



JOHN PIERCE CENTRE
Spirit of the Deaf Community

John Pierce Centre
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Dear friend of JPC,

Your wonderful support over recent years has impacted our centre in more ways than we can express. ***Thank you.***

Your generosity has allowed JPC to maintain connections with Deaf people and their families, individuals, children, parents and seniors all over Victoria. This enabled us to reach out to new community members who had - until making contact with us - been lost, sad and isolated. These Deaf people and their families, now have hope and are empowered, they have a community and friendships; they have someone looking out for them.

This year, our “Ephpheta” appeal hopes to raise \$50,000 to maintain our commitment to supporting Deaf people in pastoral care, life skills, counselling, grief and loss sharing and funeral planning.

In 2018, we also urgently need an additional \$7,000 for new audio visual equipment and a projector.

“Ephpheta” means ‘be open’ and we extend our services, not only to Deaf people, but to their extended hearing families. When they come to JPC, we want their experience to be a fulfilling and inclusive one, so our projector will allow the sharing of all that is being signed at JPC, into English on a screen.

We see a huge need to support hearing relatives in situations relating to their deaf family members. On occasion, there may be challenges with communication styles, age, next of kin duties, distance and cultural misconceptions or lack of knowledge of Deaf culture and here, is where JPC staff can assist. We are privileged to be in a position to help “bridge the gap” and provide support for not only the Deaf, but the hearing members too to help them to feel that they are sharing an experience together.

Recently, an elderly hearing couple came to JPC in need of assistance. Robert*, their Deaf nephew had arrived in Melbourne (from Brisbane) for an important surgery and was suffering in fear, concern and isolation. Robert’s aunt and uncle were the only family who cared but they had limited experience with Deaf culture and Auslan (Australian Sign Language). Even though they wanted to encourage Robert to be as independent as possible, they really did not know where to start.

So, a friend suggested they visit JPC to get some guidance on how to foster Robert’s independence. After meeting this family, JPC was able to refer Robert to appropriate medical care in his area and to implement suitable housing (with furniture generously donated by community members). The whole family also attended the Christmas event at JPC. It was an important spiritual and social event enjoyed by Robert and his family – together. The access JPC provided meant that English and Auslan could be used simultaneously with interpreters, our chaplain who signs, and, with the effective use of the projector.



Your gift will be a lifeline that ensures JPC’s Pastoral Care and Family Support Service can instantly reach Deaf people and their extended families, today. All donations will be gratefully received - donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible. Please see the envelope attached, or if you prefer to go online, please visit: www.givenow.com.au/jpcdonations

With grateful appreciation,

Rachel Miers, Executive Manager



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** This letter is based on actual events and details have been changed to protect the privacy of the person involved*