

NEWTOWN

Neighbourhood Centre

New(town) Beginnings #9

Dear Neighbour,

A few stories ago I introduced you to our volunteer extraordinaire, Jane - a woman who epitomises the essence of community. You don't get to meet many Janes in your life. She's one-of-a-kind in the best way possible and has contributed an immeasurable amount to Newtown Neighbourhood Centre.

As we celebrate her nomination as a Westfield Local Hero, I want to share with you today a little more about Jane and the program she played such a key role in developing. Not only is it an amazing achievement and an opportunity to recognise her commitment and dedication, if Jane is successful and wins, Westfield will donate \$10,000 to Newtown Neighbourhood Centre!

I first met Jane in late 2017. I wasn't sure what to expect as I had heard rumours about an extremely skilled corporate woman who was going to project manage our pilot volunteer Homeless Outreach project on a full-time voluntary basis. As someone who can be suspicious of corporate types (having been one once before), I was curious about Jane and her motivations. It didn't take me long to realise her intentions and passion were entirely genuine and from there a beautiful professional relationship blossomed.

The inaugural Newtopian Outreach team involved 19 volunteers who were recruited and trained to proactively reach out to people sleeping rough in Newtown in order to provide connection, support and information. Along with our multi agency professional outreach team, we have now seen 12 people housed so far in 2019, and many more connected to the professional and community based support they need to get on a pathway to a better future.

I've already learnt so much from Jane but what will forever stay with me is her dedication to continual personal growth and her infectious thirst for knowledge. Her gentle, analytical approach blends perfectly with her innate conversational skills – she is at ease speaking to anyone and everyone. Jane has dedicated hours upon hours to NNC, and with her analytical, critical thinking skills, has gifted us the equivalent of thousands of dollars in consultancy fees.



In putting together this story I asked Jane what it meant to her to be a Newtopian Outreach -

“If I can make an authentic contribution, and am able to genuinely connect with all people in my daily life, I have better thing to have been a part of”.

Jane, you're my role model and a mentor to many because helping others is what you do best. Suffice to say, we love you Jane and can never thank you enough for your contribution to our Centre.

We need your help to make Jane the winner of the Westfield Local Hero Award.

Every vote counts, so please click on this [link](#) right now!

This Homelessness Week give Newtown Neighbourhood Centre the power to create change and make a difference in the lives of someone less fortunate. The \$10,000 will allow NNC to continue to support those at risk of or experiencing homelessness and enable us to develop and implement more programs like our Newtownian Outreachers.

Mel

Community Strengthening Team

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre

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