



## Impact Report

### Organisation name

Hope Centre Services - Mimi's House

### Your name and position

Jane Hockey, Program Director

### Please tell us a short story about someone who has benefited from this funding.

It's heart-wrenching to hear of a child passing through things they never should – becoming misshapen during their formative years. It's a joy to see that very child begin to look at you with heart open, trusting, innocent...and carefree! Nate\* was eight when he started his year at Mimi's House – referred by his school who had grave concerns not only about his disengagement from learning, behavioural issues, and mental health...but in fact his very life. Nate would say things like "Everybody hates me! I want to kill myself!" Tragically, when Nate was five his father took his own life: Nate and his older brother were present for the terrifying lead-up to this. The family is in the process of healing - the fall-out has been severe. At home things were beyond hard for Mum – they were out of control.

At Mimi's House Nate was angry, explosively reactive, and guarded. To appropriate physical contact he would yell "DON'T TOUCH ME!!" But over the course of the year Nate came to trust us...and enjoy himself! His favorite activities were cooking and "Minute to Win it." In his words: "They listen and we get to do things, different things, and it's fun! Everyone gets a turn, everyone is involved. It's calm." Nate's mum said, "Nate didn't have any positive male role model in his life until Mimi's – the only one who has stopped to listen to him is a worker there – now Nate can't stop talking about him!" The school also reported positive changes: Nate now seeks teachers for help with his work, is more inclined to start set tasks, and his learning behaviour has improved. Nate's mum added, "It's so good to know that there's someone else out there who knows my son like I do." Nate will be part of the Mimi's House Second Year Mentoring Program.

\*Name changed.

### Please describe the impact that the specific TFN funding has had.

Mimi's House is a year long program which children attend one day per week as part of a group of 10 kids. Prior to the TFN funding the program operated 3 days a week with a total impact on 30 kids per year. With the help of the TFN funding along with other new funds we have been able to increase our program to 5 days a week and impact 50 children a year. This greatly improved the utilisation of our existing facilities and operational expenses, increased our total impact and reduced our per child cost of operating the program.

**Please provide a quantitative breakdown of how TFN funds have been used**

It costs us approximately \$5500 to put one child through the program per year. The \$35 000 pledged on the night has allowed us to fund at least 7 more children to attend our program 1 day per week for 2018. When pooled with other additional funding we have received this funding has allowed us to increase our total impact and improve our operational efficiency by fully utilising our existing facilities and operational overheads.

**Describe any ways the funding was used that differs from that described your original pitch**

N/A

**How many people have been affected by programs or activities that were supported with TFN funding?**

50 children

50 families

5 partner schools

**What measures did you use to assess the impact?**

Mimi's House collects survey data from the child, their parent or carer, classroom teachers and our Mimi's House staff to measure the progress of each child as well as providing essential feedback regarding our program practice.

**Describe three ways that your organisation has changed in the last 12 months since the event**

The most significant change we have had in the last 12 months is a location change. Due to the sale of our previous facility, we were required to move a few blocks away. Our new site sits on Anzac Avenue and we are grateful to the new landlords who have allowed us to run our program in their house.

Mimi's House through the support of SVA has collaborated with the University of Queensland to develop a rigorous Outcomes, Measurement Framework. This framework is a crucial tool to enable us to gather data on our program through feedback from the children we support, the families of our children, our partner schools as well as our own staff.

We have developed a second year mentoring program which is currently supporting 14 graduates from our 2017 program fortnightly mentored by community members.

**Over the last 12 months, did you receive any additional financial support from anyone you met through TFN?**

No

**Over the last 12 months, did you receive any goods in-kind and/or pro-bono services from anyone you met through TFN?**

No

**How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives this year?**

We would have found it difficult to achieve our objectives without TFN funding

**Has the TFN pitch coaching and mentoring helped you successfully secure funding from other sources you did not meet through TFN?**

No

**16. What were some of the other benefits of participating in TFN?**

Participation in the TFN gave us significant confidence that others want to contribute to our program. It was a powerful evening where we realised that when we could define and articulate our story, people were captivated and excited to give to it. It was so amazing to see people genuinely excited about donating to a worthy cause.

It also gave us the confidence to spread our message to a wider audience.

Thank you TFN for giving us this opportunity to work with your team and be part of your event. It was a highlight for our team.

**Do you have any other comments or feedback on the TFN experience or funding process?**

No