

# mercy foundation®

## March Update 2010

### From the CEO

It has been another busy month here at the Mercy Foundation. We had the pleasure of moving into our new offices which are opposite the Mater Hospital in North Sydney. Although there was a lot to do moving our entire office and continuing our normal work – it was well worth it! We are very pleased to be here and would invite anyone who is interested to come and see us at the Poche Centre at 40 Rocklands Road, North Sydney.

March and April will also be busy. I am heading over to North America and Ireland. I will first be investigating homelessness and housing policy and services – with a special focus on women, in the USA and Canada. In Ireland I will be participating in a Mercy program at the Baggot Street Mercy International Centre.

Again, I'd like to thank all our supporters and invite interested organisations to make applications to our grants programs. The deadline for small grant applications close on 31 March.

In my absence, please contact Sue Mowbray, the Foundation's Business Manager on our new number: 02 9911 7390 or at [office@mercyfoundation.com.au](mailto:office@mercyfoundation.com.au).



### Our New Contact Details:

Address: 40 Rocklands Road, North Sydney NSW 2060  
Telephone: 02 9911 7390 Email: [office@mercyfoundation.com.au](mailto:office@mercyfoundation.com.au)

### Small Grants Deadline Approaching

Make sure your Small Grant applications are sent to the Mercy Foundation by March 31, 2010. Please check our website for application criteria. Download an application form from the website or [click here](#).

### Progress on our Grants to End Homelessness

#### Affordable Housing For Life Project

The Mercy Foundation is currently assisting in the funding of the implementation of the Affordable Housing for Life project run by Marist Youth Care in conjunction with Boystown, Bridgeworks Employment and St John of God Healthcare. A grant of \$60,000 was made by the Mercy Foundation. This project is an integrated, long term strategy that provides accommodation and support services to help young people face challenges, overcome problems and lead stable and healthy lives. The Affordable Housing for Life project provides paid employment and on the job training for the construction of 'green' dwellings, the maintenance of these dwellings and property management services.

The participants in this program will build their own dwelling, pay affordable rent, gain employment experience and training and decrease their dependence on welfare benefits. Additionally, they will have access to the required support services to address issues such as mental health, substance abuse and physical health problems. The ability to build peer support networks and recognition of their achievements will increase self esteem.

## March Update Cont.

### Progress on our Grants to End Homelessness Cont

#### House of Welcome

In 2009, the Mercy Foundation gave a grant of \$15,000 to the House of Welcome. This service provides transitional housing for homeless asylum seekers and refugees. Whilst waiting for an immigration determination, many asylum seekers and refugees do not receive support services or income support. This particular group is at risk of becoming destitute and homeless.

During the last 6 months, with the assistance of the Mercy Foundation, the House of Welcome has provided safe and secure housing to 14 individuals and 7 families.



The House of Welcome not only provides accommodation, but also skills improvement and other assistance to help people in their transition into life in Australia. This includes a financial assistance program, emergency assistance program and finally a "First Home" program, where donated household goods are delivered to their first home. This helps reduce the financial hardships often encountered in setting up a home. The housing and support provided by the House of Welcome allows many asylum seekers time to settle, find work and move back into independent living.

The House of Welcome does not receive government funding and the tenants usually cannot pay rent. The House of Welcome offers a valuable and unique service for this vulnerable group in Western Sydney.

### Grants to End Homelessness - 2010 Applications

For organisations considering applying in 2010 visit our website for the closing date and relevant forms. It is important to remember that this program has the specific aim of 'ending' homelessness for people. Whilst we understand the need to provide crisis services for people, this is not the type of service we are able to fund through this particular program. We also understand that case management can play an important role in helping people move from homelessness into stable housing, but if this case management is provided without also offering housing we are not able to fund these types of programs.

Please help us end homelessness.  
To make a tax deductible donation to support the work of the  
Mercy Foundation, please visit our website  
[www.mercyfoundation.com.au](http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au)  
or call our office on  
02 9911 7390