



**DESTINY HAVEN**  
EMPOWERING WOMEN TO SHINE

## THE HOPEFUL JOURNAL

# JANINE'S REFLECTIONS



### AN UPDATE FROM OUR CEO

What a year 2017 was! As we celebrated 10 years of lives transformed at Destiny Haven we reconnected with many – team and supporters who were instrumental in our organisation becoming what it is today, and the women (whom we affectionately call diamonds) whose lives were impacted during their time with Destiny.

As we stepped into 2018 we anticipate a year of victory, excited to see a new wave of breakthroughs and testimonies as women in need embrace the message of hope and opportunity for healing offered at Destiny. The women in our program as you know are affectionately called 'Diamonds'. A diamond is perhaps the most precious stone known to man. However, to a person who didn't know their worth, they would have little value. They could find a chest filled with them and walk away from millions of dollars. You could take a perfectly cut 10 carat diamond and bury it in a garbage dump. It could have years of rubbish cover and stink over it, but if it was dug up, it would still be a precious gem of great worth. My heart aches for the years of damage that cover the lives of the women who walk through our doors. The words spoken over them and the abuse they have often suffered, the lies they then perpetuate over themselves. 'Worthless, failure, never good enough, trash, shameful, bad, ugly, fat, unwanted, unloveable...', and the list goes on. Yet, no matter how deep the damage, they remain stunning jewels

and their significance is immeasurable. Each life has the capacity to walk this earth and be a world changer. No other person can live the destiny that God has created each person to live. He formed us in our mother's wombs no matter if we were wanted or not. He lovingly breathed life into us and He watched over us with love and compassion every time someone made the choice to dump garbage over what He created invaluable. At Destiny, our passion is to speak life into the broken parts, to help women understand that nothing, NOTHING in our pasts can prevent us stepping into the future knowing that we are each created by a King who loves us passionately and who created us to shine brilliantly for all to see. I am privileged to be part of the lives of many, to stand in humble awe as women become what they could never believe possible, then to watch them step into their own unique destinies.

I want to thank you for partnering with Destiny and supporting us with your prayers and finances. This work couldn't happen without you!

With love and gratitude,

*Janine*

# LATEST NEWS

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## CELEBRATING CAITLIN

"I am no longer an addict with no hope, I have a brand new identity in Christ. I am a new creation, a child of God," said Caitlin at her Destiny graduation celebration this March. It is always a special occasion to celebrate the total transformation of diamonds at Destiny Haven, and Caitlin is certainly an inspiring picture of life and hope restored.

After living in life-shattering addiction and violent relationships for years, Caitlin came to Destiny with very little self-worth and hope for her future. Today she is a vibrant, healthy and confident young woman ready to take on her future with great anticipation.

Caitlin's family and friends, including her 3 year old daughter, celebrated her victorious milestone in completing the Destiny Haven program, along with her Destiny family of diamonds, team and volunteers. There was not a dry eye in the room as Caitlin shared her testimony with bravery and assurance, and the incredible transformation in Caitlin as we reflected on her journey was evident and marvelled. Our first graduation for 2018, this was an inspiring and uplifting night for the whole community.

Interestingly, Caitlin's family were involved in Destiny's founding over 11 years ago. Her grandfather reflected on the remarkable value he now sees in Destiny Haven, having seen up-close and personal the transformational work of the ministry in a manner he couldn't have before his own granddaughter needed to be here.

The future looks bright for this capable and genuine young woman, and we collectively wait in anticipation for the impact Caitlin will have with her testimony and gifts as she walks out into her unique destiny and purpose. Well done Caitlin!



## SHOP OPEN!

Many of you have sampled our stunning 'Diamond Collection' products. Last year, with the help of various volunteers, team and businesses, our reception area was transformed into a beautiful, engaging shop, open to the public. A local sign making company made us two signs that sit at the front of our property, visible in both directions of the main road into town. These signs have attracted multitudes of people, both local and tourists since we opened the shop last year. We are astounded at the many locals who have driven past our property for eleven years and yet they were unaware after all this time about the nature of our organisation and the social enterprise arm of our ministry. We look forward to many more people driving in to purchase our quality products. Our chocolates continue to be a hit and we have some who just keep coming back regularly for their fix of their favourite chocolate, chilli relishes, organic honey, jams, jewellery, candles and hand-crafted bags.



