



This year has been filled with many milestones at Thread Together - Indooroopilly.

Our end-of-year newsletter showcases some of our highlights, accomplishments, and a few challenges along the way.

We collectively faced a transition to a new Program Coordinator; the uncertainties generated by Cyclone Alfie as it crossed our path; and the logistics of sharing our hub space with voting booths for a Federal election. We're becoming very adept at pivoting! Our strength in numbers got us through and we built some meaningful partnerships along the way. What a team!

Looking ahead in 2026, you'll see our newsletters on a quarterly basis.

In this newsletter you will find:

- Volunteer reflection
- New Thread Together Coordinator - an introduction
- Making strides: Access to clothing
- Our volunteers - aka: Team Indie
- Strength in togetherness
- Community collaboration
- Become a Thread Together partner
- Closing: Final reflections from The Rev'd Sue Grimmett & Leanne Wood



Thread Together Reflections

by Janet Hicks, Volunteer

Volunteering for Thread Together has not only been a way for me to contribute to a meaningful cause, but it has also been an opportunity to connect with people from all walks of life. Each person who walks through our doors carries a unique story. Some are fleeing domestic violence, others are rebuilding their lives after homelessness, and some are refugees navigating a new country with very little. Through Thread Together, I get to offer something simple yet powerful: dignity.

I first became involved with Thread Together after a family member saw the organisation featured on Better Homes and Gardens Australia. They immediately thought of me. I was newly retired, looking for something meaningful to do with my time, and I had a long-standing passion for environmental issues - particularly recycling and reducing landfill. I've always loved shopping in op shops, not only for the sustainability aspect but for the sense of reuse and reinvention.

To read more, continue to the next page.



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Reflections Cont.

Clothing might seem like a small thing to some, but it's incredibly important. The right clothes allow people to go to job interviews, attend school, or simply feel like they belong in their community. I've seen firsthand how someone's posture changes after receiving a well-fitted outfit. It's as though they're reminded that they matter. That kind of transformation is what keeps me coming back.

One moment that has stayed with me was when a young woman from Ukraine came in, clearly shy and unsure at first. With a bit of encouragement, she tried on an outfit - something stylish and beautifully put together. When she stepped out to look in the mirror, her whole expression changed. She looked absolutely stunning. The confidence and joy that lit up her face was contagious. We, as volunteers, were able to share in that special moment with her. There was laughter, even a few happy tears. It was about so much more than just clothing - it was about helping someone feel beautiful, seen, and valued.

I also get a lot out of volunteering at Thread Together because it fits so well with my values and outlook on life. I believe in treating others with compassion, in doing what we can to lift one another up, and in creating a more inclusive and caring society. Thread Together gives me a practical, hands-on way to live those values. It reminds me that small actions such as offering time, care, and kindness can make a big difference.

To read more, continue to the next page.

**“It's about dignity,
connection, purpose,
and creating
positive change - one
garment, one smile,
and one moment of
joy - at a time.”**



Reflections Cont.

Working with Thread Together has also deepened my awareness of sustainability and the fashion industry's impact. The amount of clothing that would otherwise go to landfill is staggering. By helping redistribute new, excess clothing to people in need, we're reducing waste while meeting a real social need. It's a win-win that continues to inspire me.

The idea of helping divert brand-new excess clothing from landfill while also supporting people in need really resonated with me. It aligned perfectly with my values and felt like a natural fit.

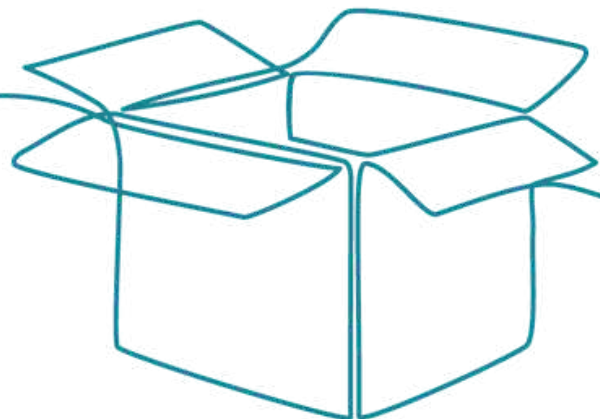
Another reason I continue to volunteer is the community among the volunteers themselves. There's a shared purpose that brings us together, and it's incredibly motivating.

