

## Thank you for the difference you made in the lives of patients and families throughout 2023/24.



#### Our Board

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Ashlee Fischer – Treasurer

Kellie McDonald - Deputy Chair

Paul Tanti

Roger Harvey

Andrew Filipenko

Rebecca Wilson

Sharon Kendall - Calvary Health Care

Toni-Ann Miller - Calvary Health Care

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Jenny Hurley AM

#### Our Honorary Life Members

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Rick Allert AO FCA

Beverley Arnold

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Cathryn Bawden

Dennis Brown

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SA Power Networks

Michael Willson AM KSI



## After 16 years, we say goodbye to our wonderful Patron, Rick Allert AO FCA.

Over the past 16 years, The Mary Potter Foundation has been privileged to have SA business icon, Rick Allert AO, as our Patron. Before becoming Patron, Rick had been a long-term supporter of the Foundation, and a generous donor for many years.

In 1997, Rick was awarded Member of the Order of Australia, and in 2008 he was elevated to Officer of the Order of Australia, for leadership in corporate social responsibility. Rick has a long record of contribution to the community, and we have been particularly fortunate to have had Rick's support, wisdom and expertise over so many years.

The 2012 capital campaign for the redevelopment of St Helen's Ward was an outstanding success under Rick's leadership, raising well over \$1 million. He was a member of the Hospice Refurbishment Fundraising Committee, and as a part of the Open Garden scheme, Rick opened his beautiful home garden to the public, putting on garden parties to raise money for Mary Potter Hospice.

After giving back for so many years, Rick is now retiring as Patron. Our gratitude to him for his time, insight and generosity is immeasurable. Rick has made an indelible contribution to The Mary Potter Foundation. Our deepest thanks to Rick for his patronage, and our warmest wishes to him and his family.

#### Message from the Chair

## Reflecting on a year of incredible support, achievements and milestones



Dear Members and Supporters,

On behalf of the Board of The Mary Potter Foundation, it is my privilege to present our 2023/24 report, and share just a few of the outstanding achievements that our donors' generosity has made possible.

When I reflect on the care and improvements to programs and facilities that have been delivered over the past year, I am truly grateful to those who have supported the Foundation so generously.

We could do nothing without our extraordinary donors, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to you for the difference you make to patients and families facing the hardest time in their lives.

The Board is delighted to announce the completion of refurbishments to all 15 patient rooms in the Hospice, now bringing the accommodation to a standard that reflects the first-class care that every patient and family deserve. This project has taken three years in total, with the final stage being completed in December 2023. Logistically, this was a project that had to be acutely sensitive to the needs of patients and Hospice staff; to accomplish this, rooms were taken offline in stages, with as little disruption to the Hospice as possible. The feedback about the

refurbishment has been unanimously positive. The rooms all look fantastic, and the nurses have told the Foundation team how lovely it is to now bring their patients into such light, modern & welcoming accommodation. I am incredibly grateful to every single donor who has contributed to this project. You should be very proud of what you've made possible. The impact of your generosity will be felt by Hospice patients and their families for years to come.

Bequests continue to play a vital role in meeting funding commitments so that patients and families can receive the best possible care. I would like to acknowledge the generosity of nine special people who made the decision to leave a bequest to the Foundation last year. We are indebted to them in supporting us in this way. They have left an extraordinary legacy, ensuring exceptional patient care continues beyond their own lifetime.

Over the past year, the Board has invested more in the support of Palliative Care in the home, with our donors making it possible to bring Pastoral Care and the Fra Angelico Art program into patients' homes. This initiative is showing great outcomes already, as it serves patients and their families with spiritual & emotional support, comfort and reassurance, while also giving them an opportunity to create meaningful and personal pieces of art that they can leave to their family.

In December, the Loving Tree Carols Concert took place in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral. Thank you to the Archbishop for allowing us to hold our Christmas event in such a stunning location. 900 donors and family members came together that night to give thanks for their loved ones at Christmas. As always, the music was beautiful, and we could feel how much it meant to everyone who attended.

