

stgiles

outcomes

Mid Year Issue

June 2011



Your Mid Year gift will make a powerful difference

The story of a mystery donor sprang to mind when I pondered the subject of St Giles mid-year appeal. Last December 21, an anonymous Launceston business man donated \$1000 with the condition that the funds be used to buy gift vouchers for some of St Giles' more needy children.

On December 23 we learned how one family used the voucher to fulfil their small son's Christmas wish. *"We had already bought our son a train set, but couldn't afford the track," dad said. "We used the \$100 to buy the track and complete our son's gift."* It's hard to imagine a toy train without its track.

Every day St Giles sees people living with disability without the true level of support they need to reach their real potential. There is no money tree, but there is the historic generosity of Tasmanians when it comes to helping us to provide that support.

It is now just on 12 months since I left the comfort and security of my 30-year corporate accounting career to head St Giles, a not-for-profit organisation. You cannot put a dollar value on the opportunity St Giles has given me. It has been reward in itself to contribute in my small way to making a positive difference to the lives of the children and adults and families in our community impacted by disability.

As an accountant, at this time each year I urged my clients to ensure they claimed their tax deductions. **Please add value to your deductions** this year by making a donation to St Giles and continue the tradition of the community supporting this worthwhile organisation.



4000

NEW CHILD REFERRALS TO ST GILES DURING 2010

16%

OF TASMANIAN CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO 11 YEARS USE ST GILES' SERVICES

\$23,000

AN HYDRAULIC WHEELCHAIR TO KEEP A TODDLER MOVING

\$2000

A HEAVY-DUTY STROLLER FOR AN OLDER CHILD WITH DISABILITY

\$68,000

AN HYDRAULIC BED AND MATTRESS FOR A CHILD IN RESPITE

\$300

A TODDLER SIZE WALKING FRAME

\$2000

A MOBILITY DEVICE FOR A TODDLER

\$100

TO GIVE A CARER A DAY-OFF

\$80

A POOL FLOATATION DEVICE FOR A TEENAGER

Laughter therapy

By Senior Social Worker, Sandra Nichols

For the majority of people, 'therapy' is an important business and it's approached with a sense of solemnity.

Parents bring their children to St Giles for serious reasons.

Cathartic psychotherapists believe that laughter releases emotion by a physical process that externalises emotional pain.

Recent research suggested that laughter is the most cathartic process and the least threatening in many respects.

It leads the way in easing control on emotions and opens the door to crying and deep anger and other emotions that we sometimes try to suppress.

A mum who uses St Giles Southern Services, Kylee Davie, has been to a number of laughter therapy groups I facilitated.

Kylee asked if I would be willing to facilitate a group for My Time participants.

“...laughter releases emotion by a physical process that externalises emotional pain...”

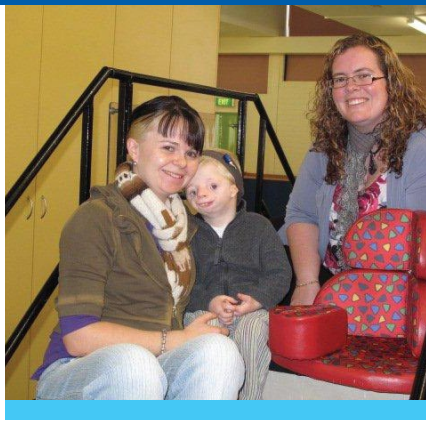
When Laughter Therapy was suggested the response was an enthusiastic 'YES'!

I have since conducted two Laughter Therapy Workshops and have another scheduled.

There have been so many positive responses to the groups and the feedback has included:

“Best laugh I've had for ages, thanks so much”, and “Thanks so much it was awesome!!!!” and “That's the best belly laugh I have had in a long, long time”.

These mums have had a good time and have been helped along their journey, which makes these sessions another valuable therapy that St Giles offers. 🍎



Thank you

In May, Kaytlenn Margison and son Beau visited St Giles in Amy Road, Newstead, with a donation of \$1152.

The money was raised through the generosity of guests who attended the 50th birthday party of Beau's grandfather, Gary Leonard.

The donation will be used to buy one, possibly two, large Jenx chairs, for St Giles to loan to older children with poor muscular support.

Kaytlenn and Beau, pictured with Northern Manager Allied Health, Ally White, with a smaller Jenx chair.

St Giles CEO Ian Wright thanked the family for its donation and gift-giving innovation. 🍎

Sails

St Giles Society launched its new playground shade sails, funded by the BHP Billiton Community Foundation, during the summer months.