We come from diverse backgrounds: students, retirees, professionals, and parents, but we're united by the desire to give back.

I've formed genuine friendships through this work, and the camaraderie we share makes every shift something to look forward to.

Come volunteer with us!

We are always looking to enrich an already thriving community of volunteers at Thread Together - Indooroopilly Hub. If you, or someone you know might be interested in volunteering, please enquire here: <https://bit.ly/46s1USO> or scan the following QR code.



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New Program Coordinator

Introducing Paula Lewis

When I'm not daydreaming about being a ballerina, a spy, or trying hard to resist the delights of chocolate and ice-cream, I'm doing my bit for social justice and mother nature.

My professional career has been in the non-profit sector for the past two decades. Mainly through project management, policy reform, education and outreach, volunteer coordination, and harnessing enthusiasm for contemporary initiatives.

A few highlights include living and working on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico, USA as a high school counsellor. I also mobilised volunteers in a variety of sectors such as Oxfam, The Smith Family, Mother House (for homeless pregnant women in Colorado, USA), and Reading Radio – a local radio station in Brisbane for the vision and print impaired.

My passion for safeguarding wild places and those inhabiting them keeps me inspired! My experiences also include advocating and leading efforts for the recovery of the endangered Mexican Gray wolf within the Grand Canyon Eco-Region in Arizona, USA. In the Asia Pacific, I supported on-the-ground marine conservation of turtles in remote areas within the Solomon Islands, and elevated gender-based inclusion and livelihoods through mangrove restoration in Papua New Guinea.

You can also find me snuggled up on the sofa with my cat, plodding along on my PhD thesis, spending quality time with my friends, whom I adore, and staying active by doing Pilates, stand-up paddle boarding, and *trying* to learn how to ride a motorcycle.

I am delighted to be a part of the Thread Together Team. You have welcomed me with open arms. Go Team Indie - you're amazing!

"I love engaging with people I meet - please don't hesitate to have a genuine and heartfelt conversation with me."



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Making Strides: Access to Clothing



We are proud of the number of communities and individuals we have served since the beginning of the year.

Our total count for 2025. Drum roll...



Mobile van

Total site visits = **122**

Clients served: **3,269**

Items distributed: **16,567**



Indooroopilly Community Hub & individual referrals

Clients served = **383**

Items distributed: **4,413**



Total volunteer hours

2,500 Hours



Total clients & clothing items

Clients served:

3,652

Items distributed:

20,980



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The backbone: Our volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone to the functioning and delivery of our Thread Together program within Brisbane and surrounding regions.

Our volunteers are extraordinary human beings; as they face the heat, the rain, the long drives, and even paper cuts!

Being a Thread Together volunteer requires utmost strength, acumen, and a warm heart - as they lift, move and sort through numerous boxes of clothing; style mannequins; ensure they know the difference between petrol and diesel when filling the van; and have meaningful conversations with many community members who are doing it tough.

What brings our amazing volunteers together is their mutual dedication in providing dignity to others who are facing hardship, via brand-new clothing, while simultaneously helping the planet by diverting clothing from landfill and recycling efforts.

This amazing crew of volunteers, with more than **2,500** volunteer hours accrued this year, has been dubbed: Team Indie!

“Building community & volunteer comradery is at the heart of what we do”

Paula Lewis, Thread Together Program Coordinator



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Meet our newest volunteers

We welcome our newest volunteers: Annette, Jenny, Suzette, Shandell, Kate, and Janelle. They have all quickly become part of our wonderful Thread Together team with their delightful energy and commitment.

Annette



After 17 years working in the USA and the UK, we decided to return to Brisbane to retire.

Part of our new life is looking for opportunities to give back to the community and when I found out about Thread Together, I was immediately attracted by the opportunity to interact with people in our community who need some help in a very practical way.

