

YES, I will help bring hope and a bright future to young lives...

I would like to give:

- \$45 towards anger management counselling
- \$24 towards life-saving support for teenagers on the street
- \$75 towards counselling to victims of abuse
- \$150 towards teaching of living skills for independence
- \$240 towards crisis accommodation and support
- My choice \$

Donation:



- I have enclosed my cheque/money order (made out to Wesley Mission) OR
- Please charge my:
 - Mastercard Visa
 - Diners Amex
 - Bankcard

Card No.

Signature _____ Expiry date / _____

Title (Rev/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Other) _____

First name _____

PLEASE PRINT

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Phone (H) _____ (M) _____

Email _____ DOB _____

I am interested in knowing how to help people in need through my Will.

If you would not like to receive copies of Frontlines, please tick this box.



DONATION LINE: 1800 021 821
 FAX: (02) 9267 1022
 www.wesleymission.org.au/donate
 Wesley Mission, PO Box A270,
 Sydney South NSW 1235

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

“When I told my parents about the abuse, they didn’t believe me. I was only 13 then. I cut myself to cope with the emotional pain” (Amy)



Amy’s Story

All Amy wanted was for the pain to end. With your help, her journey of hope is just beginning.



Amy and her 2-month-old daughter look forward to a future of hope

“WHEN I LOOK in her eyes now, I can see a future and a hope for us. Before, when I was pregnant, I could only think of the pain that brought me to this place.”

Amy holds her 2 month old daughter proudly and speaks of the plans she has for her. A few months ago her outlook was different.

A victim of rape by a friend she thought she could trust, 18 year old Amy was asked to leave home once her parents found out she was pregnant. A friend helped her find a refuge for young pregnant women so she would have a roof over her head.

Some help was at hand, but it was all too much for Amy. Before long the refuge referred Amy to Wesley Mission Dalmar’s services for severe depression.

She told her counsellor of how she’d been sexually abused from a young age and that at the age of 13, decided to tell her parents in the hope they would put an end to it.

They didn’t believe her. The abuse continued and Amy became suicidal, cutting her arms to cope with the emotional pain. At one point Amy was in hospital for three weeks after being resuscitated from a suicide attempt.

Amy has now been meeting with Wesley Mission Dalmar’s counsellor for four months and is on the journey of healing.

“I started praying and calling out to God. I welcomed Him into my life and now I’m not alone. He loves me. Suicide is not an option anymore. I have this beautiful girl and I have God.”

Wesley Dalmar’s Youth Services offer assistance to young people dealing with a variety of issues. Call (02) 9804 7255 for more information.

Your Will, their future

Troubled youth – they long for love and a life worth living. You can help give them a future to look forward to with a gift to Wesley Mission through your Will.

Make lasting hope a reality – free young people from cycles of abuse, give them opportunities to grow as healthy individuals, let them know they are loved.

FREE OFFER!

Send this coupon now for your FREE booklet on writing your Will, without obligation and with our compliments.

Yes, I want our young people to have a future of hope...

(Please tick one or more as appropriate to your need)

- Please send me a FREE copy of the booklet “*Making your hopes a reality. Your guide to Wills and Bequests.*”
- I have already remembered Wesley Mission in my Will, but would still like to receive my FREE booklet.
- Please contact me, as I would like to speak to someone about my Will.



Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Rev/Other)

Address

Phone (H) (W) (M)

Email DOB

Post this coupon in the reply paid envelope provided or send to:
 Wesley Mission, Reply Paid 270, SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