St Giles CEO Ian Wright said the sails will enable the purpose-built playground to be fully used in daylight hours, without children suffering harmful UV radiation or the risk of skin cancers.

“Before the shade sails were installed, the playground had no shade areas, so could not be accessed optimally by our children with a disability or their brothers and sisters”, Mr Wright said.

The TEMCO Community Foundation provided the \$27,500 needed to install the sails. 🍎

Congratulations Margaret Mack

In 1937 Margaret Mack was the Launceston General Hospital's only physiotherapist when a polio epidemic swept Northern Tasmania.

Within months Miss Mack had recruited nine physiotherapists from around Australia to identify and treat the 500 possible polio cases in the North.

In March, Miss Mack's life-changing contribution to children with disability was recognised when she was inducted onto the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women.

Before enlisting for active service in WWII in 1939, Miss Mack managed the establishment of St Giles' therapy services.

In 1946, Miss Mack returned to Launceston and was appointed to the St Giles Board in 1957.

“Miss Mack's life-changing contribution to children with disability was recognised...”



In 1984, Miss Mack received an OAM for her services to people with disability.

St Giles CEO Ian Wright said Miss Mack was one in a million. “Miss Mack's model of putting her patients at the centre of their care was ahead of its time”, Mr Wright said.

“In 2011 patient or client-centred services are at the heart of best-practice health models.

“St Giles and Tasmania benefitted greatly from this skilled, forthright and compassionate woman”. 🍎

Photo above: St Giles Board member Arthur Dobson, former colleagues Anne Taylor and Marsi Briffin, and St Giles CEO Ian Wright.

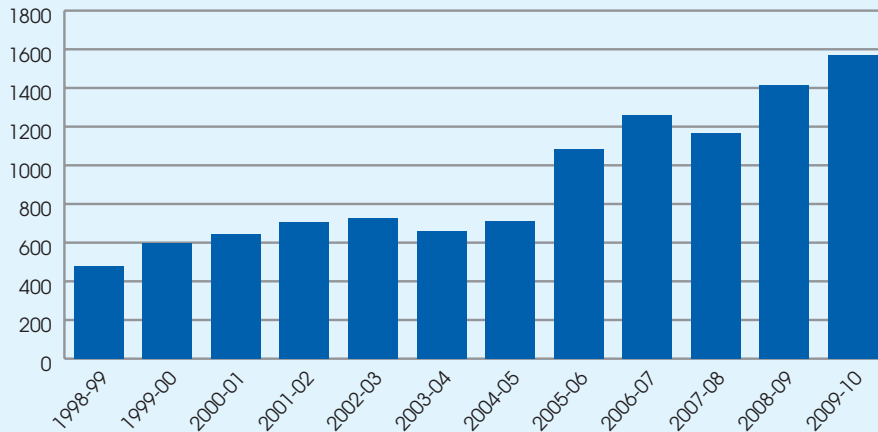


Anticipating future regional health needs

As St Giles strategically plans its future development needs and position in the sector over the next two decades, we are managing significant, increasing client demand with a range of programs that will be needed to ensure that quality and scope of paediatric health care continues to improve and remain accessible and effective.

Of Tasmania's 75,254 children aged 0 to 11 years (DHHS 2010), St Giles annually treats 5000 children, or 16 per cent of the state's child population from our allied health settings in Launceston and Hobart.

St Giles Allied Health New Referral Rates



Niche...all wrapped up

NICHE at the Inveresk Tramsheds is the only Tasmanian design market where 20 per cent of the money earned by designers is donated to the St Giles Society.



The market, a collaboration between entrepreneurial Tasmanian designers and the St Giles Society, has grown in popularity since it started in 2007.

"The generosity of our stallholders and patrons saw us raise \$18,500 to buy equipment for our children's therapy services during 2010.

The idea for a design market came from young parents who were designers whose children used St Giles children's therapy services at Amy Road.

St Giles offers occupational therapy, speech pathology and physiotherapy for children aged from birth to five years in Northern Tasmania and in Hobart.

Stalls include food, flowers, jewellery home-wares, toys, ceramics, wood work, adult & children's clothes, glass work, embroidery, cushions, artwork, preserves, cupcakes and more. All Niche markets will be held at the Inveresk Tramsheds during 2011.

"The venue has been chosen because of its access and the flow between rooms for patrons and stallholders.

