

Celebrating 10 Years Of Home In A Box Project



People fall into homelessness for many reasons, but the solution is always the same. Everyone needs a safe, affordable, permanent home, with access to whatever supports are needed to face any challenges that may arise in the future. Home in a Box was developed in consultation with a young woman who had experienced rough sleeping. She shared the difficulties she experienced when she was finally housed, attempting to settle in and make a home without any possessions. Recognising there was a need to fill this gap, Home in a Box was created.

Home in a Box is designed to help people settle into their new home, find routine, and restart their lives. Home in a Box consists of brand new, high-quality sheets, towels, a dinner set, glasses, cookware, kitchenware, cutlery, toaster and kettle, and a dustpan and brush. Over the past ten years, with the support of generous donors, we have helped create a home for more than 560 households, consisting of mothers and children, single women and men, all of whom had experienced homelessness

Our regular contact with agencies throughout Sydney reinforces the value and need of the Home in a Box service. Recently, caseworkers shared the story of a 63 year old woman who was homeless with her cat. The woman had been sleeping rough for over a year, and since engaging with a caseworker and a dedicated team, she was offered a permanent property which she accepted. The woman suffers from complex mental health issues and will continue to be supported into the future. Another caseworker shared the story of a young Aboriginal single mother with a three year old daughter. She left her home in Queensland over a year ago to escape domestic violence and had since been couch surfing with family. Supported by a caseworker, she signed a lease with a community housing provider and our Home in a Box has helped make a comfortable and welcoming new home.



Lessa Feilen, Projects & Communications Lead, Mercy Foundation & Sr. Bernadette Mansour rsm from the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney.

At our recent end of year celebrations, we were delighted that several caseworkers were able to join us and share first-hand stories of clients that had received a Home in a Box with our Sisters of Mercy and gathered friends. They discussed the positive and lasting impacts Home in a Box brings to the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged families and individuals leaving homelessness and starting a new life.

Thank you to all our generous donors and suppliers of the Home in a Box project, for helping us establish a welcoming home for more than 500 families and individuals who have experienced homelessness. We greatly appreciate your support.



Recipient of Home in a Box, opening one of the boxes.

This article was first published in the Mercy Foundation Summer 2023/2024 Newsletter. For more information on Mercy Foundation, please visit their website - www.mercyfoundation.com.au