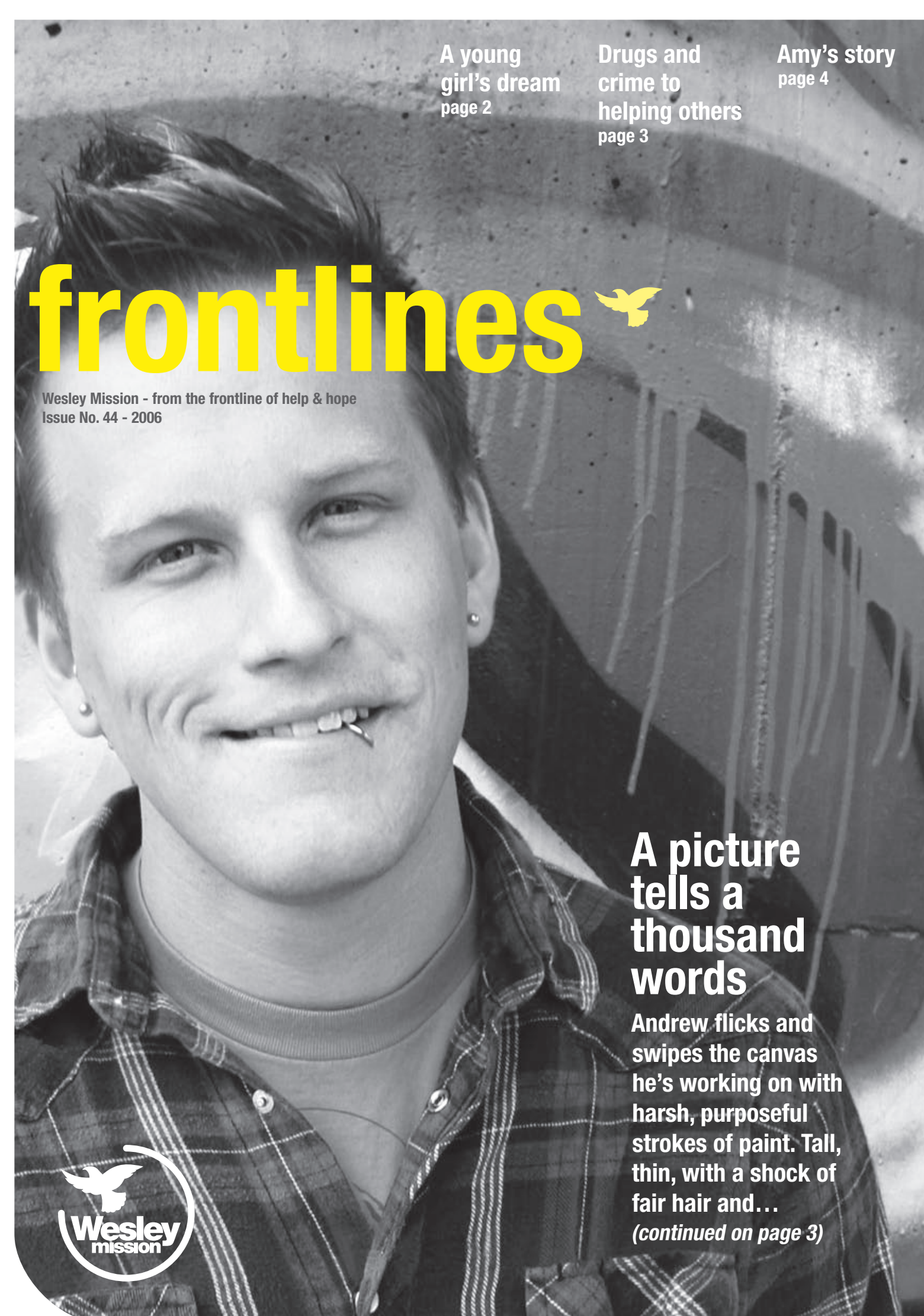
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frontlines

Wesley Mission - from the frontline of help & hope
 Issue No. 44 - 2006



A picture tells a thousand words

Andrew flicks and swipes the canvas he’s working on with harsh, purposeful strokes of paint. Tall, thin, with a shock of fair hair and...

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FACT 1. Young persons aged 15 to 19 years are four times more likely to offend than other age groups. (Australian Institute of Criminology, 2004)

FACT 2. At least 1 in 4 youths between ages 18-24 suffer from mental disorders. (Australia Institute of Health and Welfare, 2004)

FACT 3. Over 9,000 juvenile offenders aged over 12 years appear in NSW Children's courts each year. (Australian Institute of Criminology, 2004)



On the frontline with Rev. Keith Garner

ALMOST EVERYONE agrees that the Christian community ought to be concerned about young people. Almost everyone equally agrees that nobody has easy answers.

The problems of young people are more complex than they ever were and it would seem that the innocence of childhood, if there was ever such a thing, disappears at a much earlier age. With the breakdown of family life and the increasing of violence in our communities, we have to take a proper integrated view of working with young people.

You will see from the stories in this edition of *Frontlines* that we still believe that Jesus Christ is able to turn lives around. Standing with and by young people through their many difficult experiences can bear rich fruit. We are grateful for your help that enables us to continue providing practical support for young people, as well as pointing them to the One who has always brought meaning into young lives.

God does not give up on these young people. Neither do we.

Warmly yours,

Rev. Keith V. Garner
Superintendent, Wesley Mission

Dream a little dream

WHAT STARTED AS a "little dream" of Jean Loo's for her 21st birthday party turned into a large gift to help women suffering from eating disorders.

"As I turned 21, I wanted to celebrate the footprints of grace that many people have left on my life over the past four years," Jean says, "and to help others find their dreams."

So instead of presents, Jean asked that her family and friends give a donation to Wesley Private Hospital or Mercy Ministries – as a way of thanking two organisations that helped her.

And give, they did!

The Kingsford Room at the University of New South Wales glittered with stuff made out of dreams. Fairy lights transformed the room into a "pink-gold magical garden". 150 guests arrived to celebrate the coming of age of this beautiful and talented honours-year psychology student from Singapore.

Coming to the party, the girl with the heart of gold and her generous family and friends raised nearly \$5000.

"I can never thank enough the special people who dreamt with me, and to God who has blessed me with such wonderful gifts", says Jean.