I enjoy the one-to-one contact with our guests and the comradery of working in the TT team. New clothes can be anything from a bright spot in someone's day, to the beginning of a new chapter in their whole life. I feel privileged to be a part of that, and to enjoy the fun of each event!

Jenny



I have recently joined the Thread Together team of volunteers. I have known about Thread Together for a while now. I am a parishioner at St Andrew's Anglican Church, and was pleased to know about this important initiative.

When I recently retired, I thought this would be a great team to join. I have not been disappointed. Thread Together is a community of caring individuals who support everyone - our clients and our colleagues.

At the moment, I am on my trainer wheels - some time learning about packing the van, and other jobs. I am enjoying learning about Thread Together, and assisting with this great initiative.



Meet our newest volunteers

Suzette



I am recently retired, and with some extra time on my hands I was looking for a way to work with others to help our community in environmentally sustainable ways - Thread Together is of course a perfect organisation for this. With 40 years of experience in schools, I'm especially looking forward to visiting the schools and supporting some young people.

I also enjoy reading, crocheting and travelling, and this year one of my goals is to find some new easy vegetarian dishes to cook!

Shandell



I'm a new volunteer at Thread Together. I joined this team because I am looking for experience in the styling sector, especially off the back of an Art and Fashion short course I recently did.

It has been really great to be engaged with all the different clients that come in. It has also been rewarding to see how having fresh clothes for a fresh beginning has boosted the confidence of the people who come through the doors.



Meet our newest volunteers

Kate



This is my first time volunteering. My current job is working and managing a small cafe, which I balance with my university studies in Behavioural Science & Justice.

Being a volunteer is something I've wanted to do for a long time and as I approach the end of my studies, I finally have the extra time! Outside work and study, I love to read, get arts n crafty, play my guitar (not very well, sorry neighbours!) and I am a huge dog lover.

I came across Thread Together during my university placement and love what the organisation stands for- I personally align with many of their values, and so far it has been a great opportunity to meet like-minded people. I'm really looking forward to contributing towards such important work.

Janelle



I recently retired as a legal librarian after 31 years with the same company.

I saw an interview about Thread Together a couple of years ago and became interested in the charity and started to follow the posts on Facebook.

I had volunteered with Suited for Success for 5 years and felt I could be useful in the same capacity with TT. I'm looking forward to learning more and meeting other volunteers and clients.

Retiring - we say farewell...

We say farewell to one of our wonderful volunteer stylists, Jane Averill. We will miss the warmth and kindness that you exuded and wish you the very best in your retirement!

A word from Jane:

Volunteering at Thread Together has been an absolute delight! Kate, and now Paula, have both led Thread Together in Brisbane ever so well, creating a wonderful environment for our clients to come to. Also, the oversight of Anglicare and Reverend Sue from St Andrew's has always been excellent.

I chose to volunteer after reading about Thread Together. I loved the uniqueness of an organisation that offers new clothing to its clients; and the whole process of welcoming in our customers and helping them choose from new clothing - something they rarely, if ever, are able to do otherwise.

I also enjoyed chatting with our clients and often just being a listening ear. I have so many stories to share. Once I had a young woman come in who had faced many hardships in her life. She had just had all her clothing and make up stolen and her countenance was very sad. I listened to her story and then together we looked for new clothes for her.

On that particular day we had been given some fabulous make up which we were able to gift her. Just before she left, she came to me and gave me the biggest and longest of hugs. These are the special moments that I will take away from my time at Thread Together. I leave very grateful to have had this wonderful opportunity to have played a small part in loving our community and serving alongside so many wonderful volunteers.



2025 Anglicare Southern Queensland “*Our People Awards*”

The 2025 Anglicare Southern Queensland “*Our People Awards*” ceremony was hosted at The Grove Rooftop in Brisbane City in mid-October. It is fair to say that there was (loud) applause along with a few squeals emitted from the Research, Evaluation, and Advocacy team when Wendy Chenoweth’s name was announced as the Volunteer of the Year winner. Congratulations, Wendy!



Wendy Chenoweth
Mission, Research & Advocacy
Volunteer of the Year



Strength in togetherness: Community organisations & site visits

With over **30 individual community sites visited** this year, often multiple times, we love to receive feedback on how our service best supports your organisations. See below for some warm and heartening testimonials.

