

Foundation News

Stories of Impact

Spring / Summer 2024



Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of Foundation News. I'm excited to share stories showing how generous supporters like you can improve quality of life for those in need.

We continually receive messages of thanks for the many ways the Foundation supports people in our care who have the most urgent need. We've captured a few of these here to show how your partnership helps people at a critical point in their life when a helping hand can be hard to find.

HammondCare's newly appointed CEO, Andrew Thorburn, commenced in June and has been encouraged to hear how Foundation donors support HammondCare's mission to care for those who others can't or won't.

Thank you for your commitment and generosity. With your ongoing contributions, we can help even more older Australians who are disadvantaged to receive the support they need when facing the hardest times life has to offer.

With deep appreciation,



Jessica Mienert
Head of Foundation



Paul's dream: a family's unforgettable getaway

Paul, a devoted husband, father and passionate and gifted golfer, was facing a terminal illness and the emotional challenges of palliative care.

Paul, his sons, and his wife Lisa, were a close and loving family, but the strain of treatment and the family's carer duties meant spending quality time away together was nearly impossible. Paul had a simple and heartfelt dream: a family golf holiday for one last time.

Finding some solace and joy with his family seemed unlikely, but the Community Palliative Care team and the Dreams Project had other ideas. Paul's care team made plans so the family could reconnect amidst the beauty of the Blue Mountains, with Paul's medical needs taken care of.

Lisa said seeing the joy and peace Paul experienced when getting away with his family has given them all a lasting positive memory they can hold through their bereavement.

Paul's gratitude was profound: "Wow! Many thanks for supporting my family for our dream weekend. Lillianfels was the respite we have been needing to reconnect and make some lasting memories. Deepest thanks from all of us. This is a perfect initiative."

Brian's gift of appreciation for a simple shared meal



When Brian's wife Beverley moved into residential care at HammondCare North Turrumurra five years ago, it was a relief to know she'd be receiving the 24-hour care she needed, living with dementia.

It took time for Beverley to get used to her new surroundings, but she eventually settled in, and Brian was encouraged by the care team to join in the home routines.

"One of the team said if I was visiting at dinner time, I would be welcome to share a meal, as there's always a bit extra in the pot. Now I arrive at 4.30pm every day and we have dinner together, and I know my involvement in Bev's daily routine helps her feel more settled," Brian said.

Brian wanted to give back in some way for the consideration and care his wife receives – and for his free meals! So he donates on a regular basis to the HammondCare Foundation to help support the wide range of additional services and initiatives it provides for residents, patients and clients.

"My family are at peace knowing that when we leave for the day, the support is still there for Bev. The HammondCare team treat her like she's a family member," Brian said.

Grateful family says 'thanks' with a community fundraiser



The support and care a patient receives during their last days can leave a lasting impression on their loved ones.

Hoang, the son of a Braeside Hospital patient, was deeply moved by the care his father Quyen received from the HammondCare team during his last days. He wanted to give something back, so Hoang's family joined with the local Vietnamese community to organise a series of fundraising events that together have raised nearly \$70,000 for the hospital.

The most recent event was attended by more than 500 guests, including the Federal Member for Fowler and local Fairfield Councillor Dai Le. This was the third fundraiser organised in memory of Hoang's father Quyen, who died in the hospital's palliative care ward.

Braeside Hospital's physiotherapy manager, Lionel Wong, said the generous donation will go towards purchasing much-needed equipment for the hospital's rehab gym, directly benefiting the patients there.

Not only has Hoang raised critical funds to help those in need, he also volunteers as a gardener at the Hospital. The Braeside team are amazed at Hoang's work and thankful for his humble example of service to those in need.

Celebrating your impact: how generous donations are changing lives

We are delighted to share the incredible difference your support has made since our EOFY appeal for HammondCare Foundation's Care Fund.

Thanks to you, we have raised more than \$150,000 for the Care Fund to date.

This fund provides essential and often life-changing assistance to older Australians who are unable to cover out-of-pocket medical expenses and everyday essentials.

Since launching the Care Fund in May this year, we've received dozens of requests for support from our home care, residential care and hospital services. Your contributions have already enabled us to address many of these urgent needs. Two touching stories highlight the extent of the impact of your donations.

Bob's steps to safety



Bob lives in Chinderah in northern NSW with his wife Mary and has significant mobility issues. He was facing a dangerous situation due to a lack of proper steps and handrails at their caravan's entrance, which is their home.

Despite qualifying for the Commonwealth Home Support Program for home modifications, Bob couldn't afford the \$800 required for the installation. With your help, the Care Fund covered the financial gap to install a safe step and handrail for Bob.

This essential modification has drastically improved Bob's safety and independence, and Mary has been overcome with gratitude. This life-changing alteration to their home has eased the pressure on Mary to do the heavy lifting, meaning the couple can safely stay in their own home, together, for longer.

Susie's new wardrobe



Susie*, a resident in Newcastle, was placed in emergency respite care due to elder abuse. Her finances withheld, Susie had only precious few articles of clothing in her possession.

Recognising her need for warmth and comfort during winter, through the Care Fund, HammondCare provided a \$400 voucher to purchase new clothes. Susie was unable to shop for herself, but our team bought her new shirts, trousers, a cozy dressing gown, and more. The joy on Susie's face when she received her new wardrobe was heart-warming. Susie was overwhelmed by the kindness of strangers.

Your support has restored Susie's dignity and brought significant comfort to her life.

** Name changed for privacy*

**The HammondCare Care Fund
is making a difference thanks
to compassion and support
from people like you.**

Your donations ensure people like Susie and Bob can live with dignity and comfort, away from risk and harm.

To continue supporting more people in need, please consider donating to the Care Fund today:
hammond.com.au/donate

Crocheting for a cause

When sisters Jaslyn, 11, and Ashlyn, 9, lost their grandma Amy to Parkinson's disease, they wanted to celebrate her life in a special way while raising awareness about the impact of neurological diseases in older people.

Through their online shop, Crochet Care Connect, the girls sell handcrafted items ranging from stingrays and pickles to little love hearts, all 'crocheted with love and handmade with care'.

All proceeds are directly donated to HammondCare, with the girls covering costs. Their mantra is 'every stitch counts towards making a positive impact in the world'.

Jaslyn said they feel lucky to have spent so much time with their grandma.

"We lived next door and took care of her. She was in a lot of pain but always stayed calm and positive. By supporting HammondCare, Crochet Care Connect can make a difference to improve people's lives. She would have loved that," Jaslyn said.

With help from their mum Eliza and Jaslyn's best friend Jolie, the sisters are making a significant impact.



Jaslyn and Ashlyn

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