#### I do want to extend the Board's deepest thanks and gratitude to SA Power Networks who sponsor the Carols Concert and Lighting of the Loving Tree event every year.

For 25 years they have generously supported The Mary Potter Foundation – an amazing run, and a relationship we deeply appreciate. You can read more about how SA Power Networks have supported the Foundation on Page 7.

Our Walk for Love event in May this year resulted in the highest number of participants ever, with over 1,100 people registered to walk. The event made a return to Carclew for the first time in six years – it was a fantastic venue and a very successful day. We know what a special event this is and how much it means to people who walk to remember their loved ones. We couldn't be more grateful for their support, and their combined fundraising amounted to \$150,000 – an incredible result!

## Finally, a word about our wonderful Patron, Mr Rick Allert.

Inside the front cover of this report, you may have read a little about Rick. He is a remarkable gentleman, and he is sadly retiring as Patron of The Mary Potter Foundation after 16 years. On behalf of the Board I want to wholeheartedly say 'thank you' to Rick. He has made an outstanding contribution to the Board and Foundation over these past 16 years, and has always provided me with wise counsel, as he has for many past and present Board members. We are extremely grateful to him and look forward to thanking him in person soon.

In closing, I would like to thank you, our donors and supporters, for the difference you made to patient care over the past financial year. Whether individuals, families, community groups or corporates — nothing that we do is possible without your loving and faithful support. Thank you.

With heartfelt appreciation, **Chris Sharpley**Chair, The Mary Potter Foundation

#### Message from our Executive Director

## The Joy of Giving



The joy of giving comes from knowing that you've made a difference in someone's life. When we give, we step outside of ourselves and focus on the needs of those around us, which fosters empathy, compassion and a sense of community.

## Your support over the last 12 months has had a profound impact on the care provided to hundreds of patients.

You've brought smiles to faces; lifted spirits; entertained, nourished, counselled, and provided much-needed comfort. And for some, you wiped away their tears.

From Hospice to Home Care, from Aged Care to the Cancer Centres, wherever there was a Calvary palliative patient in need, you were there to support them in any way you could. Thank you.

There were many highlights for me this year and some are captured in the pages to follow.

But the greatest highlight for me was the support from the community.

A few weeks ago, I received a phone call from a couple who have been supporters for 30 years. They give to us because they understand the joy of giving. Neither had a personal story to tell; they donate because they love the cause and want to help patients and families in need.

However, because of a personal experience, they can now truly relate to what we do.

They eagerly wanted to share with me that their much-loved elderly friend and neighbour had just died in the Hospice. They live locally so they were able to visit her many times during her stay with us.

While trying to thank me for the care of their friend, they broke down in tears. It meant so much to them that their neighbour was surrounded by the love and care of the Hospice staff, the Foundation and the volunteers. They knew their gifts over the years were making a difference. They had read many newsletters, but now all those stories became real. This experience was life-changing.

From now on, I am sure the joy of giving will take on a whole new meaning for them.

Not everyone gets to experience the care we provide. For those who have, you know how important this care is. For those who haven't – take it from this lovely couple, that the difference you make is real.

Thank you for being a part of our Mary Potter community. I hope that giving to the Foundation this year has enriched your life too in some way,

You have certainly enriched ours.

Your selfless support made sure no patient was forgotten and no family member had to go it alone.

With heartfelt thanks,

Lorna Riddle

Executive Director

#### Message from the Treasurer

## Financial Overview

I am pleased to report that during FY24, the Foundation invested \$1,847,927 into care, facilities, staffing and programs in Mary Potter Hospice, Calvary Palliative Home Care Service, St Helen's ward, Calvary Central Districts, Calvary Adelaide, Calvary Aged Care and the Cancer Centres located in Kimberley House, North Adelaide and in the Connery Centre, Playford.

In December 2023, the Board announced the completion of the refurbishment of 15 patient rooms and bathrooms in Mary Potter Hospice. This project started before COVID. Access issues contributed to the delays; however, the result was worth the wait.

