

How you can help The Infants' Home

Every contribution helps a child.

If you would like to support us, please send this form with your donation to The Infants' Home, 17 Henry Street, Ashfield NSW 2131.

ph: 02 9799 4844

ABN 71 174 918 661

Yes, I would like to make a difference to children and families.

Please accept my gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200

Other \$ _____

Please find enclosed my

cheque/money order **OR** please debit my Visa Mastercard

Number:

Signature: _____

Yes, I would like you to debit my credit card \$ _____ per month.

Expiry date:

M	M	/	Y	Y
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Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone:

(H) _____

(W) _____

(M) _____

Email: _____

Yes, I would like to give the gift of time. Please send me information on becoming a volunteer.

Yes, I would like to give a lasting gift. Please send me information on leaving a bequest.

Yes, I would like to know more. Please send me information about your services.

Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible. A receipt will be issued for all donations. The Infants' Home respects your privacy. We do not disclose personal contact information without permission. Please remove my name from your mailing list.

Meet one of our new Board Members – Debbie Niulala

Debbie Niulala is a recently appointed Director on the Board of The Infant's Home. She is also a parent of two young boys who both attend our child care services.

Why did you join the Board of TIH?

My background is in financial services, mainly global banking, which brought my family to Sydney almost 2 years ago. Specifically I have a lot of experience in assurance and governance and when I realised The Infant's Home Board had a desire to improve its overall governance framework, I was keen to volunteer some assistance.

How did you come to use the services of TIH?

To be honest, close proximity to where we live. Also the 'mothers' network should never be underestimated – valuable information can always be gleaned in the local playground and that is exactly what we did. We asked other parents for their recommendations and views on various day care providers, and

then we simply visited a few to form our own opinions.

The great attraction of TIH has got to be the property itself. With the established trees and grounds, it really is a wonderful outdoor environment for children.

Is it difficult to separate your contrasting involvement with TIH?

I see my direct experience of the services as a real asset to my role on the Board. I also often seek informal feedback on TIH services, again mostly at the local playground or café! Whilst I do not have sole authority or responsibility for making decisions, it's great that the Board can indirectly receive these incredibly relevant and valid views. They certainly keep me focussed on what we are striving to achieve at Board level.

FINAL WORD

As a Board member, I am really excited about the plans ahead!



Jennifer Evans CEO, Virginia Judge MP, Gillian Hirstman President TIH.

Recognition of a dedicated President

Australia Day was a particularly special day for The Infants' Home, Ashfield, as its President, Mrs Gillian Hirstman, was presented with an achievement award by Ashfield Council for her significant contribution and achievements in the field of Childrens Services.

Mrs Hirstman's commitment to children has long been recognised by her co-workers at The Home. "Gillian's belief in the importance of providing services to young children and their families is infectious to those who work with her" said Jennifer Evans, CEO of The Infants' Home. "Gillian has tirelessly focused on developing support for our organisation so that the children and families of Ashfield and the surrounding areas can access services that will ensure a good start to life."

Mrs Hirstman's contributions as a fundraiser, board member and currently President of The Infants' Home, have seen her working with local government and members of parliament across a wide range of issues concerning child and family support programs.

Throughout her period as President, Mrs Hirstman has brought together experts and supporters to ensure the continual evolvement of The Infants' Home. Jennifer Evans notes, "Gillian's support of the management team and professionals provides a significant contribution in support of our work."

The importance of Mrs Hirstman's work is reflected in the unique standing that The Infants' Home enjoys within the community. Its leafy Henry Street site in Ashfield provides a one-stop shop of integrated care, education and support services for children and their families.



HAPPENINGS

Autumn 2009

A NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE INFANTS' HOME CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Celebrating 135 years and looking ahead...

2009 is a special year for The Infants' Home Child & Family Services as it commemorates 135 years of service to young children. In May 1874 the inaugural meeting was held to establish the institution with Mrs E B Parnell as president. The first infant was welcomed on 3 June 1874 at 7.40pm.

Throughout its rich history The Home has reflected social change as it pioneered many initiatives that are now taken for granted, such as preschool kindergartens, single parent refuges, child care, infant feeding and settling clinics, parenting programs, foster care, and child & family early intervention programs.

