



JANINE'S REFLECTIONS

AN UPDATE FROM OUR CEO

Between 10 year celebrations, campaigns, Diamond graduations and the upcoming festive season, now is a good time to draw a quick breath and look back at all we've achieved in over the past twelve months. All of the activities you've been involved in – from our October Open Day, bus trips, volunteering days, campaign support, prayer and Diamond Collection shopping have meant that, together, we've taken a stand for what we believe in – seeing broken lives restored by empowering disadvantaged women heal from their past to achieve a purpose-filled future they never dreamed possible.

We have celebrated two graduations in the past couple of months, making five in total this year. We have been watching the number of women in our program increase and stabilise, with a new strategic plan in development with a key goal to increase beds available at Destiny Haven for women in need. As we draw to the close of 2017, our 10th anniversary celebration year, we reflect on the hundreds of lives forever impacted by Destiny Haven and dream big for the opportunity to see transformation in the lives of so many more precious women. As always, we are proud to be a Christian organisation and know that

God continues to lead this ministry with His hand upon it. He is the only one who can transform a life from the inside out no matter how much they are healed mentally and emotionally.



With the festive season upon us, it's a great opportunity to remember to keep The Diamond Collection, our social enterprise product range, in mind as you're doing your gift shopping. It's a great opportunity for you to purchase a gift that gives back and spreads the message of the life-changing work Destiny Haven is doing. With this same festive spirit, we have been releasing special offers so you can treat your loved ones to some Diamond Collection goodies including Belgian chocolate, candles, jewellery, jams and relishes and other handcrafted delights. Be sure to check out our catalogue available from the link below.

www.destinyhaven.org.au/newsite/the-diamond-collection/

LATEST NEWS



10 YEAR OPEN DAY

Wow, 10 years! An incredible journey it has been and what amazing things the future holds for Destiny Haven and the many lives forever impacted by their journeys with us.

We were thrilled to see so many faces, some familiar and some new, join in the festivities as we opened our doors to celebrate 10 years of recovery and restoration at Destiny Haven on October 7. It was a joy to see so many local community members as well as Diamonds, team, volunteers, supporters return to visit from over the years.

The day was full of fun with animals and jumping castles, face painting and a crazy hair stall making sure there was something for all ages. Not to mention the incredible food from the sausage sizzle run by the very generous Lions Club of Maitland to 5-star café menu running throughout the day thanks to our very own talented Diamonds. The Diamond Collection shop was open all day, with many discovering new goodies in our stunning handcrafted product range, or finding old favourites!

The day ended as many gathered with us for a formal presentation, addressed by CEO Janine Epere and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Kel Willis. We heard from Diamonds past and present, and enjoyed a slideshow documenting many memories and developments from over the 10 years. Very excitingly, we launched our new campaign, *Destiny 2027* – an opportunity for you to partner with us to see more lives restored as we work towards our next 10-year milestone. See the flyer enclosed with this newsletter for more information.

We are so thankful for all who have played a part in the past 10 years and we can't wait for many more with you! Thank you for being a part of seeing broken lives restored to their full potential.



CELEBRATIONS OF WELLNESS

What a few months it's been! This October saw two incredible Diamonds celebrate their completion of the Destiny Haven program, and start the next chapter in their new, restored lives.

On October 10, the beautiful Sarah got glammed up to be joined by her family and Destiny Haven friends to celebrate the amazing transformation in her life. We honour Sarah's commitment to herself and her family by putting in the hard yards to see the needed healing work in her life. We look forward to seeing Sarah's future and are thrilled to have her give back and continue her recovery journey here for a season as a Servant Leader.

We then ended the month on another high note with Emily's celebration dinner. The room was full of light and laughter as we joined with her family to celebrate the incredible restoration and life change in the talented young women! We are glad it is also not goodbye yet for Emily, as she also has chosen to continue her journey at Destiny Haven for the time being in the Servant Leader role. Well done Emily, we are so proud!

Celebrations are a very special milestone in the journey of the women who find healing at Destiny Haven, and we are so privileged to watch these incredible women grow into their true and valuable selves, and wait with great anticipation to see what the future holds for each of these Diamonds as they step forward in the own unique destiny.