"In November we have booked four rooms for 60 stallholders, including two of the original, funky tramsheds", Ms Blewett said. 🍋



"The generosity of our stallholders and patrons saw us raise \$18,500 to buy equipment for our children's therapy services during 2010..."



National Disability Insurance update



NDIS | revolutionising disability services

In February, the Productivity Commission released its draft review of a National Disability Insurance Scheme, and during April the Commission took submissions for stakeholders in Hobart.

Some of Commission's key points are listed below. Further information at www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au

The current disability support system is underfunded, unfair, fragmented and inefficient, and gives people with a disability little choice and no certainty of access to appropriate supports.

- There should be a new national scheme - the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) - that provides insurance cover for all Australians in the event of significant disability. While Australians would pay more taxes (or governments would cut other spending), people would know that if they or their family acquired a significant disability, they would have a properly financed and cohesive system to support them.
- The NDIS would fund long-term, high quality care and support (but not income replacement). Around 360,000 people would receive scheme funding.
- The agency overseeing the NDIS - the National Disability Insurance Agency - would be a federal agency created by, and reporting to, all Australian governments.

- The needs of people with a disability and their carers would be assessed rigorously by NDIS-appointed local assessors, with careful management to avoid assessment 'softness' or 'hardness'. Assessment would lead to individualised support packages. Strong governance would be necessary to contain costs and ensure efficiency.
- Support packages would be portable across state and territory borders, as would assessments of need.
- People would have much more choice in the NDIS. Based on their needs assessment and their individualised support package, they would be able to:
 - choose their own service providers
 - ask a disability support organisation (an intermediary) to assemble the best package on their behalf
 - cash out their funding allocation and direct the funding to areas of need they think are most important. There would have to be some controls over the latter to ensure probity and good outcomes. People would need support to adopt this option and, given overseas experience, it would take some time for many to use it.
- The NDIS would cover the same range of supports currently provided by specialist providers, but would give people more opportunities to choose mainstream services and would encourage the development of innovative approaches to support.
 - The scheme would commence in early 2014
 - extend to all Australia in 2015
 - progressively expand to cover all relevant people with a disability, commencing with all new cases of significant disability and some of the groups most disadvantaged by current arrangements.



Southern success

St Giles Inc (Hobart) recorded 2000 new referrals during 2010, up from less than 500 during 2009.

The strong growth in new referrals reflects the State Government's early intervention success, St Giles CEO Ian Wright said.

“The rise in referrals reflects our ability to deliver services to an unmet need...”

In February, Premier Lara Giddings and Mr Wright were at St Giles New Town service to welcome St Giles' first-ever mascot 'Giles' to Hobart.

The Premier presented Giles with a cheque for \$32,271 – the record breaking proceeds of the group's Christmas Appeal.

Mr Wright said the growth in referrals to the Hobart service could be attributed to the State Government's success in early childhood health programs, as well as the *Every Child Counts* initiative.

“St Giles has delivered high-quality physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy to families in Hobart since it took over the Tower Road service in late 2009”, Mr Wright said.

“The rise in referrals reflects our ability to deliver services to an unmet need being identified through State Government initiatives”.

did you know?



16% of Tasmanian children aged birth to 11 years use St Giles' paediatric allied health services in Hobart and Launceston.

68% of St Giles' referrals are for early intervention with preschool aged children.

Severe disability is more common among children aged 5-14 years.

Tasmania has a higher rate of severe disability – 5.7 per cent compared to the national average – 4.9 per cent.

Thank you...

Golf club

Thank you to Rosemary and John Hogg for including St Giles as part of their annual Launceston Golf Club Charity Golf Day in March.

St Giles volunteers Alan Legg and Kay Stocks put in a full day's work on the 13th hole keeping golfers fed and watered, assisted by CEO Ian Wright and Communications Manager Danielle Blewett.

Our Events Co-ordinator Peter Darrow forced himself to play the full 18 holes after making sure our mascot Sunshine Giles won a putting competition.

Board Chairman Felicity Wivell attended the presentation dinner and auction at the Golf Club with St Giles receiving a **\$15,000 donation**.



Riverside

Thank you, too, to the women of the Riverside Golf Club who donated **\$2000** to St Giles at the end of their annual Ladies Charity Golf Day in April.

Their donation came as an unexpected bonus.

Grange

Prompted by a donation of a bottle of 86 Penfolds Grange Heritage, St Giles sought donations of other classic wines to develop its first Classic Wine Auction.

Donations exceeded all expectations, with the donation by Launceston man, Alan Johnston, of an 83 Grange an unexpected windfall.