# DIAMOND DIARIES

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## CAITLIN'S STORY

Before I came to Destiny Haven I had been addicted to ice and other substances for about 12 years. I was in and out of home from about the age of 13, was drinking heavily, smoking pot and had started doing ecstasy. I was getting into a lot of trouble with the law and was basically living on the street, going from home to home. At 16 years old I became addicted to ice and smoked it almost daily. I found myself entangled in violent relationships, each one more violent than the last. I started to lose who I was as an individual to the point that I couldn't be alone. I was isolated, lonely and desperate for love, so I stayed trapped in the vicious cycle of domestic abuse for years.

By 20 years of age I fell pregnant with my daughter and I thought that it would be the turning point in the road. I was so excited to have someone to love and to love me. However, I was to find that it didn't fill the void and not long after she was born I started using ice again. I did manage to stop using for a while, only to get caught up in another messy relationship and start using again, only this time it was different. I'd been introduced to a new way of using and spiralled downward - fast. I had basically lost everything.

I came to Destiny Haven on January 30th 2017. I was moody, angry and had a bad attitude. I couldn't handle anyone telling me what to do. With a lot of loving correction from the team, I slowly started to see myself as part of the community and began to submit to authority, even though I still struggle from time to time. SO much healing and insight came from doing art therapy and self-directed therapy modules. I gained incredible insight into the love that God has for me and have also been equipped with tools that empower me to combat any problem that might arise in a healthy and constructive way.

I didn't think that I was worth anything, and believed that the relationships I had been in were normal and that is how I would always be treated. With the help of Janine, my counsellor, I discovered that I don't ever have to accept that in a relationship: I am valuable and my worth is not defined by a man. I didn't believe that I would amount to anything or that I could even do anything other than what I had been. I had no dreams or any aspirations. However, now in June I will start a Certificate IV in Youth Work. The biggest part of my journey was discovering who Jesus is. Grasping the truth of the gospel has helped me want more for my life; every journey through the bible I discover new promises that I can claim which give me a sense of hope and direction. I am no longer an addict with no hope, I have a brand new identity in Christ. I am a new creation, a child of God.



## SPOTLIGHT ON EMILY

### Start date and current position with Destiny Haven:

After completing the program I transitioned to become a Servant Leader in October 2017.

### What I like best about being a part of Destiny Haven:

The feeling of belonging.

### Best part of my job:

Watching the Diamonds grow and "get" Jesus.

### Favourite sports or pastimes:

Netball, sunbaking, going to the beach.

### The Top 3 Highlights of my Life:

Being clean and sober, my baptism and the birth of my daughter.



## GIVING THANKS

- \* For the many businesses who are beginning to partner with us.
- \* For the recent rainfall after months of total drought.
- \* For our faithful team of full time staff and volunteers – each one contributes in ways that they could never really fathom.
- \* For the beautiful, courageous diamonds who share & enrich our lives and the transformation God does in them.

# OUT & ABOUT

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## FLAMINGALS OF THE HUNTER

This February we had the opportunity to be a part of a Flamingals of the Hunter Launch Lunch event, hosted by Destiny's good friend, Sharyn Swan, and team. The Flamingals are 'biz-social' flock for positive, self-employed Gen X(ish) women based in the Hunter Area, NSW, who generously used the occasion to support and highlight Destiny Haven. CEO, Janine Epere, inspired guests as shared about Destiny and the Diamonds who are changed because of their time here. We showcased Destiny's boutique, handcrafted product range, The Diamond Collection, with many shoppers impressed by our women's handiwork. We at Destiny are incredibly grateful to Sharyn Swan and the Flamingals of the Hunter for inviting us to be a part of this wonderful event. We thank them for their generosity, being a part of making a way for women to have their hope restored and lives transformed.



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## BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Michelle has taken on the task of fundraising and from our wish list she is slowly working her way through it and has discovered a gift of inspiring businesses to help us by either donating goods or offering substantial discounts! We have had donations of all sorts of things from stove-tops and washing machines, creepy crawly for the pool, glass sliding doors and security screens for the sewing/ ironing room / garage conversion, gardening supplies including shed and mulch and soil to name a few and the list grows! The donation of bee hives and equipment including suits and extraction gear and Shelly's bee keeping courses has enabled us to begin harvesting honey. Our bees are producing beautifully flavoured organic honey and we have planted Manuka trees that will flower in due course.



