

ARCHBISHOP'S WINTER APPEAL FOR LIFE LINK 2007



“LET US RECOGNISE
IN THOSE WE MEET
THE FACE OF JESUS,
YOUR SON”

LifeLink Prayer,
©Archbishop Hickey 2001



His Grace,
The Most Rev B J Hickey,
Archbishop of Perth

My Dear Friends

We cannot help everyone in need - no matter what we do, what resources we provide, what funds we raise, what number of hours we volunteer or how hard we work.

Whilst we cannot solve every problem, right every wrong or help everyone - it is vitally important that we strive to do so. Faith compels us.

We demonstrate Faith in Action not by what we do, how much we give or what the outcome of offering our help will be, **but of responding to God willingly, with open hearts and to the best of our ability.**

Recently, a young man I have known for many years reached out for help during what must have been a time of great confusion and despair. What he was feeling and the urgency of his need is something only he could fully understand. The outcome however was unexpected and devastating to all who knew him. Tragically, he took his own life.

My message to you this Winter is dedicated to the loving memory of this young man, I will call him Trevor.

I first met Trevor as a young man of 20. I understand he had a difficult and painful childhood and allegedly was a victim of abuse. He had been living on the streets and in transient accommodation since he left home at 14. Trevor would wander around the city and spend time with other street people in Forrest Place, sniffing toluene.

He was not a very tall or large boy and was an instant target for bullying by other boys living on the streets. His self-esteem and self-worth were almost extinguished by his experiences, and as a result he would often not wash for long periods of time.

He lived for quite awhile on the front verandah at my home near the Cathedral. I would make sure he was warm and fed and safe.

Most people would immediately shun Trevor, although there were a great many people reaching out to him too. He needed love, he needed acceptance and he found a semblance of this in the other street kids. By the time he was in his early 20s he had progressed from toluene to harder drugs and alcohol abuse.

Trevor was a remarkable young man and father of three sons, who were Wards of the State when he died.

Most days, he would visit Shopfront, a LifeLink agency. He'd find a quiet spot and sit, never saying much, just relishing the contentment and safety the Shopfront offered. Shopfront provided him with bond money to secure basic accommodation. Most importantly, it provided a warm “home” for him to return to as and when needed.

Trevor liked to sit in a quiet corner, do his crossword puzzles while having a cup of coffee. On his 30th birthday, everyone at Shopfront celebrated with a simple cake, a small gift and a card. At the agency Christmas party last year he seemed happy.

letter continues overleaf

- ¥ Centacare
Employment & Training
- ¥ Crossroads Community
- ¥ i.d.entity.wa
- ¥ Centrecare
¥ Catholic Migrant Centre
¥ Djoraminda
- ¥ Anawim
- ¥ Emmanuel Centre
- ¥ The Living Centre
- ¥ Natural Fertility Services
- ¥ Samaritan Projects
¥ Shopfront
- ¥ Catholic Association for Deaf & Hearing Impaired People (WA)

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OPEN YOUR HEART TO PEOPLE LIKE TREVOR

So many people came to Trevor's funeral - to remember and pray as he was laid to eternal rest. Those of us who knew him could not help but love him.

As I officially launch my Winter Appeal for LifeLink, I reflect on Trevor's life and death.

What if Shopfront had been open for longer hours; what if the agency had more staff, more resources, more funds...would this have made a difference?

We may never know what the catalyst for the urgency of Trevor's fatal action was, but I do know that through your support of LifeLink, you do make a very real difference in the lives of thousands of people who reach-out for help each year here in WA.

In 2007, it is expected that over 40,000 Western Australian families and individuals will receive care and practical assistance from one of the 13 LifeLink agencies.

Through your support of my Winter Appeal, the Shopfront agency will continue its mission of care to over 4,500 people this year. The agency provides accommodation, food, funds for emergency needs such as power bills, and acts as a referral centre to other Catholic and government service agencies.

Shopfront is a safe haven offering companionship for the isolated and lonely; a respite for street workers and homeless persons living and working on our Perth streets; it is a nurturing place for people with mental health issues and the first contact point for people in crisis. It is staffed entirely by members of several Religious Orders and by dozens of volunteers.

Please, I urge you to open your hearts and respond positively and willingly by giving generously to my Winter Appeal for LifeLink.

We need to raise a minimum of \$250,000, which will only be achieved through your direct support. Donations are tax deductible and receipts will be issued.

God bless you,
Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ.

The Most Rev Barry J Hickey
Archbishop of Perth

You can donate securely online at
www.lifelink.com.au

PRIVACY ACT: To access your personal information, or to be removed from our database, please write to: LifeLink, GPO Box K828 Perth WA 6842.



"Yes, I will open my heart and support people like Trevor!"

Please accept my donation of (please tick one box)

\$250
 \$100
 \$60
 \$30
 \$500
 Other \$ _____

Enclosed is my cash gift for LifeLink OR
 Enclosed is my cheque payable to LifeLink OR
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Thank you and God Bless
Donations over \$2 are tax deductible where name and address details are supplied