



the infants' home
CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

each child, every opportunity • Autumn 2018

HAPPENINGS

Donors and Supporters • Thank you from The Infants' Home to those who help make our work possible



Justine, The Infants' Home's Occupational Therapist, helps Caleb to model common facial expressions.

health professionals including Justine (Occupational Therapist), Simone (Speech Pathologist), and Meryl (Early Childhood Health Nurse). Yumi said "Caleb's Developmental Paediatrician told us he had to attend preschool three days per week to be ready for school, but at our other centre it was too hard to fit in all of his therapies in the remaining two days of the week. Here at The Infants' Home, Caleb attends three days per week, and receives integrated occupational therapy, speech therapy, or both, on two of those days. His current therapists can also visit him and work with the team at The Infants' Home. So that's been great."

"Coming here has been amazing. I talk to Justine (Occupational Therapist), and she just gets it. She has amazing ideas and just runs with it. Caleb loves her as well, they bonded very quickly on the first day, everyone saw that. So I feel very comfortable in terms of how he's supported here."



Caleb and Yumi, enjoying a day out together.

Now that Caleb is able to receive the support he needs in one location through our integrated services, Yumi has been able to get some respite from her caring role, and focus on the positive aspects of Williams syndrome. Yumi explained "children with Williams syndrome have a very endearing personality. He loves being with people, he gets very excited! We feel very special, and very blessed to have him in our lives. He's very precious."

Yumi's Story

Yumi's son Caleb was two years old when he was diagnosed with Williams syndrome following a number of seemingly unconnected health challenges.

"To be given the diagnosis of Williams syndrome was actually a bit of a relief, because it made sense of everything. Suddenly we understood why he is the way he is, why he had all of these seemingly unconnected medical problems, so it was an answer. It was still hard," Yumi said.

Caleb has a speech and language delay, apraxia of speech (difficulty in sequencing what he says), problems

with fine motor skills, gross motor skills, spatial awareness and depth perception, and some behavioural challenges.

At Caleb's former childcare centre his therapists weren't able to travel to assist Caleb and his educators. Yumi said "I felt like I was doing a lot of work in having to communicate between all these therapists, I was trying to almost educate or train his educators, in terms of how he needed to be supported." This prompted Yumi to investigate inclusive childcare options.

Yumi turned to an online support group for parents of children with additional needs, to ask for recommendations. After finding that The Infants' Home had vacancies for both Caleb and his little brother Micah, and hearing positive reviews, Yumi was happy to enrol her sons at The Infants' Home.

Caleb was able to immediately access the support of our onsite

"Coming here has been amazing. Justine (Occupational Therapist) has amazing ideas and just runs with it. I feel very comfortable in terms of how he's supported here."

YUMI, CALEB'S MOTHER

You can help
ensure the continuation of our programs for vulnerable children and families.
To donate, please use the form on the back of this newsletter, visit theinfantshome.org.au or call 02 9799 4844.
Thank you.



Rigby House staff in their newly renovated centre.

Flag Presentation Ceremony

We welcomed The Honourable Anthony Albanese MP, Member for Grayndler and long-time friend of The Infants' Home, to a flag presentation ceremony in recognition of Australia's cultural heritage and to discuss the development of our Reconciliation Action Plan. Children from Gorton House performed their 'Wangal Land' song to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which The Infants' Home sits, the Wangal People. Mr Albanese's office kindly donated a set of Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags for use in our educational programs.

Rigby House renovations complete

We thank our donors and supporters, staff and families who gave generously to help fund Rigby House renovations. Over the summer holiday period, Rigby House was a hive of activity with tradespersons busily working to replace all ceilings and floors and skirting boards, repair and paint walls, install new cabinetry in the kitchen and bathroom areas, and create a new staff amenities area. Volunteer groups from the Australian Navy and Al Zahra College also pitched in to help with painting the eaves and veranda.

In early February staff moved back into their newly renovated centre, and were truly amazed at its transformation. Staff and children are enjoying their accessible and inspiring environments. We could not have done this without the generosity of our supporters – thank you!

Time to celebrate

We are delighted to announce that His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales and our Patron, Mrs Linda Hurley, will join us for the Rigby House Grand Re-Opening Party at The Infants' Home on April 18, 2018 from 6-8pm. Donors and supporters are all welcome. For details contact Anne-Marie Byrne: abyrne@theinfantshome.org.au.



The Infants' Home CEO Elizabeth Robinson, The Honorable Anthony Albanese MP and The Infants' Home president Mary Verschuer, with children from Gorton House preschool.

Welcome Support from the Royal Australian Navy

We were delighted to be chosen as the adopted charity of the Royal Australian Navy's Maritime Warfare Centre in August, in honour of our historic association as the adopted charity of the warship HMAS Sydney. HMAS Sydney IV was decommissioned in 2015 and, whilst we await the launch of HMAS Sydney V in 2019, we welcome the Navy's ongoing



Australian Maritime Warfare Centre volunteers with our CEO Elizabeth Robinson, together with Rigby House staff and children.

support to help maintain our facilities and raise funds for our child and family services. Navy volunteers have helped set up for events, paint buildings, move furniture, mow lawns and more!



Cathy Fauth, Early Childhood Teacher at Johnson House Toddlers, shows the children how to use tapping sticks to make music.

Making Music with Johnson Toddlers

Children at Johnson House Toddlers have been creating their own music and sharing in lots of musical experiences with their peers and educators. One of their favourite musical experiences involves

using tapping sticks to pretend to be the big hungry bear from the story *The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry, and The Big Hungry Bear*. Making loud booming sounds with the sticks, creates opportunities for children to develop their music concept skills, including beat, rhythm and tempo.