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## ARTISTIC CREATIONS

*Be a Warrior Woman, Not a Wounded One - Michelle*

Scripture tells me that as a follower of Christ, my struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of my past.

This picture tells who I am, that I am a warrior, not a woman who cowers in her wounds. Ephesians 6:10-11 tells me to be strong in the Lord and his mighty power and to put on the full armour of God so that I can take a stand against my past and the schemes of the devil.

God showed me through this picture that I need to go through this battle to prepare for what he has planned for me, that in Him I am a mighty warrior and that He is my commanding officer – my King of Kings. My fears, doubts, wounds or regrets do not rule over me.

So I need to suit up, wield my sword like Xena the warrior princess and take on the world AS A MIGHTY WARRIOR OF GOD.





# AROUND THE HAVEN

## PROPERTY UPDATE

With the installation of the new chicken coup last year thanks to the generosity of the people at Caterpillar Global Mining, we have started work to demolish the old site. With the assistance of many hard-working volunteers and generous supporters, it is in the process of being transformed into an expansive, sustainable herb garden. The upgraded herb garden will supply useful and needed ingredients for the Destiny kitchen, saving on supermarket costs. Warning: this might be delicious!

## THE DIAMOND COLLECTION

Destiny has harvested the first batches of organic honey, produced on site by our very own Destiny bees. Now when you purchase honey or 'chilli infused' honey from the Diamond Collection, you will be taking home a delicious, organic home-produced product. We want to thank all those who generously provided the hives, the bee-suits and the equipment that now allows us to produce and harvest honey at Destiny. We know you will enjoy the flavour and purity of our honey as much as we are enjoying collecting it. We've also just planted 25 Manuka trees so that in due time our bees will produce this coveted healing variety!



## VALLEY VIEW

Valley View Luxury Retreat, the stunning five star accommodation donated to Destiny haven around 18 months ago continues to grow in popularity on all accommodation booking sites that we have listed with. In the past twelve months, our occupancy has been around 50% and the renovations have given it a fresh new look that impresses all who stay there. If you are looking for a fantastic, romantic getaway for two or a family gathering for up to twelve guests, check out Valley View at ([www.valleyviewluxuryretreat.com.au](http://www.valleyviewluxuryretreat.com.au)) and give us a call for a discounted rate for our supporters.



## OUR WISH LIST

- \* Commercial ovens
- \* Commercial toaster
- \* 25 seater bus
- \* Business partners to sponsor our Diamond Collection product packaging
- \* Granny pod for staff housing



## We'd love to welcome you at church

Each month Destiny holds a church service open to the community. We welcome you to join us for worship, prayer, a message and dinner. This special event is an opportunity for you to see our ministry in action, get to know our community better, and learn about the life-transforming power of Jesus we know at Destiny Haven.

**For dates and more info check out our website:  
[www.destinyhaven.org.au/newsite/destiny-church](http://www.destinyhaven.org.au/newsite/destiny-church)**



# HAVEN FAVES

## DREAMY DRINKS

*Perfect for gifting and snacking, our Dreamy Drinks are an original and favourite. Watch your heart melt away as you stir your Dreamy Drink into a cup of warmed milk, providing you with the experience of an authentic Belgian hot chocolate in the comfort of your own home.*

Dreamy Drinks are a 50g chocolate heart set on a spoon with a marshmallow. Available milk, dark, caramel or chai.

Drop into our shop open 6 days a week or order online here:

[www.destinyhaven.org.au/newsite/the-diamond-collection](http://www.destinyhaven.org.au/newsite/the-diamond-collection)



## PLEASE PRAY

- \* For more people to drive in as they see our 'shop' signs...not only to purchase our quality products, but also so that they can hear what Destiny is all about.
- \* For the many events in the coming months and for the diamonds as they experience the aspects of hospitality and sales.
- \* For those women in the program to truly experience freedom and wholeness as they discover their true worth to the King who created them and loves them.

### DONATIONS

ACCOUNT NAME: Destiny Haven

BSB: 646 000

ACCOUNT NO:1000 43573

REFERENCE: Your Surname

Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible

### CONTACT US

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