Our net operating surplus for the year was \$46,242 after transferring \$400,000 to our Corpus Reserve. The Board is committed to raising the funds we need to meet current needs, whilst growing our Corpus from bequests, to meet future needs as demand for palliative care increases.

#### **Ashlee Fischer**

Treasurer, The Mary Potter Foundation

Income	2024	2023
Individuals, Businesses, Events & Fundraising	\$1,164,024	\$1,373,248
Bequests	\$1,031,831	\$1,006,404
Realised Investment gains/(loses)	\$140,572	\$248,554
Investment Income	\$801,128	\$782,302
Other Income	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,137,555	\$3,410,508
Mission		
Contribution to Calvary Health Care SA	-	\$337,500
Nurse Education and Development	\$74,583	\$62,518
Patient Support	\$519,594	\$561,833
Equipment and Refurbishment	\$1,253,750	\$1,377,452
Total Mission expenses	\$1,847,927	\$2,339,303
Other Expenses		
Administration	\$465,919	\$433,451
Fundraising	\$136,146	\$120,138
Other expenses	\$241,321	\$229,484
Total Other Expenses	\$843,386	\$783,073
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,691,313	\$3,122,376
Transfer to Corpus Reserve	\$400,000	-
NET OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	\$46,242	\$288,132

#### This year marks a milestone worthy of recognition.

SA Power Networks has been an integral part of The Mary Potter Foundation story for an incredible 25 years.

## SA Power Networks – Empowering Patient Care for 25 years

As the sole sponsor of the Lighting of the Loving Tree since 1999, SA Power Networks has been behind every event. They have assisted in so many ways, including checking the lights on the tree, loaning us their cherry picker to repair and replace lights, and by covering all costs for the Carols Concert.

Thanks to their generosity, the Foundation can apply all donations received at Christmas, to patient care, rather than event costs.

The Carols Concert is a special event. At Christmas, families, friends, staff and volunteers come together to remember loved ones and give thanks for the care they received.

The Lighting of the Loving Tree is not the only SA Power Networks' initiative. They often sponsor our Golf Day, and many staff have volunteered to help Mary Potter Hospice over the years.

In addition, back in 2019, SA Power Networks donated a transformational gift after one of their staff died in Mary Potter Hospice. We were able to make much-needed upgrades to one room and purchase six ceiling hoists, which ensured every room had a hoist. This gift was the catalyst for the refurbishment of all 15 patient rooms; a project we completed in December 2023.

We have been honoured to partner with SA Power Networks and receive incredible support, but our greatest honour has been to care for their staff, family and friends when the need has arisen.

Thank you, SA Power Networks, for touching the lives of thousands of South Australian patients and families for 25 years. Our community is so grateful for the difference you have made.

Thank you for keeping the lights on, so that we can provide comfort and care to all who come to Mary Potter.









Mary Potter Hospice provided exceptional care for over 300 patients in 2023/2024. We give thanks for the care, programs and services that donors made possible.

#### Stage 4 of the Hospice Refurbishment project complete

All 15 patient rooms in the Hospice were freshly refurbished by December 2023, bringing us closer to our vision of a modern and welcome facility for patients, families, visitor and staff.

#### Dedicated Staff Member in the Hospice

Our Patient & Family Support Coordinator started her role in the Hospice this financial year. She pours her heart into making sure the final days of a patient (and their family) is the best it can possibly be. Having that responsiveness when time is very limited, ensures that each patient receives Welcome flowers, a beautiful quilt and a Welcome Box when they arrive — and with the coordinator checking in with the patient and family every day, she can ensure that any individual requests during the patient's stay are taken care of promptly. That might mean organising activities that bring families together, or just a final request for something as simple as an Iced Coffee. There have been wonderful outcomes from this dedicated role.



#### Nurse Educator

The Board considers the role of Nurse Educator as hugely important for incoming Hospice nurses to be shown the special 'Mary Potter way'. Mary Potter Hospice has a reputation for excellence in palliative and end-of-life care. The Nurse Educator ensures this reputation continues. An experienced Hospice nurse works shoulder-to-shoulder with new nurses, developing their knowledge, expertise and communication skills.