Decades apart, The Infants' Home has made a significant difference to the quality of lives of Marion and Jean, Elki and Niah and their families. Marion and Jean were referred to The Home in 1923 after their mother passed away. The twins lived at The Home receiving ongoing health services, education and care. During this time their father, a single parent and a new migrant, regularly visited the children and worked on establishing a home for his family. At

six the twins were able to return to live with their newly married father and have a happy family life. Marion and Jean are very proud to be associated with The Infants' Home and at the age of 86 continue to visit and attend functions. Recently twins Elki, Niah and their mum Tamara have received a range of support through the GoodStart early intervention program. The twins have started school this year, confident and ready to embrace the opportunities at primary school.

The Home's innovative work with early intervention currently includes research into Art Therapy, developments in integrated therapy for children in childcare and exploration of social enterprise programs to support sustainability of services into the future.

The Home's standing in the community as a leader in child and family services has long been recognised by Local, State and Federal Governments who contribute to funding for The Home.

The 135 Anniversary celebrations will commence with the launch of a

historical display and reunion at the State Library of New South Wales on 1 June at 10am. This will be followed by a Luncheon on Tuesday 9 June 2009 at 12 noon at the Strangers Dining Room, Parliament House Sydney. The staff, supporters and families of The Infants' Home look forward to celebrating its contribution to young children, their families and the community. We invite you to join us.

Luncheon tickets are available from The Infants' Home, please call 9799 4844.



Jean Saxon and Marion Young

each child, every opportunity

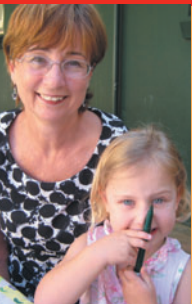
The Infants' Home, 17 Henry Street, Ashfield NSW 2131

P: (02) 9799 4844 F: (02) 9799 4122 W: www.theinfantshome.org.au



the infants' home
CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Churchill Fellowship



Jennifer Evans, CEO shares her international study tour information through the Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship.

I returned late last year from an exciting and informative international study tour in 2008 on a Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship. The tour enabled me to learn about international early childhood and early intervention services. I met with leading researchers, visited programs, attended lectures and seminars, participating in over 45 activities during my two month study tour. I recently presented some of my findings at a national conference held in Melbourne, 'Getting it together for Australia's Children: What role for Parent and Child centres?'

Each country's unique history, culture and geography has had a powerful influence in shaping their early childhood and early intervention services. It was very interesting to see how programs help families access a range of services including health, welfare and education.

The important role of engaging experienced early childhood teachers to deliver quality early childhood programs as a foundation for children with a range of developmental health care needs was highlighted. The influence of government policy and funding to support these programs is critical in shaping these services overseas. The study tour has helped The Infants' Home understand the context for much of the overseas direction and research and provides a base for critically assessing its relevance and value to the NSW and the Australian context.

Interviews with families showed how important these services are to providing a sense of hopefulness about their child and family's future.

Jennifer Evans
Chief Executive Officer

Catherine Hunter – 20 years of commitment to Family Day Care



Catherine Hunter

Catherine's 20 years contribution to children and families in the Family Day Care services was recognised at the annual meeting of the NSW Family Day Care Association.

This year The Infants' Home is proudly celebrating 35 years of providing Family Day Care services. We are delighted that Catherine's career in Family day Care commenced at The Infants' Home when she was employed as a Child Development Officer in 1988. She left The Home a year later and continued in the field of Family Day Care. She built up an impressive resume managing Family Day Care Centres, developing strong ties with a

women's refuge, hospital care and with children with additional needs. It was this broad background and knowledge that led her to return to The Infants' Home as the Manager, Family Day Care Services 5 years ago and more recently promoted to the role of Manager, Community services.

Catherine is passionate about the service The Infants' Home provides to both families and carers. The Infants' Home supports over 155 children and 27 carers through the Family Day Care services ensuring high quality care and education in the local community. The unit is there to support the child's wellbeing, learning and progress. Staff are able to provide special attention to those families in need of extra assistance. Sometimes this may be grandparents who have the responsibility for their grandchildren that have been placed in their care by the Department of Community Services.

We congratulate Catherine for recently receiving an award for 20 years of service to Family Day Care.

Vale – Julie Wenkart

Julie was a remarkable woman who will be remembered by all who knew her for her strength of character, enthusiasm for life and compassion for children.

She was a member of the Wairoonga Auxiliary of The Infants' Home for more than 35 years. The Auxiliary raised over \$500,000, contributing funds to some key projects including the renovation of the heritage listed kitchen. Many functions were held to raise funds, there were card days, bus trips and lunches. Julie was always there bringing friends to support the work of the Committee, she never missed a function.

