



ISSUE 12 | APRIL—JUNE 2017

MANAGERS UPDATE

Darren

30 years ago, The Salvation Army Youth Outreach Service (TSA, YOS) began operations. A humble beginning, YOS was started by TSA Officers using a house in the Eastern suburbs of Brisbane to offer services to the young people in the area. Outreaching services were the prime assistance in the early years.

The values that started the service; genuine concern for others, willingness to want to break the cycles of poverty and despair for young people, unconditional love and advocacy were carried out with a spiritual ferment, ensuring that the work reflected God's love for young people in crisis. While the type of youth services YOS operates have changed, those values embedded at the conception of YOS remain.

In our 30th year the faces are different, the landscape has changed, but the historical heart of the YOS community has the same beat. You will still find YOS wanting to be there for young people, tackling the social systems that harm and strip away dignity, restoring relationship where possible and providing hope for transformative change. The works of our hands are used to enable young people to overcome their barriers and build a quality, independent life.

Many of the prayers of 1987 have been answered and today we reap the benefits. Prayers said today resemble those said 30 years ago. Prayers asking for the Lord to give us the strength and wisdom to do His will as we love those that have been broken and left without hope. Emotional prayers sometimes said through tears for the welfare of young people who come our way and their plights are breaking our hearts and prayers for a better world where young people never experience homelessness, sexual abuse, poverty, trauma and mental illness and everyone has loving parents and a sense of community.

While we wait for that world, we work in the now. Here is a snapshot of that work over the last 6 months:

- YOS launches the Lawnton and Stafford Drive for Life programs
- YOS opens the Goodna School campus
- YOS has increased its students to 68, enrolled in the 3 school sites
- YOS starts school operations in two newly built classrooms at Lawnton
- YOS submitted a funding application to the Department of Transport and Main Roads for the Learner Driver Mentor Program (Drive for Life).
- YOS directly enabled a student, dreaming to be a chef to take a further step in fulfilling that goal by brokering paid employment as a kitchen hand in a local bowls club
- YOS assist a young Iranian refugee in our Transitional Accommodation program in gaining permanent residency and secure housing

These results are only a taste of the work we have been doing this year. Our hope is that those that started YOS would look favourably upon what has been achieved. That the young people we work with know that we have stood by them and that the God we serve is revealed in every good act we do.

COURT SUPPORT PROGRAM UPDATE

Marti—Advocacy and Justice Support Youth Worker

Hi there! My name is Marti and I am the Advocacy & Justice Support Youth Worker for YOS. I am based at our Lawnton site and work across the Moreton Bay and Brisbane region supporting young people aged 12-25 and their families navigating their way through the Justice system. Court support is the primary activity in my position and I am able to attend any Court when required.

Through attending Court I am given the opportunities to engage with young people and their families to have conversations around their situation and their goals and then to offer support to help young people overcome adversity and build independence. This support comes mainly in the form of brief interventions such as providing information; linking young people with appropriate services; providing a meal or transport; connecting young people with their community and advocating. This means speaking up for young people and ensuring that their fundamental needs and rights are being met.

This year is a very significant year demonstrating the power of advocacy in Queensland as starting November 2017; 17 year olds who commit offences will be dealt with under the *Youth Justice Act 1992* rather than by the adult criminal justice system, aligning with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Furthermore, legislation was changed to give young people more dignity and privacy through the closing of Courts meaning media are limited in reporting young people's information for '*naming and shaming*' as well as providing options for *Restorative Conferencing* where young people engage in a process to repair harm and rebuild relationships.

Here are some stats from January-June 2017;

- I have engaged with **over 170 young people** and their families
 - 35%** are from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultures
 - 53%** are under the age of 16
 - 22%** are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness
 - 57%** are experiencing mental health concerns
 - 46%** are experiencing substance misuse
- I have advocated for **159 young people**
- Acted as a support person for **27 young people** who did not have a parent/guardian with them at Court.
- I have provided information to **162 young people** and;
- I have assisted over **140 young people** with accessing; accommodation, mental health support, gaining employment, engaging or reengaging with education, reconnecting with family and community, accessing financial assistance, accessing health services including drug and alcohol services and, support from legal services and Youth Justice.



If you would like more information about the Court Support Program, you can contact Marti on 0409 628 824 or by email at yoslawnton@ae.salvationarmy.org



ACCOMMODATION PROGRAM UPDATE

Laura—Youth Worker, Spring Hill

The East Brisbane (EB) Accommodation Program has warmly welcomed four new tenants to the community. Preparing for and moving in a new tenant is always exciting and hard work, but as of the end of June, everyone is settled in and starting to move forward with establishing some great goals.