We received state-wide support from a range of philanthropists and wine industry players.

Auctioneer Tony Benneworth volunteered his time with the Atrium Cafe in Cimitiere House providing the perfect venue at an affordable cost courtesy of its proprietor, Janie Finlay.

Invitation design and printing was provided at a very competitive rate by Zest Advertising.

Full auction details are available on our web site www.stgiles.org.au



Dirty rotten questions by Dr Thomas Gunn and Mistress of Trivia Dr Polly McGee

**July 9
Tailrace Centre 7.30pm**

**\$30 a ticket
supper and chocolates included**

For bookings call Event co-ordinator Peter Darrow on 63442451 or email darrowp@stgiles.org.au

Bendigo Bank has become St Giles gold sponsor for the **2011 Bendigo Bank I-KNOW Trivia** event.

The night, which attracted 200 cashed-up nerds last year, was a stunner and contributed hugely to some worthy St Giles' projects for Tasmanians living with disability.

MC, the voiciferously voluptuous Dr Polly McGee, will be back this year with more dirty, rotten questions compiled by historian and holder of all Tasmanian-information trivial, Dr Tom Gunn.

Doctors Gunn and McGee turned *I-Know Trivia* upside down, and judging from the leftover chocolate wrappers on the tables contenders were well-fed and fuelled.

"It was the best run trivia night I've ever attended", high-profile Trivia buff, book purveyor and Examiner columnist Martin Stevenson said.

Darrow, has already nailed the venue, the magnificent main room at the Launceston Tailrace, and his team are shopping for chocolates and other goodies to keep tables fuelled. A BIG thank you to the team at Bendigo Bank for helping us bring *I-Know Trivia* to Launceston again this year.

If your business would like to sponsor *I-Know Trivia* with silent auction items or donations, you can **contact Peter at St Giles on 6344 2451**



I-Know Trivia 2010 winners "Quizbees"



Members of the Guinness Appreciation Society see their tricycle donation in action late last year.



service numbers

During its first year, St Giles Southern Service at Tower Road, New Town, grew by 300 per cent.

New referrals rose from 500 in 2009, to more than 2000 from January to December 2010.

St Giles sees itself as a Tasmanian leader in the provision of services for children and adults living with disability.

From its early days after the 1937 polio epidemic to 2011, the organisation has remained a highly-regarded and much-loved part of the fabric of Northern Tasmania.

St Giles' team now spans paediatric allied health campuses in Launceston and Hobart.

In 1939 we cared for 500 children with polio, in 2011 we are a modern allied health service supporting 5000 children, state-wide.

Our Allied Health services have been growing at the rate of more than 100 new referrals a month for the past three years and show no sign of slowing.

We are proud of the quality of our service, its 74-year history, and our ability to make a positive difference to the lives of so many Tasmanians.

St Giles Society Inc. ABN 79 067 523 335

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niche

all wrapped up

August 19th 4pm-8pm
and 20th 10am-4pm

November 18th 4pm-8pm
and 19th 10am-4pm

Launceston Tramsheds



ability first

AUSTRALIA

LAUNCESTON (City)

SATURDAY September 17 11.30am

HOBART (Parliament Square)

SATURDAY October 15 11.30am

Team and Individual Registrations:
Peter Darrow at St Giles, 6344 2451



Premier Lara Giddings and Giles at St Giles Southern Service in February

Giles

In early 2011 St Giles welcomed Tasmania's newest resident... a big yellow symbol of hope and St Giles' first-ever mascot - Giles.

“The mascot provides a visible symbol of the positive approach St Giles take...”

Designed as a ray of sunshine, the mascot is an outward symbol of the spirit of optimism that St Giles brings to the lives of some 5000 Tasmanian children living with disabilities.

Giles' first job was to accept a cheque for \$32,271 - the result of St Giles 2010 record breaking Christmas Appeal. The appeal was up \$20,000 on previous years.

“The mascot provides a visible symbol of the positive approach St Giles takes in its work here in Launceston and Hobart”, St Giles CEO, Ian Wright, said.

The mascot will be at all St Giles events, including the celebration of the organisation's 75th birthday in late 2012 and 2013.

You can expect to see the mascot at Ability First Walk with Me - a national event for supporters and people living with disabilities - through the streets of Launceston on September 17 and Hobart on October 15.

“Giles embodies the spirit of optimism that St Giles provides through its professional and caring approach to families living with a disability”, Mayor Albert van Zetten said. 🌟

