

Heart of the Foundation

Bringing you closer to the lives you help change.

Newsletter Spring 2019



Because of you...

Nathan's future looks bright
Page 1

Nasam found a safe place to call home
Page 2

Disadvantaged families have access to healthy food
Page 3

At-risk kids are rediscovering their heritage
Page 4

Nathan says, "Thank you!"

Our scholarship student overcame a family tragedy to take charge of his future – and the future looks bright.

Like all of our scholarship recipients, Nathan Stevens had a tough upbringing. He was only in Year 8 when his beloved mother was diagnosed with cancer. He and his sister watched her battle the disease for four long years, but sadly she lost her fight.

Nathan had always had big dreams to study and have an impressive career, but now he faced an uncertain future full of grief and no financial support.

Hope on the horizon

Luckily, Nathan heard about the Sisters of Charity Foundation Scholarship, the only scholarship in Australia dedicated to helping young people who have lived in out-of-home care.

After being accepted into the program, he was able to relocate from Townsville to Brisbane to study a Bachelor of

Nathan with his sister Jade.

"I am very grateful for all that the scholarship and donors have done to allow me to do this."



Nathan is using his scholarship to study a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours).

Engineering (Honours) at the University of Queensland. Nathan threw himself into his studies, and has made lots of friends through his classes and regular sporting events.

Planning for the future

After graduation, Nathan intends to find work on a mine site, hopefully a fly-in/fly-out position that will let him spend more time with his sister and grandparents in Townsville. "I have also contemplated returning to university in the future to become a teacher, as I have learnt to value good teachers and enjoy helping others learn," he says.

"Between the end of high school and now I believe I have matured a great deal. Understanding how to manage university and anything else that life throws at you without having to sacrifice grades or my goals has been a focus of mine."

There's no doubt Nathan is a very impressive young man and we wish him all the very best for his bright future!



Thanks to you, Nasam's life is eternally changed

Shunned by her family and without a home, Nasam thought she had nowhere to turn...

Nasam is a young Muslim woman who fled to Australia, escaping gender-based family and personal violence in a country that didn't protect her rights. Sadly, she had no local friends or support and was forced to sleep at a train station – until one day she was spotted by a passerby who convinced her to ask the Asylum Seekers Centre for help.

Providence House to the rescue

Thanks to your most generous support, the Foundation was able to provide an apartment building to the Asylum Seekers Centre for emergency housing.

Nasam was helped to move into Providence House and lived there for nearly a year – taking English classes, learning about her rights as a woman, exploring her goals and finding new confidence. She also landed a job as a seamstress and began a TAFE course!

Thanks to the safety and stability she found at Providence House, she was able to rebuild her life and eventually moved into a place of her own.

Please join us in congratulating Nasam on achieving so much in just one short year!



*With your help, Nasam was able to change her life.
Photo: Getty Images.*



How will you be remembered?

Leaving a gift in your will to the Sisters of Charity Foundation is a once in a lifetime chance to make sure those living in poverty or isolation have somewhere to turn to for help, even after you're gone.

And for your kindness, we'll always remember you. To learn how easy it is to leave a bequest, phone Reba or Judy on (02) 9367 1211.

Your dollars at work!

We visited the Prosper community kitchen to get a first-hand look at how your donation dollars are being spent.

Prosper Project Australia is a small community organisation that supports disadvantaged children and their families. Thanks to you, our Foundation was able to fund its community kitchen, which gives those experiencing poverty and homelessness access to a free kitchen, cooking supplies, containers and fresh ingredients to prepare healthy meals for their families.

During our visit we were able to speak with a couple of community kitchen regulars who find the service a godsend:

Mum-of-four Clare is a community kitchen regular.



Foundation staff and donors visiting the Prosper community kitchen.



“I don't want to feel like I'm taking advantage... The staff were so kind and loving they made me realise they're here for people like me.”

“I don't have many family members in Australia so this gives me a sense of community, to be able to meet with people.”



Raumanu is stay-at-home mum to four girls who came here from Fiji 20 years ago.

Keep in touch with the Foundation

Did you know you can follow the Foundation on social media? To keep up to date with all the good news made possible by your support, follow us on:



facebook.com/SistersOfCharityFoundation



instagram.com/SOCFstories



linkedin.com/company/sisters-of-charity-foundation



youtube.com/user/SOCFAustralia

And don't forget our website!



sistersofcharityfoundation.com.au

Your donations helped at-risk Aboriginal youth rediscover their country

A \$10K Foundation community grant provided a small group of Aboriginal kids with a 5-day educational camp in remote South Australia.

The Nature Foundation SA's Kids on Country program aims to inspire at-risk Aboriginal young people to protect the environment, while deepening their connection to culture and country. Thanks to your generosity, we were recently able to fund a camp at the beautiful Hiltaba Nature Reserve, just north of the Gawler Ranges on the Eyre Peninsula.

The kids learnt hands-on skills when they helped with fence removals.



Keeping busy in the outback

There were lots of activities to help the kids adjust to the remote location – like geocaching (an outdoor treasure hunting game played with a GPS-tracker), bird watching, flora and fauna identification, land conservation and fence removals, and cultural storytelling and songs – which kept the kids too busy to worry about having no mobile phone reception!

“It was such a privilege to see the young people grow and evolve and become increasingly grounded and connected to culture and country as the week went on,” said Youth Programs Coordinator Katie Perry. “They were respectful, well behaved and listened to instructions. A number of students said they would like to come back on camp.”

What the kids had to say...

“It should be a longer course, thank you for having us all.”

– Tristen E

“I loved watching the sun come up over the hills.”

– Greg B

“I could stay out here for a long time.”

– Luke S

The kids had an amazing time at Hiltaba, with many showing desire to come back soon.



Thank you from Reba

I want to personally thank each and every one of you who helped support our Winter Appeal, or who made gifts to the Foundation in 2019. Every time one of your gifts arrives, I'm humbled to be reminded that we're supported by a community of such compassionate people.

The more support we have, the more successful we'll be in achieving our ultimate goal – can you imagine an Australia where everyone who lives in poverty or disadvantage receives the help they need?

Thank you for helping us make a difference.

Reba Meagher

Reba Meagher, CEO

“As a supporter of the Foundation, you're investing in our community and the future of Australia.”