



# TIME TO BUILD

Building lives, homes & communities

Newsletter of Our Place Christian Communities and Hope Christian Homes

## 10 highlights of 2022 and how you can pray heading into 2023

This Christmas, we invite you to celebrate and pray with us. The Lord's done great things and we are filled with joy (Psalm 126:3).

### 1 Our first house: Welcome Home Springwood

Here's what has happened so far: We bought a cottage. The property is generating a rental income and beginning to be a place of hospitality and welcome. We are building relationships between potential residents and continuing NDIS processes. We have engaged architects to draw up a design for 3 neurodiverse people, an overnight support worker, and a self-contained apartment for a neurotypical neighbour and friend. Pray for the Lord's provision of resources still required to complete the home – pray for people (especially builders), finances, and favour with the local community and other governing bodies. Pray that the work will be carried out to an excellent and durable standard.



### 2 Our first Belonging workshops for churches seeking to create inclusive communities

This year, we ran three Belonging workshops in partnership with local churches in Sydney. Pray with us for Springwood Presbyterian, St Paul's Carlingford and St Clair Anglican. Pray for all attendees to apply what they have learned. Pray for the Lord's protection over these seeds of enthusiasm and passion – that they may produce fruit over the long term.

# 3 Partnership with Springwood Presbyterian Churches

Give thanks for the partnership between Welcome Home Springwood and Springwood Presbyterian Churches. A small army of volunteers from these churches worked hard with us on renovating the house. Give thanks for church members who have formed a supportive and caring community around the people with disability who will live there soon. Pray for continuing positive and mutually beneficial relationships.

# 4 The start of new church partnerships

Welcome Home Springwood and 3 workshops are just the start - we don't want to see the vision stop there! Pray for the Holy Spirit to stir more churches with a desire to include people with disabilities. Pray for a team of people in each church who can work together with joy, and spur each other on to love and good deeds.



# 5 The encouragement of advocates - partners in time, energy, finances, and vision

Give thanks for all who have partnered with us in time, energy, finances, and who advocate for our vision to others. Pray for us as we seek to steward these relationships well, that we can effectively equip churches, grow our partners in their relationship with Jesus, and communicate the impact that they (you!) make.



# 6 Time to Build fundraiser

We had our first fundraiser dinner at the Freedom Hub. We're thankful for all who took the time to come, and contributed towards our shared vision!



# 7 New team members

We have an emerging staff team - after challenges from sickness and some help from some excellent locums. Give thanks for Vanessa, Grace, Bec, James, Ally and Trix. Pray for us as a family (Kirk, Lisa, Manning and Jerrah). Pray for patience and endurance.

# 8

## Board and committee

We're so thankful for our faithful board and committee members – for Jenny, Ian, Sam, Simon, Paul and Renee. Pray especially for Rod as founder of Hope Christian Homes. Pray for renewed strength and vision as all go into the new year, that we will keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Heb 12:2).

# 9

## Planning for the new year

Pray for us as we plan for 2023. Our AGM is in Feb 2023. Pray as we plan workshops and events, and respond to open doors. Pray for unity as we bring together different gifts, personalities, histories and cultures, to discussions and decision making. Pray for the Lord's leading as to what plans to make and prepare for, and how best to work together.

**We're so thankful for your partnership with us. We'll close with an energetic word from Our Place Christian Communities' ambassador, Jerrah, "I'm very excited and can't wait to see some diggers and hear some nail guns."**



# 10

## A certain hope

Pray for people with disabilities who are searching for hope and community as we approach Christmas and the new year. Pray that they may find hope in Jesus, and a welcoming community in their local church – a home where they are safe and known, connected and growing, celebrated and loved.



# P.S. 10 ways you can advocate

for people with disabilities by partnering with Our Place and Hope

## 1 Pray

Keep an eye out for our newsletters and social media posts, and pray.

## 2 Share your story with us

We know our lived experience with people with disability, including our own - we'd love to connect and hear yours! Contact us at [admin@ourplaceecc.org.au](mailto:admin@ourplaceecc.org.au).

## 3 Follow us on social media

This helps us get the word out to people on Facebook, Instagram, and hopefully soon, LinkedIn.

## 4 Share our social posts and events with friends

...and if you aren't a fan of social media, you can email, text, call, or simply invite someone face to face!

## 5 Invite us to run a Belonging workshop at your church

We'd love to work with you, your pastor and your church in raising awareness around how churches can be more inclusive of people with disabilities.

## 6 Let your church know about our workshops

We'd love to make this easy for you and have resources you can use to share.

## 7 Volunteer with us

## 8 Give a tax deductible donation

Consider giving financially towards our work. You can give to Hope Christian Homes for property or Our Place Christian Communities for ministry.

## 9 Introduce us to friends

We would love to connect with others who share our heart for people with disabilities to be safe and known, connected and growing, celebrated and loved, in Christian community. A lunch, a walk, a high tea, a BBQ, a tennis match...We're happy to meet friends anywhere!

## 10

## Ask God

Our minds and ideas are finite, but God's isn't! He knows exactly how He has made you and the plans that He has for you. So our challenge is that you ask God how He would have you partner with us (if at all!). May He give you clear guidance and assurance of His great love for you and all people with disabilities.