

MEDIA RELEASE
28 September 2009



Art of Giving – an exhibition to inspire hope

The inaugural *Art of Giving* exhibition, opening at the Liddiard Gallery, will feature a stunning collection by some of Australia's leading visual artists.

Award-winners Neil McIrvine, Malcolm Beattie, Anna Blatman, and many more have generously donated their work to raise money towards *Ambassadors of Hope*, a new early intervention mental health initiative from Mind.

Ambassadors of Hope, currently under development, will see past and present Mind clients share their experience and present a positive forum for discussion about mental health.

Shanta Parker has initiated this special event in honour of her close friend, Carol, who unfortunately took her life to end her battle with mental illness.

Shanta says "Carol was an amazing person and was drawn towards helping people overcome their life's struggles. If only she could have overcome her own. If this program, *Ambassadors of Hope*, can save the life of even just one person, something positive will have come from Carol's tragic passing."

All proceeds will be used to fund the development of Mind's *Ambassadors of Hope* program.

The Art of Giving exhibition is at the Liddiard Gallery, Oakleigh Anglican Church (corner of Warrigal Road and Princes Highway), and runs Friday, 9 October to Sunday, 11 October 2009.

Opening times: Friday, 9 October (10am–3pm)
Saturday, 10 October (10am–4pm)
Sunday, 11 October (11.30am–1pm)

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Notes to editor:

- Shanta Parker and artist Malcolm Beattie are available for interview and photo opportunities.
- Full case study on Shanta Parker and media release are available on request.

Media contacts:

- Alison Polyik on (03) 9455 7934 / 0400 388 449 or apolyik@mindaustralia.org.au

About Ambassadors of Hope: Mind's *Ambassadors of Hope* is a new early intervention mental health initiative that aims to raise awareness of, and reduce stigma around mental illness. The program, currently under development, will see past and present Mind clients share their experience and present a positive forum for discussion about mental health. Reaching teenagers and young adults will be a particular focus.

About Mind: Mind is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that helps people recovering from mental illness to rebuild their lives and reconnect with family, friends and the community. For more information about Mind and its programs, visit: www.mindaustralia.org.au