

One FAITH. One FAMILY.



Most Rev Barry J Hickey
Archbishop of Perth



Dear (Insert name)

One powerful moment we share during the celebration of the Mass, is when we stand together and profess our Faith:

"We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth..."

Irrespective of our ethnicity, education, upbringing, financial circumstances, despite all our differences, we unite.

We are one people, bonded in Faith, rejoicing in the acceptance of our Father's love, and returning this love. We are a part of God's family, and what a joyous feeling it is: to belong, to be embraced, nurtured, supported and accepted.

At times when we are most tested, most vulnerable, most needy, we turn to our Faith, family and loved ones for support. But what if there was no-where to turn, no-one to lean on, when we arrived at that very point when we were most in need?

In 2001, I established **The Shopfront**, an agency to reach-out to people most in need in our community - the homeless, people battling substance abuse, mental health issues, domestic violence, poverty, isolation and loneliness.

Shopfront is the frontline in a war against need, rejection, judgement and abandonment.

I want to share with you the touching and inspiring story of **Michelle, Bill and baby Tim**, literally one example of the thousands of people helped by, and a part of, our Shopfront family.



Pictured: Bill, Michelle and baby Tim

Michelle, previously a nurse, suffered from episodes of mental illness caused by stress. She couldn't work and found relationships difficult. At Shopfront, she made friends and started to rebuild her life. She studied at TAFE for a Community Services Certificate IV.

Bill first came to Shopfront about four years ago, as a part of his rehabilitation. A well educated, quiet man, he had been an alcoholic and even lived on the streets for a time. He found Shopfront a safe, peaceful place – somewhere he was immediately accepted and welcomed.

Then Michelle met Bill. Though two different people, they connected. Friendship developed over time, and eventually turned to love... in December 2008, they had a beautiful baby boy Tim.