Three of the new tenants are studying, working towards either a qualification or completing Year 12. The other, has recently started a new job.

Community activities are growing within the program, including;

- A boxing and fitness session once a week, facilitated by Spring Hill Youth Worker Michael.
- Tenants enjoyed a cooking class planned and delivered by Tam, who is currently completing her student placement hours with YOS.
- One of the new tenants is interested in gardening, and together we are making plans to update the property's vertical garden with some lovely herbs.
- One of our longer term tenants has been a regular attendee of a local youth camp, and has been selected to undertake leadership training interstate through the camp organisation.
- Weekly tenant dinners continue to be held each week.

YOS workers are observing that the young people are growing in their resilience and progression is unfolding in their lives. It's a privilege for YOS workers to witness this and share in their journey.

GOOD NEWS STORY

Michael—Youth Worker, Spring Hill

So many great things are happening for Savanah W, and I'm very proud to share some of her recent success;

Recently Savanah received confirmation of her enrolment in a Cert IV in Outdoor Recreation at East Coast TAFE on the Sunshine Coast and starts this course on the 25th July! Savanah has shown great courage and strength to leave a call centre job that was contributing to her being unwell. I was able to support Savanah in applying for, and being granted a medical Centrelink support payment which lifted her financial pressure and allowed her to focus on her health and future direction.

With the ongoing support of the YOS team, Savanah has completed career counselling sessions and developed a plan to follow a long-time dream of hers to work in the outdoors in a physical and adventurous role. She is so excited to start this new course and that she may be able to follow her passion into a career.

Also, she received confirmation yesterday the "exemption from logbook hours" request that we lodged at the Department of Transport and Main Roads last week has been approved! The request was made due to Savanah not having anyone in her family network to support her in gaining the required 100 hours supervised driving. She thought she would never be able to get her provisional driver licence, and achieve a goal of owning and doing some touring holidays in her own campervan. YOS was able to help Savanah prepare for and provide brokerage for her learners licence and later for the supervised driving hours exemption lodgement fee. Savanah has worked so hard and used her savings to pay for driving lessons over the past few months and now with the exemption, will be going for her practical test in the next few weeks.

Savanah has also been able to find accommodation near her new TAFE on the Sunshine Coast and achieve a personal goal of living near the beach, which is very important for her well-being and self-care.

Savanah is an inspirational young person and I feel very lucky to witness her growth and I know that she feels very supported by YOS and her other support workers at Headspace Woolloongabba.

*We're about young people overcoming adversity and
building independence.*

DRIVE FOR LIFE UPDATE

CONTACT US

DRIVE FOR LIFE YOS

A QUICK SNAPSHOT

PROGRAM STATS



119 HRS

TOTAL DRIVING
TIME ACHIEVED
SINCE 26/04/2017

45

EXPRESSIONS OF
INTEREST



POWER IN PEOPLE

SINCE COMMENCEMENT
(APRIL 7TH 2017):

13

LEARNER DRIVERS



SINCE COMMENCEMENT
(APRIL 7TH 2017):

13

VOLUNTEER MENTORS
READY TO GO!

SKILLS LEARNER DRIVERS ARE DEVELOPING ON AND OFF THE ROAD

- ★ SELF-AWARENESS
- ★ INDEPENDANCE
- ★ MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS
- ★ BASIC CAR CONTROL

DRIVE SAFE ◀

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY: DRIVE FOR LIFE
YOS LAWNTON AND STAFFORD

WWW.YOUTHOUTREACHSERVICE.ORG/DRIVEFORLIFE

SPRING HILL

97 School Street, Spring Hill QLD 4000

Ph: 07 3854 1245

Fax: 07 3831 7848

E-mail: yosbrisbane@ae.salvationarmy.org

LAWNTON

27-29 Lawnton Pocket Road, Lawnton QLD 4501

Ph: 07 3285 8522

Fax: 07 3285 4804

E-mail: yoslawnton@ae.salvationarmy.org

STAFFORD

32-54 Hayward Street, Stafford QLD 4053

Ph: 07 3352 3311

Fax: 07 3352 5687

E-mail: yosbrisbane@ae.salvationarmy.org

GOODNA

27 Smiths Road, Goodna QLD

Ph: 07 3280 8800

Fax: 07 3280 8820

E-mail: yosbrisbane@ae.salvationarmy.org