“Thread Together has been coming to New Farm Neighbourhood Centre for a number of years now and our ‘Threads Days’ are still some of our biggest on our calendar. People often ask “When is Threads coming?”. On ‘Threads Days’ everyone arrives super early and there is always excitement in the air. People value the program so much - the fantastic volunteers, the dignity of new and stylish clothes and the sense of community of coming together to receive these kindnesses.”

*Miranda Woods, People and Learning Project Coordinator
Community, New Farm Neighbourhood Centre*



*Community - New Farm Neighbourhood Centre
Miranda, Paula, Karen, and Ron*



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Strength in togetherness: Community organisations & site visits

“We have done lots of Thread Together online orders but the actual shopping experience: to be able to look, touch, and feel and try on was a very “pinch me” moment for a lot of our residents. Some of the participants were amazed that the service was free for brand new articles of clothing – I believe it gave them a sense of pride walking away with items you would find in a shop.

The consensus was a resounding “Yes!” to having the service come to centre again and to be able to obtain footwear and clothing during each season in Brisbane.

This is a vital service for our clients and their sense of worth. It gives dignity to the transaction and shows respect to all participants. The service allows for fashion to be given out in a responsible sustainable way but the bigger purpose I believe is showing care to those who need it most and that is most profound.”

*Lou Campbell - Community Resilience Worker
Community Plus+ Yeronga*



Community Plus + Yeronga Site



Strength in togetherness: Community organisations & site visits

“Thread Together has had a profound impact on our school community. For students experiencing disadvantage, the Thread Together van has been an opportunity for them to get new free clothes without financial stress on families. The new clothes bring students a sense of confidence, worth, and dignity. The Thread Together volunteers’ warmth, friendliness, and care for our students have created strong connections in our community, which fosters an opportunity for our students to feel safe and supported. At Y Schools, Redlands, we are forever grateful for the generosity, care, and collaboration from Thread Together to support the well-being of our students.”

Y Schools Redlands Senior Campus

“I wanted to forward our sincere thanks to you and your team of volunteers for all the amazing support you offered to our students at North Lakes this year. As staff we saw their genuine joy during each of your visits and their beaming smiles at being able to have some new and clean clothing that they wore with such pride. Thank you.”

-Y School, Moreton Bay Junior Campus

“Thank you to the beautiful Thread Together volunteers and van for visiting Goodna Anglican Welfare this year. It has been exciting to be able to offer free new clothing to people 'doing it tough'. So many of them find it really hard to reach out and admit they need help. To be blessed with not only food and emergency support but also with new clothes is almost unbelievable... resulting in big smiles and even tears.”

*-Rev'd Bronwyn Pagram - Director
Goodna Anglican Welfare Ministries*



Strength in togetherness: Community organisations & site visits

“Our client numbers doubled over the course of the year, and the Thread Together volunteers never failed in warmly welcoming and patiently assisting all who came. Holy Trinity, Fortitude Valley, has been offering welfare services for over thirty years, by way of food parcels and emergency financial relief. This new offering by Thread Together enhances what is already provided and does much to help building community among all who visit us. The organisation of visits has been efficient and well-communicated.”

*The Rev'd Dr Rodney Wolff FQA, Rector
Anglican Parish of Fortitude Valley - Holy Trinity*



Volunteers: Lynn & Karen; Rev. Rodney Wolff



Strength in togetherness: Community organisations & site visits

“We truly value the service and are witness to the joy and feelings of self-worth it brings to our vulnerable community members.

Having the community mobile van at our premises enabled us to host an event where invited guests connected with each other, with Centre staff and programs and with the lovely volunteers from Thread Together. Your volunteers also shared with us the heartwarming experience of our community members choosing new clothes for themselves, and witnessed first-hand the impact it made to those individuals. We look forward to more of these invaluable events in our community and with our clients.”