#### Family Kitchen

The Family Kitchen remains the heart of the Hospice. It is crucial to the care of patients' families and visitors. Its central location in the middle of the Hospice means that family members aren't far away from their loved one's room when they want to get a snack, sandwich or coffee – day or night.

The warm and well-stocked kitchen helps our families feel cared for and nurtured whenever they want a break.

#### **Programs**

One of our most-loved programs is Pet Therapy. The paw-some team now make weekly visits to the Hospice to brighten everyone's day. A visit from a furry friend can help melt away some of the stress and anxiety that patients and their families may experience.

With the average length of stay in the Hospice now seven days, this program doubled visits in 2023/2024 so that no patient missed out on this program.



Thanks to the generosity of donors, in 2023/2024 the Foundation was able to increase support beyond Mary Potter Hospice – to give access to more of our programs and services for palliative patients and residents in the Home Care Service, Calvary Central Districts Hospital, Calvary Aged Care and in the cancer centres at North Adelaide and at Playford.

# Extending support and special care to all palliative patients at Calvary SA

From pain pumps, programs – including Fra Angelico Art, Life Stories, Complementary Therapy and Quilts – to special treats throughout the year...

Birthday and anniversary celebrations
Welcome boxes
Comfort trolleys
Cancer workshops & complementary therapy
Musicians
Tickets to the theatre and zoo
Transport assistance
Pastoral Care in the Home

A new vehicle for the Home Care Service Backpacks of Love Cleaning and gardening services Help with meals Replacing equipment and furniture

Through the above, donors brought unexpected care and real moments of joy to patients and residents. Staff were grateful for the resources made available to them and for the extra level of care you made possible.































The Mary Potter Foundation relies on our amazing donors and the success of annual fundraising activities and events that are so generously supported by our community. We simply could not do what we do without those who donate, fundraise, attend our events and show their support for the work of the Foundation.

Some highlights include...



#### Walk for Love - May 2024

- Over 1,100 family members, friends, donors, staff and volunteers came together to remember their loved ones at our Walk for Love event. While this is a beautiful way to honour those we miss every day, we also walk to raise funds for patient care. This year's event created an immersive and enveloping experience as we took over Wellington Square at the end of the Walk.
- ≈ \$122,454.60 was raised for palliative and end-of-life care for patients.
- ➤ Despite the scale of the event, Walk for Love maintained a deep sense of unity and connection.
- We were deeply moved by the kindness and generosity shown to us. Thanks to each individual/team who fundraised, those who donated, and everyone who purchased from our Walk for Love Village.
- Special thanks to our event sponsors RAA & DBH Lawyers, our volunteers and our Walk For Love Ambassadors who helped promote the Walk by sharing their experiences and stories.

"The Walk for Love is a great opportunity to honour your loved one, surround yourself with other people who have been impacted by the care, and give back to an organisation that is full of generosity."

Ashlee Murphy, Walk for Love Ambassador





#### Loving Tree

- The Loving Tree campaign raised \$100,000 for patients and families in our care over Christmas & New Year.
- Last Christmas, over 1,000 lights were dedicated to loved ones on the Loving Tree that stands outside Mary Potter Hospice.
- For the second year, we hosted the 'Lighting of the Loving Tree Carols Concert' in beautiful St Francis Xavier Cathedral. Special thanks to the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's Brass Ensemble for donating their time to this event. We feel so privileged to have their support each year.
- Heartfelt thanks to our event sponsor SA Power Networks, who funded extra lights on the Loving Tree and covered all costs associated with the Carols Concert, which brought together the Mary Potter community to remember loved ones and give thanks for those that provided their care.

## Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Quilt Program

- The 2023/24 financial year marks the 10th anniversary of The Mary Potter Foundation Quilt Program, and recently we were delighted to host over 40 quilters for morning tea to celebrate this milestone.
- Since the program started in 2013, there have been over 4,000 quilts donated, ensuring that every patient who comes through the doors of Mary Potter Hospice is offered a quilt – giving warmth and comfort to patients and a treasured keepsake for families.
- The program has expanded in recent years, to include patients and residents at Calvary Central Districts Hospital, Calvary Adelaide Hospital and in Calvary Aged Care.
- We are so grateful to every one of the talented quilters and quilting groups who have been part of this program, and for the profound impact their beautiful quilts have had on patients and their families.