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Children have been enjoying freshly-prepared meals from the new kitchen.

New Kitchen Service and Partnership in Full Swing

We are proud to say that our new kitchen facility was completed and our food service partnership with long-time supporters Wests Ashfield Leagues Club began in late 2017. As part of their community program, Wests' chefs work onsite to provide fresh and healthy morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea for up to 300 children who attend our five early education centres each day. The chefs are able to cater to the nutritional needs of children of all ages and particularly those with serious health and allergy issues.

2017 Excellence in Family Day Care Awards

Congratulations to Lin Struthers, who was named Educator of the Year for the North Shore/Northern Beaches in the 2017 Excellence in Family Day Care Awards. Lin was officially nominated by parents of children enrolled in her service. As one of the largest family day care schemes in NSW, Family Day Care Sydney Wide will continue to drive high quality service provision into the future.



North Shore Educator of the Year, Lin Struthers, with her happy customers.

The Infants' Home is a leading provider of:

- early childhood education and care,
- early intervention and
- clinical health services for children from birth to school age.

Each year we provide services for over 2,600 children and their families. One third of our onsite services are directed to children and families with additional physical or emotional needs, or those living in vulnerable circumstances. For 144 years The Infants' Home has been a dynamic and innovative organisation, championing the rights of children, women and families.

Our services include:

- Early Childhood Education and Care Centres
- Family Day Care
- Supported playgroups
- Parent education and family support
- Postnatal Clinic

Our programs are funded through Government, Trusts, Foundations, Corporations, local clubs, business and donors.

Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible. Please see donations form overleaf.

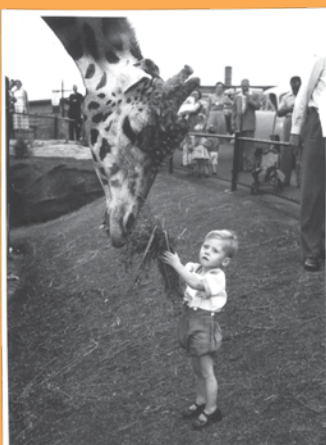
Established 1874
Patron: Mrs Linda Hurley

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www.facebook.com/theinfantshome

Celebrating our History with #ThrowbackThursday

The Infants' Home archives are full of fascinating photographs and snippets of information that shine a light on our organisation's long history of helping children and families, as well as providing insight into the social history of our nation. To celebrate and showcase these 'windows on our world' each week, we have created the #ThrowbackThursday post on our Facebook page. Please see sample post below:



In 1957 a group of resident children from The Infants' Home were taken on an excursion to Taronga Zoo. The event was covered by the Sun Herald which reported: "Twenty-five toddlers from the Ashfield Infants' Home were taken to the Zoo yesterday to meet the baby animals. Several of the children had never seen live animals before, as neither cats nor dogs are permitted at the home."

Follow us on Facebook

To keep up to date on news and events at The Infants' Home, we invite you to follow us on Facebook here:
www.facebook.com/theinfantshome

Leaving a bequest to The Infants' Home will ensure that each child is given every opportunity to reach their full potential.

How you can help

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
ABN: 71 174 918 661**

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

Please accept my gift of:

- \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500
 Other \$ _____

Please find enclosed my:

- cheque/money order OR please debit my Visa Mastercard

Number:

□□□□□□□□
□□□□□□□□

Signature _____

You can donate online, visit www.theinfantshome.org.au and click on the 'Donate' button.

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

Expiry date □□/□□

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone (H) _____

(M) _____

Email _____

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 or 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.

De La Salle College Students Join our Volunteering Program

This year The Infants' Home have been lucky to have students from De La Salle College Ashfield volunteer with us after school for an hour each Wednesday as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Community Service Program. We are grateful for their enthusiastic and ongoing help to keep our playgrounds, gardens and centres looking good.



Student volunteers help keep our grounds in top shape.

If you know of a corporate, university or high school group wanting to volunteer, contact Ondria Portelli: oportelli@theinfantshome.org.au.

Would you like to be our Event Partner?

Fundraising events and partnerships are a great way in which community and corporate groups help raise funds in support of our programs and projects. If you would like to support us by donating a venue or prizes, organising an event or providing people power to help at events, we would love to hear from you and welcome your ideas. Examples include holding a trivia night, a golf day or forming a fundraising team for the City2Surf. **Please contact Anne-Marie Byrne: 8719 5002 / abyrne@theinfantshome.org.au to discuss further.**



CEO Elizabeth Robinson proudly displays our Community Building Partnership cheque.

Success in Building Community Partnerships

The Infants' Home has once again been the recipient of support through the Community Building Partnerships grants program, under which we received \$18,612 towards the Rigby House renovation project. We thank Jo Haylen MP for her ongoing support, as well as all of our donors and supporters who voted for our project to receive funding.

Please donate now

We are deeply grateful to all our donors and supporters whose generous contributions help us provide a range of programs and services for children at risk, which in turn helps us to affect positive and lasting social change in our community. These additional programs and services account for \$1.5 million dollars in annual expenditure, yet these costs are not reflected in our child care fee structure. Rather, they are supported by our grants and fundraising program as well as returns on our investment portfolio.

Your donation can help provide an inclusive education to a vulnerable child, transport to enable a child to reach our services when carers are unable to make the journey, parent education to help families struggling in their parenting role, and post-natal home visits to families with young babies who need support with feeding, sleeping and settling. **As a registered charity and not-for-profit organisation, we rely on people like you to help us provide these vital services to children and families.**

With your help, we can continue to provide each child every opportunity.