*Hazel Malone - Coordinator
Eagleby Community Support Program*



Volunteers: Lynn & Wendy and happy clients



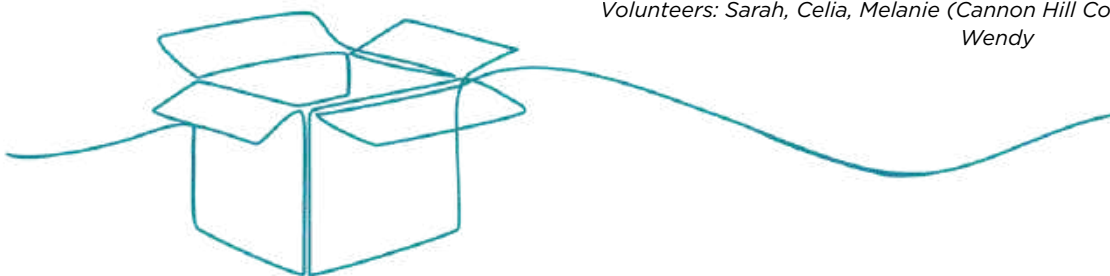
Strength in togetherness: Community organisations & site visits

“Since April 2025 the Thread Together Mobile Van has been a wonderful addition to our well-established emergency relief program, Wellbeing Wednesday. On a monthly basis their friendly and dedicated team of volunteers welcome our vulnerable community members not only with a friendly smile, but they brighten their day with the outlook of receiving a brand-new clothing item. The significance of these brand-new clothing items goes beyond appearances. It is a beautiful uplift to anyone’s confidence having the knowledge of wearing a gifted well-fitting item that they otherwise would not have been able to afford. To this day almost 100 community members were able to take advantage of this valuable service, and we can honestly say that it made a difference in many people’s lives. We look forward to continuing our relationship and furthering opportunities with the Thread Together Team.”

*Wendy Blackmore & Melanie Groves
Cannon Hill Community Centre*



Volunteers: Sarah, Celia, Melanie (Cannon Hill Community Centre Staff) and Wendy



Working together in service

“Throughout 2025, clients from the Indooroopilly Uniting Church Asylum Seeker and Refugee Hub have attended the Thread Together Clothing Hub at Indooroopilly Anglican Church every two months. These visits provided practical access to quality clothing in a well-organised, respectful setting.

The collaboration has worked smoothly and effectively, with the service supporting people as they navigate a difficult life situation and build their lives. The IUC Hub clients look forward to attending the Thread Together service, feeling that their dignity is maintained and that there is care in every interaction.

We are grateful to the Thread Together coordinator, Paula, the Indooroopilly Anglican Church, and all volunteers involved for their commitment and cooperation. We value this partnership and look forward to continuing our work together in 2026.”

Lisa Poore

IUC Asylum Seeker and Refugee Hub Welfare Coordinator



Volunteers: Kim, Lynn, Kate, and Dianne from IUC



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Clothing hub 2026

We invite you to book appointments for your clients or community members you are supporting.

We take pride in providing a welcoming service to our guests during their appointments with us.

Our Thread Together volunteers thoroughly enjoy having direct contact with customers during each visit and assisting them in finding the best clothing for their current needs.

Please use the following link to book your clients with us: [Thread Together](#)

We will resume on Monday 19th January 2026.



We are located 5-7 minute walk from Indooroopilly train station; 50 cent fares!

Become a Thread Together partner

If you work with people who are doing it tough (in metro, regional or remote areas of Queensland), you can also apply to become a Thread Together partner. This enables you to place orders for new clothing directly on the Thread Together online portal, and have items delivered for free to your door. Apply on the Thread Together website, at:

www.threadtogether.org/qld-partner-eoi or contact Paula, Program Coordinator, at threadtogether@anglicaresq.org.au if you need help.



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A final note

Reading this celebration of Thread Together is a moving experience for those of us who remember the earliest days of the program here in Brisbane, in 2020, when we visited just two sites in the mobile wardrobe.

It's wonderful to see that as the program has grown, it hasn't lost its heart or its deep commitment to supporting those who are doing it tough with dignity, respect and joy.

The Rev'd Sue Grimmett, Parish Priest, St Andrews

Leanne Wood, Manager, Research, Evaluation & Advocacy, Anglicare



Rev'd Sue Grimmett, Leanne Wood, a happy client

