

# ROSIES



*Friends on the Street*

SHARING FRIENDSHIP CREATES BELONGING. DARE TO REACH OUT TOGETHER.



## INSIDE ROSIES

A message from  
**OUR CEO**  
and  
**FR JOSH**

A family of  
**SUPPORT**

Why our coordinators  
**SHOW UP**



**DONATE NOW**  
through our QR code



## A MESSAGE from our CEO

As we approach the Christmas holidays, life often becomes a whirlwind of tasks and to-do lists. Amid the bustle of preparations and festivities, we can forget to pause, reflect and truly connect with those around us.

We've all seen it: a person struggling to carry their groceries, a neighbour in need, a stranger who perhaps looks dishevelled, or someone who has fallen. In these moments, we sometimes turn away, caught up in our own lives or unsure what to do. Yet, even the smallest acts of kindness can transform a person's day.

For many, Christmas can be a difficult and lonely time. With rising living costs and the housing crisis affecting so many people this year, those feelings of isolation are even more pronounced.

At Rosies, we witness daily the profound impact of kindness. A warm smile, a listening ear, or a simple compliment can mean the world to someone facing hardship. Our friends on the street often express their gratitude and our volunteers also find joy in these interactions. The kindness we give is returned tenfold.

This Christmas season, make a conscious effort to slow down and connect. Embrace the spirit of giving not just through gifts but through acts of kindness. Each small gesture has the power to change a life, and ultimately, it can make the world a brighter place for all of us to live. Thank you for your wonderful care and support of Rosies and for our volunteers' incredible work on the streets.

With gratitude and best wishes for a warm and compassionate holiday season,

Jayne Shallcross

CEO

Rosies - Friends on the Street

## I SHOW UP FOR ROSIES BECAUSE...

My kindness is returned in spades, and I get more than I give

I want to engage with life and feel valued

The patrons deserve someone who is willing to take an interest

Rosies is dependable when many things aren't

I feel good about helping other people

I love to hear our patron's life stories

I don't want to let patrons down

People depend on me and I am part of a team

To give back and be a friendly ear to listen and talk to

I want to engage with life and feel valued

Of the difference we make

Jesus says to love and keep one another

I love it



## A FAMILY OF SUPPORT

### Meet Jess

Domestic violence issues saw Jess flee Western Australia while she was 32 weeks pregnant with Shanae, now 10.

*Shanae and Jess on Outreach*

"It was a difficult decision to make. I had to leave my family and my boys but if I didn't leave, I would have lost her (Shanae). I'm all by myself, which can be very hard, especially as a single mum," Jess said.

Jess has limited contact with her family in WA outside of the occasional text from her mum but is currently working to re-establish contact with her teenage sons.

"I'm going through the courts to get some kind of contact with them because they don't realise that I'm their mum. They see their dad's new girlfriend as their mum. I only saw them when they were three and four and they're now 14 and 15. It's a long process."

"WA has its own legal system, and the rules are a bit different, but Legal Aid is helping me. I'm aiming to get photos or Skype or FaceTime with them."

For the last two years, Jess and Shanae have travelled over 40 minutes twice weekly to experience connection and friendship at Rosies in Caloundra.

"We like to come for the social interaction and Shanae likes to help the volunteers set up - they are all so friendly," Jess said.

Jess first learned about Rosies through the weekly community meal in Caloundra and decided to drop by and see what it was all about.

"It's been good to have somewhere to go to receive help and just have someone to chat to," Jess said.

"There are a few kids and families that come, and Shanae likes to play with them, it's nice.

"In December, I started working part-time at a cafe in Maroochydore as a barista and kitchen hand. It's the first job I've had since Shanae was born and I really enjoy it. Shanae likes going to school, seeing her friends and coming to Rosies. The people we have met, the friends we have made, they are like family."

Rosies Sunshine Coast Branch Coordinator Carolyn Wilson said Jess and Shanae are bright additions to the twice-weekly outreach.

"We feel very privileged that they choose to spend time with us," Carolyn said.

"We will continue to offer friendship, love and support to Jess and Shanae for as long as they need it. What Jess is going through is very difficult and it's important that we volunteers are there for her along the way."

Visit [rosies.org.au](https://rosies.org.au) to learn more about our work and how your donations support people like Jess and Shanae.



# THE BEAUTIFUL (HAOS) OF CHRISTMAS

A message from Fr Josh

**Christmas is often advertised as “the most wonderful time of the year” and presented as a loving family assembled around a Christmas Tree, immaculately wrapped presents and tables laden with food.**

I don't know about you, but my family's Christmases were never that picture-perfect. With dozens of cousins and extended family, a plastic tree and handmade baubles, tension, arguments and certain people not talking to others, Christmas Day was often hectic, stressful and absolute chaos.

I like to think, however, that my family Christmas was closer to the original than the TV version. I cast my mind back to the first Christmas, the reason we continue to celebrate this day, even with all its chaos and confusion. The first Christmas occurred in the smallest of towns, quite insignificant, among a group of people under brutal occupation and oppression for hundreds of years.

A hard-working carpenter and his young fiancé, not yet married but heavily pregnant, travelled by donkey from their home to the other side of the country because some dictator wanted to tax them. With no place to stay, they found shelter in a stable with the animals, where the woman gave birth to a son. They didn't have clothes prepared for him, so they wrapped him in strips of linen. They didn't have a cot or bassinet, so wiped out the animal's trough and laid the baby in there. It wasn't their friends or family who came to visit, but smelly, sweaty shepherds they didn't even know.

As Christians, this young child is who we profess to be the Son of God. An important thing to remember is that God did not come to Earth in a picture-perfect Christmas. God entered our reality and became one of us in the mess and stress of human life. God became human as a homeless, defenceless little baby. At every Christmas, including this one, God comes to visit us once again – and not just the nice homes with chimneys. God is with us in every moment, whether our Christmas is down the coast at the family shack, in Nanna's living room, at a soup kitchen or out on the street. Wherever we find ourselves this Christmas, no matter the stress and chaos of this season, God is there with us.

## Friendship - A good investment

Please donate online at [www.rosies.org.au](http://www.rosies.org.au) OR via the QR code  
OR return your completed form to PO Box 431, Cannon Hill QLD 4170



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