



50
COMPANIES

50
LIVES

Businesses sponsoring
people to make the move
from homelessness to home



Completing the Vulnerability Index survey in King George Square. Photography, above and front cover: Patrick Hamilton.



TAKING ACTION ON HOMELESSNESS IN BRISBANE

In June 2010 the '50 Lives 50 Homes' campaign was launched. This groundbreaking campaign is housing Brisbane's chronically homeless people, one by one.

Micah Projects' outreach workers were joined by peers from other agencies and scores of community volunteers to survey people sleeping rough. Using a 'Vulnerability Index', we surveyed 231 people who were homeless. This gave us a baseline register from which to start tracking progress on housing people. Since then we have continued to survey people we did not meet that week, and to date, a further 59 people have been added to the register.

The survey revealed that 65% of Brisbane's homeless people have significant chronic health conditions that put them at a high mortality risk. Many experience a considerable level of disability and the length of time they have been homeless is alarming – the average is 6.31 years among the vulnerable 65% with many people sleeping rough for decades.

We need to get every one of these people into permanent housing. Micah Projects is the lead agency in this work, partnering with government and non-government service providers to deliver housing, healthcare and support services to individuals so that they do not become homeless again. As of June 2011, 79 people have been housed while many more are finalising their housing applications and preparing to make the move into housing.

Housing

Campaign partners are working carefully to match individuals to the right housing to reduce the risk of them becoming homeless again. Many factors are taken into consideration such as affordability (<30% of income), location (e.g. proximity to essential services and public transport) and neighbourhood (getting the social mix right). The Queensland Government and community housing providers are working together to prioritise social housing properties for 50 Lives 50 Homes. The campaign would not be a success without their collaboration.



Businesses sponsoring people to make the move from homelessness to home



From top left: Naomi from Micah Projects Street to Home Team and an interviewee; a couple sleeping in their car; a Brisbane City squat; on the streets of Brisbane; at the City squat. (Top right & bottom middle: photography courtesy Patrick Hamilton.)

50 COMPANIES 50 LIVES

In the next stage of the campaign, we're asking the business community to share in this work by sponsoring people to make the move from homelessness to home. Individuals are moving into their housing with the support of Micah Projects but the costs to establish a home go far beyond the capacity of someone who has been homeless. Most of the people being housed rely upon Centrelink incomes that range from \$235-\$330 per week. Once basics such as rent and food are subtracted, very little is left for home establishment costs.

We're asking each business to donate \$5,000 to sponsor one individual. This donation will be used in a number of ways:

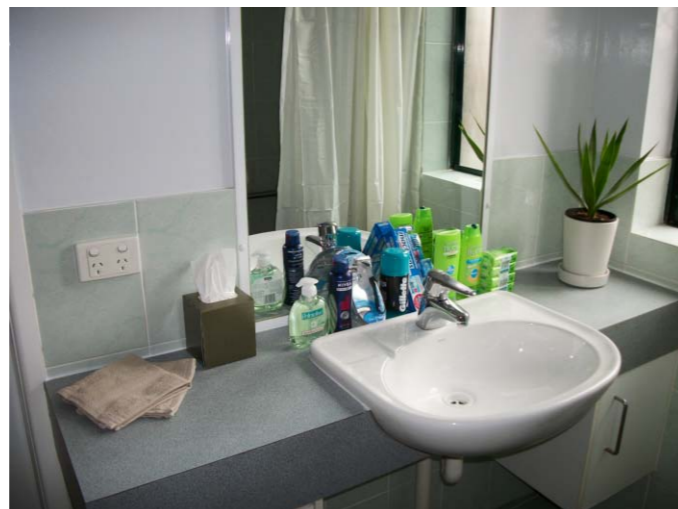
- Fully furnish and fit out a home
- Connect utilities
- Purchase special equipment (e.g. walking frame) if required
- Reduce any debts so that people can make a fresh start.

Your donation will help end homelessness for one person.

APPROXIMATE ESTABLISHMENT COSTS FOR A STUDIO APARTMENT FOR ONE ADULT

Room	Item	Total \$
Bedroom	double bed & mattress	288
	bed linen	95
	bedside table & lamp	79
	chest of drawers	259
	wardrobe	169
Bathroom	towels & bath mat	68
	toiletries	55
	toilet paper & brush	14
Dining & Lounge	dining table & 4 chairs	329
	2 seat sofa, cover & arm chair	548
	rug, floor lamp & fan	208
	coffee table & side table	109
	tv, aerial & table/wall mounts	570
Kitchen	refrigerator	480
	kitchen appliances (toaster, kettle etc)	160
	pots, pans, cutlery, crockery & glassware	186
Laundry	washing machine	480
	mop & cleaning equipment	90
Utilities	connect phone	120
	connect electricity	39
Other	vacuum cleaner	120
	curtains (rod, heavy set & light set)	139
	start-up groceries	250
Outdoor	3 piece setting	145
Studio apartment total		\$5 000

Where savings are made in purchasing items, the remainder of your donation would be used to purchase items or services that the individual requires.



Above: a newly established unit for a person who was formerly homeless.

MAKING A HOUSE A HOME

A key factor in making housing work for people who are exiting chronic homelessness is the crucial 'move-in' period. It is essential that people move into homes that are furnished and fitted-out to give them the best chance of starting over. A house is not a home without the facilities to cook, clean, sleep and relax. For example, a kitchen needs food and the equipment with which to prepare and cook it. In the same way, the bathroom, bedroom and living areas require all of the essential items and creature comforts that each of us have in our own homes but often take for granted (yet recognise we can't live without).

"Micah found me in Dutton Park Cemetery when they were looking out for homeless people to help. They said they could get me a place. (Now) I've got my privacy, my security. Micah have furnished the place and I'm going to grow some veges to eat.

Being in this flat helps no end. Being out on the street you have got a lot of dead time on your hands. Here I can watch the TV, listen to the radio, chat to people and catch up with Micah when they visit. I've been here six months now and am 100% certain of staying. When I leave it will be feet first.

This beautiful apartment is just too good to be true." Bob, aged 69.

HOW TO DONATE

There are many convenient ways to make your donation to the 50 Companies 50 Lives campaign.

1. Collect your donation as a company and make a single donation, or
2. Employees give directly to the campaign and have their donation recorded against your company's name.

When you make your donation, please let us know which company you are from so that your company can be acknowledged. With permission, we will proudly list your company on the Micah Projects website as a 50 Companies 50 Lives supporter. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Donate Online

Visit www.micahprojects.org.au to make your secure credit card donation.

Direct Deposit

Bank: Westpac
 Account Name: Micah Projects
 BSB: 034 013
 Account No: 264 051

Please accompany your donation with your postal details, so we can send your receipt, and email to: finance@micahprojects.org.au

Cheque

Please make all cheques payable to Micah Projects Inc. and post to: PO Box 3449, West End Q 4101.

Cash

If you are paying in cash, please visit the office in person at: Ground Floor, 162 Boundary Street, West End Q 4101.

CONTACT DETAILS

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MICAH PROJECTS INC

Micah Projects is a community organisation with an unswerving commitment to social justice. We believe that every child and adult has the right to a home, an income, healthcare, education, safety, dignity and connection with their community of choice. Micah Projects provides a range of support and advocacy services to individuals and families.