



Mirabel Newsletter

November 2019
Issue 32

This newsletter comes from our beautiful new office. The 'bricks' of this place are the hard work, enormous generosity and passionate commitment of countless people, without whom we would not have a home or a secure future.

Thank you so much on behalf of everyone who has benefited from Mirabel past, present and future; we are so touched by your support. If you haven't already visited us, please drop in at any time so we can thank you in person.

These pages contain just a handful of highlights from recent months – we would need to publish a volume to capture the extraordinary moments and stories that we have experienced.

To all our families, donors and supporters, thank you for sharing both the good and challenging times with us and allowing us to strive for the very best outcome for every Mirabel child.

Jane Rowe – Founder/CEO

Turosi Giving – Behind the Scenes at Lourine's Home

Mirabel is incredibly grateful to be one of the recipients from the Turosi Giving Ball. Here's an extract from Turosi's interview with Mirabel carer, Lourine.

From the moment we stepped into the Taylor house we could feel the love and care in this home.

Here was a family of five children, being cared for by their grandparents because their mother wasn't able to care for them. Drugs are a serious social issue and an ever growing concern in our community. Much too often, it is children of drug affected parents who are the collateral damage. Some are luckier than others and have extended family to care for them, but with little or no government support.

Resilient and fierce, but essentially human, Lourine admits how tough things got for the family. Living on little to no income, struggling to make ends meet, dealing with social stigma, but determined to give her grandchildren a safe environment together and the best education she could, Lourine found



comfort when she was introduced to the Mirabel Foundation. Together with community support, Mirabel and Kids Under Cover ensured that this family was able to stay together under the same roof, that the children

received an education, had a safe and secure environment and had the opportunity to lead as normal a life as possible.

Whilst the story was heartbreaking, we sat in complete awe of Lourine, a grandmother so determined, so loving, and so resourceful, that you just wanted to reach over and give her the warmest and tightest hug. Nothing could replace the loss and hardships Lourine's family have had to endure. Although many challenges remain, she and her family no longer feel alone. They have someone to lean on... and in the end don't we all need a shoulder to lean on?

Pina Di Donato – Board Chair – Turosi Giving

Brandon's Story

In August, former Mirabel young person and Alumni volunteer Brandon, as well as staff member Julz, were lucky enough to be invited to attend the Annual Liberty Network Services Conference in Queenstown, New Zealand. During the conference, Liberty hosted a fundraising dinner for Mirabel and invited Brandon to discuss his involvement with Mirabel throughout his childhood.

Brandon spoke confidently about living with his grandparents since he was 18 months old and the emotional and social challenges he faced. Brandon credited his grandparents for inspiring him to pursue his love of dance and offered insight into the financial plight they faced trying to afford the lessons and travel required. With Mirabel's assistance, they were able to support Brandon as he reached for his dream of becoming a professional dancer. Brandon has danced professionally at Disneyworld and starred in lead roles in Melbourne theatre productions.

These achievements gave Brandon the financial capability to start paying his grandparent's rent, as they had chosen to give up on their dream of home ownership in order to care for him.

Unfortunately, Brandon had to recently rethink his career due to an ongoing knee injury. However, his story and positive outlook resonated strongly with Liberty Financial. They quickly offered him a job, where he continues to work now.



Mirabel Christmas Appeal 2019

For most of us, Christmas is a time when we are surrounded by family. It is a time to celebrate together, a time to give and receive gifts, a time to gather at the table. It is a time to be merry.

At Mirabel, we believe Christmas should be a happy time for every child. But for many, Christmas is the hardest time of the year – a time of sadness and loss, of missing parents, of feeling lonely and when their differences to other children can be magnified.

With your support, Mirabel can help families give the gift of Christmas to their children. Your gift could mean presents under a tree and families spending time with each other. Your generosity could give a child the childhood moments they deserve.

This Christmas, could you add a Mirabel child to your gift list and help make it a time to remember?

Visit www.mirabelfoundation.org.au/donate to give a Mirabel child a Merry Christmas. Thank you for making Christmas the happy time that every child deserves.



New Newcastle Office

Mirabel now has an office in Newcastle to support the growing number of vulnerable families and children living in the Hunter and Central Coast Region of NSW. The office will provide a base for Mirabel staff, a space for therapeutic children's groups and a home for kinship carer support groups.

Mirabel House Celebration

We are delighted to share photos from the Mirabel House Celebration. Our heartfelt thanks to interior designer Diane Bergeron for your vision. Along with the support of House & Garden magazine, your rallying of industry contacts has allowed us to fulfill this dream. Mirabel House was featured in the November edition of House & Garden.

All the suppliers and tradespeople who donated and discounted with incredible generosity have ensured that Mirabel House is a special place for all current and future Mirabel children. We cannot thank you all enough.



Help support the Mirabel Foundation

Donate online at www.mirabelfoundation.org.au/donate

Your donation: \$30 \$55 \$95 \$150 Other: \$

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.
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