                            | -                | 49,828                   |
| Retained surplus                | 125,056                           | 242,294          | 367,350                  |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>             | <b>174,884</b>                    | <b>242,294</b>   | <b>417,178</b>           |

| Statement of Financial Position      | Previously stated<br>30 June 2014 | Adjustment       | Restated<br>30 June 2014 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                      | \$                                | \$               | \$                       |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                   |                                   |                  |                          |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>           |                                   |                  |                          |
| Provision                            | 1,588,745                         | (691,585)        | 897,160                  |
| Other current liabilities            | 1,249,579                         | 212,581          | 1,462,159                |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>     | <b>3,373,128</b>                  | <b>(479,004)</b> | <b>2,894,125</b>         |
| <b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>       |                                   |                  |                          |
| Provisions                           | 240,103                           | 240,103          | 480,206                  |
| <b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> | <b>240,103</b>                    | <b>240,103</b>   | <b>480,206</b>           |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>             | <b>3,613,233</b>                  | <b>(238,901)</b> | <b>3,374,331</b>         |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                    | <b>277,332</b>                    | <b>238,901</b>   | <b>516,233</b>           |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                        |                                   |                  |                          |
| Reserves                             | 49,828                            | -                | 49,828                   |
| Retained surplus*                    | 227,504                           | 238,901          | 466,405                  |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>                  | <b>277,332</b>                    | <b>238,901</b>   | <b>516,233</b>           |

\*This adjustment includes the cumulative effect of the opening balance adjustment at 1 July 2013



# Support Micah Projects

## YOUR SUPPORT WILL STRENGTHEN MICAH PROJECTS RESPONSE TO THE INEQUALITY AND INJUSTICE IMPACTING THE LIVES OF VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

Micah Projects works to break the cycle of homelessness, poverty, violence and social exclusion experienced by individuals and families. The high cost of living compounds their vulnerability and accessing affordable stable housing is difficult. We assist people to secure income, housing and health services to meet their basic needs and to build a decent quality of life: where there is adequate intervention and support, there is hope.

Become a member or make a cash donation to help Micah Projects better support people who are excluded or vulnerable.

**You can make a secure online donation at [www.micahprojects.org.au/donate](http://www.micahprojects.org.au/donate) or complete this form and return it to us.**

Yes, I wish to become a member of Micah Projects Inc.

\$5.50 (annual fee inc GST)

Also included is my tax-deductible donation for the amount of:

\$50

\$25

\$100

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to Micah Projects Inc or charge my credit card:

Visa  Mastercard

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Above: There is always a great turn out for the darts! The group meets weekly on Tuesdays at West End Community House and for some, they say it's the highlight of their week. But it's all about the bullseyes and the all-important pictures to be taken when it happens. The group have been playing darts with each other for a long time and so have become good friends. From left: Barry, Billy, Kym, Francine, Clinton and George. Photography: Craig Holmes.

## CONTACT US

[www.micahprojects.org.au](http://www.micahprojects.org.au)

### MICAH PROJECTS INC

Phone (07) 3029 7000 | Fax (07) 3029 7029  
Ground Floor, 162 Boundary Street, West End Q 4101  
PO Box 3449 South Brisbane Q 4101  
info@micahprojects.org.au  
www.micahprojects.org.au  
ABN 76 409 721 192

Twitter @micahprojects

Facebook [www.facebook.com/micahprojects](http://www.facebook.com/micahprojects)

YouTube [www.youtube.com/user/micahprojects](http://www.youtube.com/user/micahprojects)

Public Transport

Nearest stations:

- Train – South Brisbane or South Bank
- Bus – Cultural Centre Busway Station, South Bank  
Bus route 199 to West End

### WELLSPRING HUB

Working with Families, Women and Children

Phone (07) 3217 2544 | Fax (07) 3217 2679  
PO Box 3449 South Brisbane Q 4101  
wellspring@micahprojects.org.au  
www.micahprojects.org.au

### WELLSPRING COORPAROO

Working with Families, Women and Children

Phone (07) 3013 6000 | Fax (07) 3394 2909  
143 Cavendish Road, Coorparoo Q 4151  
PO Box 3449 South Brisbane Q 4101  
wellspring@micahprojects.org.au  
www.micahprojects.org.au

### CATERPILLAR HOUSE

Young Mothers for Young Women (YMYW)

Phone (07) 3013 6000 | Fax (07) 3013 6013  
111 Vulture Street, West End, Q 4101  
ymyw@micahprojects.org.au  
www.micahprojects.org.au

### BRISBANE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE

A Brisbane Region integrated response

Phone (07) 3217 2544 | Fax (07) 3217 2679  
PO Box 3278 South Brisbane BC, Q 4101  
bdvs@micahprojects.org.au  
www.bdvs.org.au

### HOME FOR GOOD (FORMERLY BHSC) & STREET TO HOME

Working with families and individuals experiencing homelessness

Phone (07) 3036 4444 | Fax (07) 3036 4400  
PO Box 3449 South Brisbane Q 4101  
info@micahprojects.org.au  
www.homeforgood.org.au

### LOTUS PLACE

Adults who experienced childhood abuse in an institutional setting

Phone (07) 3055 8500 or Find and Connect 1800 16 11 09  
Fax (07) 3844 6706  
56 Peel Street, South Brisbane Q 4101  
PO Box 3449 South Brisbane Q 4101  
lotus@micahprojects.org.au  
www.lotusplace.org.au

### LOTUS PLACE NO

Phone (07) 4724 4410 or Find and Connect 1800 16 11 09  
Fax (07) 4772 0011  
312 Sturt Street, Townsville Q 4810  
PO Box 2027, Townsville Q 4810  
lotusnq@micahprojects.org.au  
www.lotusplace.org.au

### LOTUS PLACE CQ

Phone (07) 4927 7604 or Find and Connect 1800 16 11 09  
Swan Office Building, 159 Denison Street  
Rockhampton Q 4700  
PO Box 586, Rockhampton Q 4700  
lotuscq@micahprojects.org.au  
www.lotusplace.org.au







## MICAH PROJECTS INC

Breaking Social Isolation  
Building Community

### MICAH PROJECTS INC

Phone (07) 3029 7000 | Fax (07) 3029 7029

Ground Floor, 162 Boundary Street, West End Q 4101

PO Box 3449, South Brisbane Q 4101

[info@micahprojects.org.au](mailto:info@micahprojects.org.au) | [www.micahprojects.org.au](http://www.micahprojects.org.au)

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