GIVING THANKS

- * For the lives of many women transformed through our program and the five women who celebrated the completion of the program this year.
- * For the dedicated team of staff and servant leaders who have answered God's call on their lives for this season. We are truly blessed by each one.
- * For the many who support us in prayer, encouragement and finance. We are ever grateful for you all.

DIAMOND DIARIES

EMILY'S STORY

Before I came to Destiny Haven I had no life; I was depressed, anxious and hurting. I had no self-worth, I felt hopeless, was extremely sick, and I just didn't want to live.

I had been using drugs and alcohol for 25 years, and for 20 of those years I was addicted to heroin and using almost daily along with alcohol and other drugs. I could not function without the drug. My whole day was consumed by how I was going to get the drug. When I got the drug, I would be thinking about how I would get it again. If I didn't have the drug, I was very sick and could not function. I did not know how to have relationships. I wasn't a mother, a daughter, a sister, an aunty or friend. I felt like an empty shell.

I didn't have any hope of living life any other way. Doctors told me I would be on drugs or drug maintenance programs for the rest of my life, however long that was – they told me that it would be impossible for me to give up as I had been using drugs for too long. That was, until I stepped through the doors of Destiny Haven. At that point, I really did not expect my life to change at all. I never had lived without drugs or alcohol...I didn't know what life without them would be like. I wasn't hopeful at all.

The first four months were a real struggle. I was still not well physically, I had constant anxiety and pains, and felt negative and unmotivated. Everyone was so happy – the staff and other women...I just couldn't understand. I wanted to be happy but didn't know how.

About seven months in, things started to change, and I began to see that this program was exactly what I needed. The negative beliefs I held about myself started to change as I learned to challenge them with truth and positivity through tools such as the feelings journals that are a key component of the program.

Daily Bible study, worship and devotions introduced me to God and His son, Jesus. I started to believe in His word, that I'm beautiful, worthwhile, have a purpose and a future. Over the months as my confidence was built I was given more responsibility. This included working in the sewing room, making jams and relishes, and working in the kitchen by making meals and managing stock takes, which I am now heading up. What I love about Destiny is that it is a family environment – the staff and Diamonds come together as one big family and it gives you a sense of belonging.

I completed my program two months ago, I now love life, I am happy, and I'm living without drugs. I also have my relationship back with my family and daughter, and I see and talk to them all the time. I could not dream my life would ever be like this. I am so thankful for Janine, my counsellor, all the staff, my precious Diamond sisters, my family, and of course, God, for giving me a second chance, forgiveness and grace.



SPOTLIGHT ON LIZZIE

Start date and current position with Destiny Haven:

I joined the team at Destiny Haven after completing the program in 2015. My role primarily focuses on our marketing and fundraising activities.

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

I love being a part of God's dream for this place, knowing my work is contributing to something real and meaningful. I love doing life with the Diamonds and Team and seeing the incredible transformation that takes place when women discover their true identity, and their identity in God.

Personal motto:

Integrity is choosing your thoughts and actions based on your values and convictions rather than feelings or personal gain.

I'm happiest when:

I'm walking in God's purpose for my life and the gifting he's given me. I love doing anything creative, spending time with people I love and watching good movies!

Favourite song/movie/book:

Song: The Smiths – How Soon is Now, Movie: Little Miss Sunshine, Book: Wuthering Heights



OUT & ABOUT

EVENTS, EVENTS AND EVENTS!

With the festive season upon us, the diamonds have been busy taking our Diamond Collection product range and sharing the Destiny Haven story at many community events and markets. A few of our ladies put on their Christmas best to take part in the Dowling Street Christmas Party, a local festive event hosted by the Dungog District Chamber of Commerce, where they presented our beautiful handcrafted product range to the local community.

Another highlight was a visit to The Cove Village, where our team and diamonds bought a one-stop-Christmas-shop to the eager retirement community. Many thanks to our generous volunteer, Louise Walker, for organising this successful event.