When the Wairoonga Auxiliary ceased activities in 2007, Julie continued her support. She was intensely interested in the future redevelopment of the site and always lent her support and

encouragement for the future of vulnerable children. Her generosity was overwhelming.

The Infants' Home will always remember her with great fondness.

135 years... exhibition and reunion

A Historical Exhibition of The Home's work will be launched on 1 June at 10am and will be open for viewing through to 12 June at the State Library of New South Wales.

A reunion will follow the launch at 10.15am on 1 June at the State Library of New South Wales for people who have resided at The Infants' Home. If you are interested in attending, please contact Enza McNaught on 9799 4844 for further details.

Steps to School



Elki and Niah

This year twin sisters Elki and Niah made the move to school and "Happenings" followed up to see how they were settling into big school.

The twins and their mother Tamara received services through the GoodStart Early Intervention Program. The family was referred when the twins were 18 months old; the family was facing a number of challenges at this time. A priority was to secure stable housing for the family and provide a consistent routine for the children in the Learning and Development Programs. The twins participated in a number of programs including Art Therapy to develop their self esteem and confidence. Tamara developed her knowledge and skills on how to support the girls as they grew up and attended vocational training at TAFE. When it came time

for the girls to go to school Tamara was confident to work with the school counsellor to discuss the best way to help the twins settle into their new environment. The key to this discussion was using The Infants' Home Social Story Book. The main idea behind the book is to illustrate with photos and pictures on how "big school" works. Tamara took photos of the playground, the classrooms, the toilets, the recess and lunch areas and school uniforms so that Elki and Niah could learn all about their new school and how it operated.

When "Happenings" contacted Tamara to see how the girls were going, it was pleasing to hear that the hard work had paid off. Tamara was very positive and said that the girls were socialising well and she was looking forward to her next parent evening. Tamara believes that The Infants' Home was responsible for her "life changing experience" and couldn't emphasise enough how much care and support she received from The Home when she needed it.

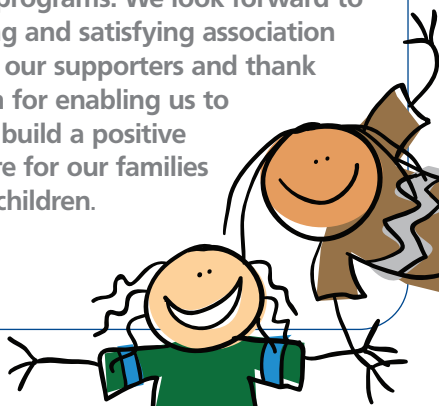
We are very proud of Tamara, Elki and Niah's achievements and look forward to keeping in contact with them as they progress through school.

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

We are very fortunate to have continual support from so many different companies in the corporate world. This year is no exception and we would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to the following Corporate groups for their added assistance in the following areas:

- Westpac Foundation for its support of Family Day Care Unit
- United Way for supporting our new project "Changing Life Trajectories"
- James N Kirby Foundation for their continued support of Sydney Hope Family Cottage
- Goldman Sachs JBWere Foundation for supporting our Speech Therapy Project
- Herbalife Family Foundation for continued support of our Anaphylaxis Program

Without the support and generosity of these organisations we would not be able to provide the depth and range of services and programs. We look forward to a long and satisfying association with our supporters and thank them for enabling us to help build a positive future for our families and children.



the infants' home
CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

The Infants' Home provides a range of care, education and support services for children from birth to five and their families to help them build a positive future.

Early support and intervention programs

- Specialised parenthood services for babies
- Intensive early care & learning programs
- Health management support
- Allied health programs
- Information, advice and advocacy
- Parent support programs
- Fathering support
- Parenting programs including playgroups
- Integrated multi-component early intervention services: GoodStart Programs - Families Together and Steps to School.

Children's Service Programs

- Quality Learning & Development Centre, including baby care through to preschool education
- Quality home like Family Day Care from babies to primary school age

Funding for The Home's programs come from the Australian and State governments, as well as fees for our services. This does not adequately cover our costs. We rely on the generosity of you, our donors and volunteers, to continue operating to the extent that we do.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

The Infants' Home programs are regularly supported by government funding from:

- Department of Community Services (NSW)
- Department of Education & Training (NSW)
- Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Ashfield Council
- SFRS Inner West Small Grant Scheme
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Established 1874

Patron: Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC OBE

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