#### A collaborative approach to fundraising...

Without the support of so many of our community fundraisers, The Mary Potter Foundation could not deliver the same level of extraordinary care to palliative patients and their families. We are humbled by their commitment, passion, time, expertise and generosity. Here is a snapshot of some of the support we received during 2023/24.



#### Chip in for Mary Potter Golf Day Organising Committee

- Now in full swing, the Chip in for Mary Potter Golf Day Organising Committee re-ignited and reunited, preparing for the 11th Chip in for Mary Potter Golf Day to be held in October 2024 at Grange Golf Course.
- Proceeds from the 2024 Golf Day will fund a refurbishment of the Family Kitchen in Mary Potter Hospice. Wear and tear from thousands of families and visitors over the last 10 years has taken its toll, so the Golf Committee, who installed the current Family Kitchen back in 2013 agreed to fund the much-needed update.
- We are so grateful for the organising committee's influence on the SA corporate/ hospitality network and the way they gather support for the event.

### Air Barb's Crew shine with High Tea and Movie Magic

- A delightful tribute to their beloved mum/wife/aunty and friend, Barb.
- Juliann, Bec, Tony, Sara, Cherie and Marisa are the members of Air Barb's Crew who keep Barb's memory alive through hosting 2 events – their annual high tea and movie afternoon – and raising over \$9k for patient support and the RESTORE program.
- Thank you to Air Barb's Crew for their continued dedication and for turning every sip of tea and every movie reel into a beacon of support!





#### St Dominic's Gala Day

A blossoming partnership continued this year between The Mary Potter Foundation and St Dominic's Priory School. Over the past two years, St Dom's Year 11 students have helped to bring joy to patients and families through their community service Gala Day initiative. On this day, students across the school raise funds for nominated charities and offer their support in a practical way. 90 students donated their time to make festive pew decorations for our Carols Concert. This creative activity was enjoyed by everyone involved.

#### Blackfriars Priory School Greatest Shave

- Another year of the Blackfriars Greatest Shave!
   Staff and students undergo some incredible transformations all to support patients and families in care.
- Led by Blackfriars Priory School Prefect group, the Blackfriars Greatest Shave was embraced by the entire school community, helping to raise \$7500 for patient care in the Hospice.
- ➤ We are in awe of Blackfriars staff and students for partaking in this extraordinary exercise – all to raise money to help care for patients and families. Thank you so much to everyone who got involved this year – you're incredible!





#### Comedy Night with Rotary Adelaide

- A fantastic 'Comedy Night' filled with laughter, fun and fundraising, was held at Burnside Ballroom in May, when we partnered with Rotary Adelaide for the second year running. Comedians Tahir & Micky D performed, with music by Matuezi Acoustic Duo.
- 200 people attended and helped to raise over \$7,000 for the Fra Angelico Creative Arts
   Program – a fantastic result.
- ~ Thank you so much to Rotary Adelaide!

#### Governor's Leadership Foundation

Special thanks to Luke, Fen, Georgy, Elizabeth, Ilan and Skye for working with the Foundation on an adaptive leadership project this year. We were fortunate to gain insights and expertise from this talented group who are participating in the Governor's Leadership Foundation program.



#### Lions Club of Richmond – Drinks Trolley

- One way the Lions Club of Richmond supported us this year was by purchasing alcohol for our drinks trolley – and we could not be more grateful for their sponsorship of this initiative.
- The trolley made its way around the Hospice most afternoons, offering a glass of wine, beer, soft drinks and snacks to families visiting their loved ones.
- We simply can't overstate what this means to people looking for a touch of normality at the end of an emotional day. It's nurturing care that no one expects, but when that trolley appears, the happy surprised looks on the faces of patients and families means everything.

