

# Snapshots

share  
restoring life, joy, hope

Your gifts at work

Autumn 2016



## Battling the odds

Renewed hope for a young carer

When Josie unexpectedly assumed full responsibility for her friend's six-year-old daughter, she was understandably anxious. Josie, 21, was living in shared accommodation with her friend and her friend's little girl, Ava, while studying to be a nurse.

Josie was dealt a major blow when her friend was no longer able to care for her daughter and suddenly moved out of the house, leaving Ava behind with Josie. Josie worried about how she could handle the huge responsibility of caring for a child.

At the time, Josie was concentrating on her studies and had very limited funds to pay for her own schooling. Added to that the cost of looking after a child, Josie felt the weight of the world on her shoulders.

**It all became too much. But thanks to you, Josie had somewhere to turn.**

She arrived at UnitingCare Bendigo and Emergency Relief Manager Julie said Josie showed a maturity beyond her years.

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to help others

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for the future

“She is a very sweet, quiet girl,” Julie said.

“We had noticed her coming in for food sometimes, but she never spoke to us at first. When she finally told us her story, we couldn’t believe it.”

While studying, she managed to get Ava to school every day and lived on small handouts where she could get them.

Thanks to your donations, Josie received food, school snacks and supplies and clothes.

“She is now a fully-qualified nurse and happily applying for graduate nurse positions,” Julie said.

“She is still caring for Ava and looking for a childcare position close to home.”

**Thank you for investing in work that is truly transforming lives and supporting people like Josie and Ava in their time of need.**

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## A donor’s heart to help others

### Meet Sue Wales

*“I’m glad I can do a little now and through making a bequest to Share somewhere in the future. Hopefully many years into the future, I can have more of a significant impact on a particular program or area that needs support at that time.”*

Growing up in the Church of Christ, Sue’s values were instilled at an early age.

“Even though I come from a middle class background and haven’t really had to struggle, I was a sole parent for a number of years before my second marriage,” Sue said.

“It has made me realise how easily anyone can go through difficult situations; whether it’s a marriage breakdown or a loss of a job which impacts on their overall wellbeing and makes them vulnerable to being in need in a range of different ways. Share brings me up-to-date on their focus so even though I’m not intimately involved, I know the diverse range of programs is fantastic,” she said.

Sue’s faith, generosity and dedication to helping others are strongly evident in her life, and will continue to be her legacy for many years to come.

**If you would like to learn more about leaving a gift to Share in your Will, please contact our Relationship Manager on 1800 668 426 for a confidential discussion.**



# Hope for tomorrow

## How your gift gave Ivan a new life

A crisis can happen at any time and it can happen to anyone. Every day hundreds of people seek help from a UnitingCare agency for the first time.

Ivan turned to Wesley Centre for Life Enrichment after he lost his job and was forced to live on the streets. After he was retrenched, he was an older man with no qualifications. In a matter of months, Ivan was a lonely and broken man. His relationships broke down, acquaintances dropped away, his health deteriorated and he began living on the streets.

With nowhere else to turn, Ivan stumbled into the Wesley Centre where he held out his hands and took off his cap. Completely vulnerable, he asked for help. Ivan had never been inside a welfare centre before and was ashamed and scared. He simply didn't know what to do.

Because of your donations, there was somewhere for Ivan to turn for support. Staff at the centre

immediately identified Ivan needed medical attention and ensured he got the help he desperately required.

He was referred to doctors, assisted with government housing, disability services and other agency support.

This led to improvements in his health, mood, medications and pain management. Ivan is now making plans to stop smoking, take up a hobby, learn to read and write and find employment.

The support from Wesley Centre meant Ivan was able to move into a unit which he now calls home.

**His story could have been quite different without your generous donations that help fund this important counselling support program.**

## Stories of Hope

### Delivered right to your inbox

As a faithful supporter of Share, you deserve to know what's happening here! That's why we've created a special email list. We'd love you to be included. Sign up on our website [www.shareappeal.org.au](http://www.shareappeal.org.au) (at the very bottom of the page) and we'll deliver stories of hope, and keep you updated on needs and how your donations are used.





# Equipping kids for the future

## Helping a Mum cope with rising school costs

**Thanks to Share donors, over 400 children in the Geelong area can attend school with essential necessities such as school uniforms and text books.**

A growing number of families are finding it increasingly difficult to cover the cost of sending their children to school. The Share-funded UnitingCare Geelong Education Assistance program means disadvantaged families have somewhere to turn for help.

Mother of two, Janet, is unable to work after receiving not one but three separate cancer diagnoses in recent years. Dealing with major health concerns and continual medical costs understandably left Janet struggling to make ends meet.

Despite many moments of hopelessness, Janet was determined to keep it together for her family and give them a sense of much-needed stability. With utility bills and schooling costs piling up, Janet turned to UnitingCare Geelong for assistance with books, stationary and school uniforms.

“Lots of families are doing it tough in Geelong and I can’t see it getting better anytime soon,” Janet said. “Books alone can be up to \$600 because it can cost \$80 per book.”

Families like Janet’s are finding it tough to cope with the rising school costs, but your loyal support gave Janet somewhere to turn – without that help, her children would have been forced to go without.

UnitingCare Geelong Chief Executive Officer Des Youngusband says the basic necessities to get children ‘school ready’ are becoming more and more out of reach for low income families.

“If parents are only working part-time and have mortgages or rent to pay, they find there is not much money left for basics such as food,” Des said.

Your donations to Share mean more children can go to school equipped with the necessary essentials. Thank you for helping to make this life-changing work possible.

### Share

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Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Share is the fundraising arm of UnitingCare and Uniting Church community services in Victoria and Tasmania.

At Share we respect everyone who is helped by the programs we fund – and many are working toward a fresh start in life. So while their stories are true, their names and images may have been changed to protect their privacy. Thank you for understanding.