Other notable events include our annual Christmas stalls outside the local IGA store, the Byron Clinic conference and one of our favourites to attend each year, the Maitland Church of Christ Cup of Kindness. Thank you to all who make these events possible by seeking publicity for Destiny Haven and opportunity for social enterprise product sales, and of course our amazing Diamonds and Servant Leaders who take much responsibility for the swift and positive running of these events with such talent and genuine passion.



JOIN TEAM DESTINY 2027



Launched in celebration of our 10th year, Destiny 2027 is an opportunity for you to partner with us and help women overcome life's challenges and realise their true potential.

The year 2027 will mark twenty years of our work restoring hope and dignity to some of our community's most disadvantaged women. Your commitment will ensure our growth and sustainability as we work towards this milestone.

Your monthly donation of \$27 will help us realise our vision to become sustainable as we help improve more lives in need. Together, we can grow our services, develop our social enterprises and empower more women to turn their lives around.

Join us today by completing the form enclosed with this newsletter.



OUR WISH LIST

- * Bus – a 20-25 seater bus so we can travel together for outings
- * Crates – custom-made crates for transporting our products to markets
- * Thermomix – to assist in the production of our boutique chocolate range





AROUND THE HAVEN

PROPERTY UPDATE

We want to say a huge thank you to Bunnings Warehouse Maitland who recently gifted a brand-new garden shed for our substantial kitchen and social enterprise garden. The shed will make a huge improvement to our gardening efficiency, organisation and productivity. Thank you, Bunnings. We would also like to acknowledge the exciting bike ride fundraiser, Ride for Destiny, organised by the amazing Marilyn Nelson, and all those who supported her endeavour. Over \$1,000 was raised towards much-needed additions and upgrades to the Destiny Haven kitchen and social enterprise garden.

VALLEY VIEW

Bookings have increased exponentially this year and we are taking bookings well into next year. Our luxury retreat underwent significant renovations in the last 12 months with a bathroom overhaul to install a spa bath and the whole place receiving new paint and window furnishings. It is truly a magnificent place to stay. Some of you may not be aware, but we do offer special rates to our supporters. Check out our website for availability.

www.valleyviewluxuryretreat.com.au

THE DIAMOND COLLECTION

They say don't judge a book by its cover, but when it comes to packaging, it's as Steve Jobs famously said, 'packaging can be a theatre, it can create a story.' And with a story like ours to share you can imagine our delight at the opportunity to upgrade and reinvent much of our Diamond Collection product packaging as we seek to represent the heart and mission of the social enterprise to the world as we reach new markets. Keep an eye out for these significant developments as they continue to roll out in the months to come.

Destiny Haven is currently seeking packaging partnerships with socially conscious businesses. If you know of a business that may be interested, please drop us a line at info@destinyhaven.org.au

ARTISTIC CREATIONS

For my last art therapy module, I decided to explore why I have stayed in violent relationships in the past. I drew this picture about half way through the module – it shows my shame and the feelings that were hidden underneath my guilt. I have now finished the module and through completing the exercises I now know that I am of worth and don't need to stay in those relationships anymore. - Caitlin





HAVEN FAVES

GIFT HAMPERS

Gift hampers are a popular and convenient item this time of year - why not choose one worth giving? The Diamond Collection gift hampers feature a delightful range of our most beloved products, including chilli relish, Belgian chocolates, specialty jams and more. All products have been made with love and care with help from the Diamonds of Destiny Haven, and gift hampers come pre-packaged or can be customised to include your favourites.

Treat your loved ones to a stunning hamper wrapped with love.



PLEASE PRAY

- * For our diamonds who leave Destiny for the Christmas break that they would make wise choices and return determined to finish their race well.
- * For new applications and which ones to bring into join our growing family in the new year.
- * As our Destiny Family grows, we are in desperate need of a 22-25 seater bus to transport us on our weekly trips to town.
- * For someone who would be competent to take over Lizzie's significant role as she steps out into her future.

DONATIONS

ACCOUNT NAME: Destiny Haven

BSB: 646 000

ACCOUNT NO.: 1000 43573

REFERENCE: Your Surname + 'Donation'

Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible

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DESTINY HAVEN
EMPOWERING WOMEN TO SHINE