And what a gift Jean's dream will be for hurting women hoping for a better future.✂

If you have a fundraising event in mind and would like to donate to Wesley Mission, please call Sharyn Tidswell on (02) 9263 5555.



Jean Loo... making dreams come true at 21

FUNDRAISING ENQUIRIES

DONATION LINE: 1800 021 821

PH. (02) 9263 5555 FAX. (02) 9267 1022

Major Gifts: Mr Wes Selwood / Ms Zoe Mason

Trusts/Foundation/Clubs: Mr Wes Selwood

Appeals/Pledges: Mrs Sharyn Tidswell

Community Relations: Mr Glenn Swan

In some *Frontlines* stories, names and some details have been changed and/or models have been used to protect identities and maintain confidentiality
Wesley Mission is a part of the Uniting Church in Australia.

"There are a lot of deeper issues for Andrew. His behaviour is an expression of problems below the surface"



Andrew... excited to be back at school

A picture tells a thousand words

(continued from cover)

...a furrowed brow, his own face is a picture of experience and maturity beyond his 16 years. The painting is taking shape and while it smacks of fury and anger, it is one of the

only ways Andrew knows how to express himself.

That, and inflicting violence on his mother and teachers.

Until one day, after yet another violent incident at school, Andrew is handed a letter from his principal. His behaviour can no longer be tolerated and he is issued with suspension.

Andrew was out.

But not wanting to leave Andrew in the lurch, the school contacted Wesley Mission's Mt Druitt Integrated Youth Service (MIYS). Andrew had to attend counselling before he could go back to school.

MIYS often receives calls for assistance from schools in the Mt Druitt area when problems with school children become too intense. MIYS counsellors offer troubled youths someone neutral to talk to outside the school, someone who sees beyond the outward problem.

"I met Andrew and went through an assessment interview with him. Turns out, as you might expect, there's a lot of deeper issues for Andrew. His behaviour is an expression of problems below the surface," said MIYS counsellor Deidre.

The combination of being a victim of abuse from his father as a child and undertaking huge responsibilities as the oldest in the family had left Andrew feeling isolated and under pressure.

Deidre took time to develop a rapport with Andrew. She built an atmosphere of trust and confidentiality, where Andrew would not feel intimidated or judged. After constant encouragement, Andrew told Deidre his story.

"I met with Andrew over a nine week period for weekly one and a half hour intensive sessions. He began to open up

a lot. I shared with him some "tools", such as anger management techniques, to help him take control of his life," said Deidre.

Over the weeks, Deidre helped Andrew learn more and more about himself and the effect his behaviour had on others.

"Before counselling, Andrew used to blame other people all the time, said Deidre. "Now he is taking responsibility for his own actions."

At the end of nine weeks Andrew is welcomed back through the school doors. He's in!

More than anything he wants to finish school, to complete his Year 10 Certificate. These days going back to school fills him with a sense of hope and excitement.

He's able to move on because he knows "there's always a door open for him" – the Wesley Mission family.

Andrew continues to see Wesley Mission counsellors on a voluntary basis. He says he's able to move on because he knows "there's always a door open for him" – the Wesley Mission family. Knowing that their support and advice is close at hand gives Andrew the confidence he needs to see him through school.

"I've changed heaps," Andrew says. "I feel so different toward people now. Wesley Mission helped me get through tough times and I'm really thankful."✂

Mt Druitt Integrated Youth Services is a service of Wesley Mission. For more information call (02) 9804 7255.

"She stayed a week and couldn't handle the rules. But I didn't want to give up on her"

(Jenny, Newcastle Youth Services counsellor)

Shifting gears



From drugs and crime to helping others

TAKING DRUGS, RACING stolen cars and being involved in petty crime was a way of filling the boredom of life for 17 year old Tracey.

"When I met Tracey she was in police custody, charged with stealing a car and driving at high speeds. Taking the car, she told me, was something to do," said Jenny, a counsellor from Wesley Mission's Newcastle Youth Services.

Tracey was living on the street, so Jenny found her a room at a youth refuge.

"She stayed a week. She couldn't handle the rules," recalls Jenny, "But I didn't want to give up on her."

Jenny worked with Tracey, supporting her through her trial where she was placed on a two-year good behaviour bond. Wesley Mission partnered with the Department of Juvenile Justice to give Tracey the best support possible to turn her life around.

Tracey received special counselling and soon returned to school to gain her Year 10 certificate. She managed to maintain her appointments with the counsellor and Juvenile Justice and attend school. Eventually, she was even accepted for her own rental property.

Today Tracey passes her days very differently.

"I passed my Year 10 certificate and did really well. Now I have a part time job! I want to go to TAFE and do the Assistant in Nursing certificate so I can work with older people," Tracey says.

Tracey's life certainly didn't change overnight, but with the persistent encouragement of Wesley Newcastle's Youth Services, she was able to get the ongoing support she desperately needed – and she looks forward to a future of helping others.✂

For more information on Youth Services in the Hunter area, call Newcastle City Mission on (02) 4961 1661.

Please turn over