



OUR VISION

Young people overcoming adversity & building independence

OUR PURPOSE

Youth Outreach Service: Towards hope and independence – whatever it takes

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97 School Street, Spring Hill QLD 4000

Lawnton - 07 3285 8522

27-29 Lawnton Pocket Road, Lawnton QLD 4501

Stafford - 07 3173 6371

32-54 Hayward Street, Stafford QLD 4053

www.youthoutreachservice.org

MANAGER'S REPORT

DARREN

What a privilege our service and staff have to work alongside young people who, despite their "adversities", find the energy and time to think of and thank others who are supporting them.

YOS, in 2016, had an abundance of heartfelt thankyou's from young people for the support we offer. Some said thanks in public forums, others wrote letters, some gave cards and others small tokens of appreciation. Staff heard the thankyou's coming from young people through tears and others in humour, but all were sincere. YOS often hears from young people and families, that they didn't know what they would do if the support from YOS wasn't there.

How appreciative is YOS of our funding bodies, partners and The Salvation Army who enable us to do what we do. Most of all, thanks for opportunities and resources that our GOD provides. So what impact did YOS have in 2016?

1. Supported 397 young people with legal matters
2. Graduated 18, Year 12 students from our education programs
3. Provided educational and social support to 50 students
4. Offered transitional 12 month accommodation and support to 12 young people. 11 transitioned onto safe and secure housing
5. Engaged 36 young people in mental health check-ins and support
6. Raised the awareness of youth homelessness through two big events, school visits and media interviews
7. Organised the YOS graduation night with over 200 people in attendance celebrating
8. Offered young people support and community connectedness through weekly art group, school holiday events and other recreational activities

Without your support we would not be able to celebrate these outcomes.

Thank you.

2016 GRADUATION CEREMONY

EMMA – PROPERTY, COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS ADMINISTRATOR

Thursday 24th November 2016 was a wonderful night of celebration as YOS staff and volunteers, students and their families, supporters and community partners gathered together to acknowledge the achievements of the YOS students, especially those graduating from Year 12 studies.

For the second consecutive year, Victoria Park Golf Club hosted the event. The ball room looked stunning as more than 200 guests entered the room and found their seat, to be treated to a two course meal.

Guests were treated to over six student testimonies, hearing about how they had overcome adversities to finish their schooling. It was inspiring and uplifting to listen to the young people share personal stories about their life circumstances which had led them to YOS.

18 Year 12 students graduated that night, with another ... year 10 and 11 students being acknowledged for their achievements throughout 2016.

This year, the “Student of the Year Award” was presented to Kallina – a Year 12 graduate from the Pirlirra Spring Hill Education Program.

It was a fantastic night, which allowed YOS to celebrate not only their students but our program partners too. We were so glad to have so many supporters attend the night to experience the benefit and results of their support and hard work.

Here are some photos from the night.

SEE BACK PAGE FOR MORE PHOTOS



MEET OUR NEW STAFF

LYN – ACTIVITIES WORKER – ALL SITES



I am the Activities Worker at YOS. My role includes organising School Holiday/Community activities for both Spring Hill & Lawnton Youth; running afternoon sports on Wednesdays at Lawnton School; small group activities on Thursdays at Lawnton School and interacting with other young people when opportunities arise. Slowly but surely I feel I'm building a solid rapport with the Youth which is helpful in executing my role. The role comes with various challenges that make it a colourful, exciting and never boring job!

For the previous 16 years, before obtaining this role, I was a bookkeeper. I keep up my bookkeeping skills one day a week with a small company. During those years I also worked for The Salvation Army at DHQ (Roma Street) for 2 years in the Finance and PR Departments and then on Reception. I was also unemployed for 19 months leading up to this current position so it is an amazing blessing to be back contributing again in the workplace.

Outside of work I am very much into the outdoors. Totally love the 3 disciplines of hiking (day or multi-day), cycling and kayaking. I organise and lead monthly adventures for a Ladies group that I started back in 2008. It is a pleasure to share my passion with them, my grandchildren and now also with YOS Youth. Helping others to 'achieve' energises and entuses me. My motto is "adventure on".

I am a Mother of 3 adult lads, Nan to 3 grandchildren (9 months, 8 & 10 years of age). I was in The Girls' Brigade for 30+ years, starting as a 5 year old and progressing through the ranks to Deputy State Commissioner. Along the way I held many portfolios. This was invaluable grounding for my life and much was learnt about leadership, teamwork and life skills.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE SALVOS

MAREE – YOUTH WORKER HEALTH & WELL-BEING SPRING HILL

The annual Salvation Army Christmas Lunch event at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC) was attended by individuals and families connected with various Salvation Army Services around Brisbane.

Each December, BCEC generously host Salvation Army clients and provide a wonderful Christmas lunch for those in attendance.

Young people from YOS attended and filled almost two tables. Entertainment included SpongeBob SquarePants, Christmas carols led by Salvation Army workers, a Salvation Army brass band and, of course, Santa! The day provided an opportunity to celebrate the year that had been and thoughtfully embrace the year to come.

The impact of this event is always positive and far-reaching and 2016 was no different. It was great to see our young people interacting with each other and engaging in the activities of the day with good heart, generosity of spirit and an open mind. Joining together for a meal invites connection in a different way and we all got involved. Many people shared gratitude towards those who had helped them in times of difficulty.

Just a quick word of encouragement to anyone who missed out or would like to come in the future ... it is worth it and you may get more out of it than you expect.



ACCOMMODATION PROGRAM UPDATE

LAURA – YOUTH WORKER SPRING HILL

The end of 2016 was an eventful time for the tenants in the YOS Accommodation Program; time for celebration, and time for big change. Finishing school or study and starting work is a huge step towards independence, bringing opportunities to learn how to manage changing routines and budget priorities. Here are a few highlights and achievements of the young people over the last 3 months:

- Graduating Year 12, and winning Student of the Year award;
- Acceptance into University;
- Completing study, and getting a job from work experience;
- Finding full-time employment;
- Achieving personal goals;
- Celebrating baby's 1st birthday;
- Spending time with friends over Christmas;
- Getting drivers licence back;
- Applying for apprenticeships.

2017 promises to be an exciting year, also full of change, with a new Team Leader starting, and plenty of opportunity to expand community activities and life-skills learning. We're looking forward to what the New Year will bring!

GRADUATION CEREMONY 2016

