

139 Club Inc, Brisbane: Women's Wellness Program funded by StreetSmart 2008 -\$4,000



In May 2008 StreetSmart funded our Women's Wellness Group aimed at helping women who are homeless. This group has been a great success on many levels helping to build self confidence, social networks and skills. There have also been a number of unforeseen outcomes through the connection with StreetSmart. This is one such happening.

Thierry Galichet the owner of one of Brisbane's finest restaurants, Montrachet, contacted me in July following a meeting through StreetSmart. He offered to host an evening for our group of 9 women at his restaurant.

The women were awestruck that the owner of a 'fancy' restaurant would want them at their establishment, and were immensely grateful for the invitation. Many of the women were concerned that they didn't have anything appropriate to wear to dinner. So the group utilised funding from their StreetSmart grant to visit a local op-shop and purchased one item of clothing each that would make them feel 'special' for the evening. The women were extremely supportive of each other during this process, commenting on style and suggesting colours - it was a great excursion in itself.

At Montachet the women were graciously seated by the extremely friendly staff, given endless Mocktails, and then treated to a scrumptuous dinner and dessert. For those women who had limited literacy skills, the staff assisted by reading the menu aloud.



With great big smiles on their faces, the women all wrote in a thank you card to Thierry and his staff. The women talked about their 'night out' for weeks describing the food, and how cute the wait staff were! All in all, the women agreed that "...it was real nice to be asked to dinner. It is something that I've never done before and will probably never do again, but at least I can say that I've been to a real nice restaurant, like normal people do". We were all overwhelmed by the kindness, understanding and generosity of Thierry and his team.

The photo above tells the whole story! We love this one with Thierry. Thanks to the StreetSmart Grant we were also able to purchase this camera. Since the inception of the Women's Wellness Group a number of pictures have been taken of the women. All of these photos have been compiled into a photo album for the women. For many of them, these are the only photos they own of themselves.

Cheers, Yasmin (Acting Manager)