### SA Power Networks Employee Foundation

- Throughout December we ran a '25 Days of Christmas Advent Calendar' activity with support from SA Power Networks Employee Foundation
- A stocking was hung from the door of each patient's room and each night 'Santa' stopped by to deliver a special treat – from tea and shortbread to chocolate and hand-cream.
- It was a special way to bring a touch of magic and joy to those living their final days in the Hospice over Christmas.
- We're so grateful to the Employee Foundation for making this special Christmas activity possible.
- The Employee Foundation funded all weekly Hospice engagement activities for six months – from a hot lunch for Christmas in July to pizza on New Years Eve.



### New program supporting Mary Potter families



#### Caring Hearts Grief Support Group

- ➤ We are pleased to report that donors are now supporting this new service for families.
- Since the first meeting in February 2024, this program has been well attended, providing valuable theory and practical support for approximately 30 participants each month. Being a social group, they benefit from not only the structured training but also the lived experience of others.
- Each month a different topic is shared as well as offering hands-on activities such as clay modelling and private journalling to help channel participants' grief.

The kindness and generosity of the business community, trusts and foundations, schools, community groups and churches, are vital for the ongoing funding of exceptional care at Mary Potter Hospice, Palliative Home Care Services, Calvary Hospitals, Calvary Cancer Care and in Calvary Aged Care facilities across South Australia.

## Key Partners & Supporters

#### Thank you for your generous support in 2023/2024.

**Event Partners** 

SA Power Networks

DBH Lawyers

**RAA** 

Cirelli Coffee

Ceravolo Orchards

Tony and Mark's

Nature's Delight

Corporate Partners

Pro Health Care

SA Power Networks Employee

Foundation

Vili's

Kalymnos Pastries

PharmaSave Wayville

Rundle Mall Plaza

Bird in Hand Wines

Simplicity Funerals, Plympton

Jurlique

Detmold Group

Petals Jewellery

Family Cook

Trusts and Foundations

Mutual Trust

**Equity Trustees** 

CMV Staff Foundation

CMV Group Foundation

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of the family trusts and charitable foundations who

have asked to remain anonymous.

Community Groups, Schools, Service Clubs

and Churches

Order of St John of Jerusalem

Lions Club of Richmond

Lions Cub of Adelaide Italian

Lions Club of Blackwood

Lions Club of Prospect-Blair Athol

Rotary Club of Adelaide

Rotary Club of West Torrens

Associazone Trevisani Nel Mondo

Croation Women's Auxiliary

The Mary Potter Foundation Associated Auxiliary

Catholic Women's League

Knights of the Southern Cross Port Augusta

Knights of the Southern Cross Brighton-Marion-Hallett Cove-Glenelg

Knights of the Southern Cross Woodville-Thebarton

Knights of the Southern Cross Southern Fleurieu

Knights of the Southern Cross Copper Coast

Philopthous Society of St George - Thebarton

Re-Gen Charity Shop

Blackfriars Old Scholars Football Club

Waikerie Football Club

Strathalbyn Football Club

St Dominic's Priory College

Blackfriars Priory School

Redwood Park Primary

St Peter's Woodlands Grammar School

Adelaide Male Voice Choir

St Francis Xavier Cathedral

We would also like to acknowledge the generosity of the quilting groups and individuals who donate hundreds of quilts each year

to our Quilt Program.

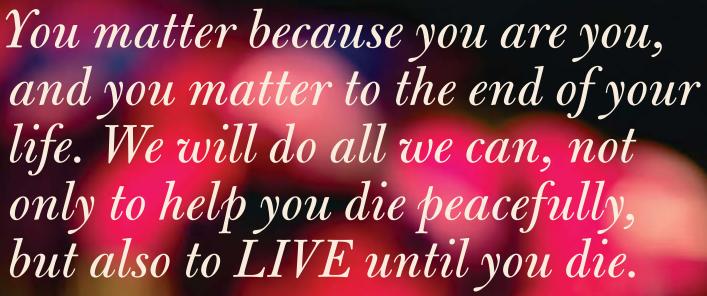












Dame Cicely Saunders

