

## Missions Focus: HANNAH'S HOUSE

### Mayor welcomes Shine Program to Ipswich

On Monday 4 September, the church celebrated with the first graduates of the Shine program at a dinner held at Ipswich International Hotel.

Facilitator Caroline Cavanagh initiated the Shine program for residents of Hannah's House and young women of the youth group.



Over six weeks, 11 participants were taught skills in healthy living, skin and hair care, social etiquette, and goal-setting.

Mayor of Ipswich, Councillor Paul Pisasale, has been appointed as Patron of Hannah's House and attended the Graduation Dinner. He said it was a great honour to be named as Patron and was wonderful to see the graduates. He said, "The Shine Program gives young women a special helping hand, a level of friendship which is often lacking in larger communities. The Shine Program makes our city shine."

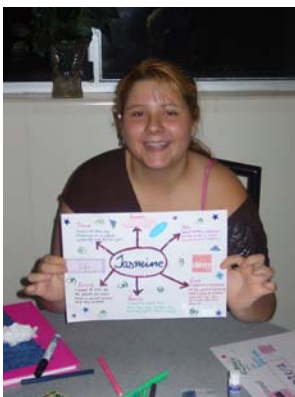


"When a city grows there are great opportunities, but there come also heartbreaking situations such as homelessness. Hannah's House shows we are still a community small enough to care for each other", said Cr Pisasale.

Pastor John Hunt said, "We share a vision to enhance the lives of young homeless people in Ipswich who often, through no fault of their own, end up in a desperate situation. With the Mayor's support, we plan to expand the range of options available to the homeless."



"Our church has a passion to work in the community, to improve lives, and to replace desperation with hope," said Pastor John.



**Hannah's House lambs  
\$11 each (incl GST)  
Proceeds support the work  
of Hannah's House**



## Hannah's House: a vision for increase and growth

Speech by Leanne Jorgensen at the Shine Graduation Dinner, held on 4 September, 2006



Hannah's House has been a part of the Ipswich community for about 24 years, growing out of the caring ministry of Ps Wayne Alcorn and his family. Hannah's House is a Ministry of hope and healing to young women with broken lives. Ps John & Francine embraced that ministry and continue to build the vision.

Under the guidance of Ps John, Hannah's House was granted government funds which cover the cost of running the house, provisions for up to 5 young women, and maintains a staff of youth workers.

Hannah's House has been truly blessed and continues to grow and flourish. Many hundreds of young women have been accommodated at Hannah's House and previously at Esther House and Deborah House. These young women have been given respite, started to deal with the issues in their life, been healed, had hope restored and some have received Jesus in their life.

**Hannah's House stands as a beacon in our community, it is known as a place of caring, where practical help is given.**

Hannah's House is a place of refuge, hope, healing, and we pray that every young woman has the opportunity to address the issues in their lives, and above all they would have a face-to-face encounter with God.

Hannah's House stands as a beacon in our community, it is known as a place of caring, where practical help is given. We have an excellent reputation in Ipswich and are well-known among youth agencies and many other community agencies.

Our vision for Hannah's House is to see increase in every area that we steward. In our society we are seeing more family

breakdown, abuse, neglect, abandonment. This strikes at the heart of God, to whom the family is paramount. So many young women refer to Hannah's House but we can't take them all. Unfortunately at the end of 2002, a decision had to be made to close Deborah House & Esther House, meaning that 5 to 6 beds were unable to be offered to young women in need.

We are continually faced with the problem of ongoing long-term accommodation. While our hope is that every young woman be reconciled with their family that is not always possible. We need long-term supported accommodation so that the young women who stay with us for the maximum 3 months, can continue to grow and be supported while making changes in their lives.

Our vision for Hannah's House is to see increase in every area. If we are to see more young women healed and filled with hope then we need more beds to accommodate them, we need more workers to support them, we need more funds to maintain more houses.

**I believe God has a greater purpose for Hannah's House than I can ever imagine.**

My tiny mind sees only a myriad of needs and insurmountable problems. But our God is greater than that. This is not impossible for God. I believe God has a greater purpose for Hannah's House than I can ever imagine, I believe that we are on the brink of a new season.

Being able to offer programs like the Shine program to the young women in our shelter is one way of being able to make a difference in their lives. If we are to embrace this vision for the future of Hannah's House then we need a lot of prayer, tenacity, and practical help from our community. I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our Ipswich businesses and community, they have gotten behind this program and the graduation night in particular to make it the fantastic night it is. With support like that from our community we can achieve an unimaginable future for Hannah's House.