



**An opportunity to make
a difference to the lives
of Sunshine Coast
families and kids with
multiple disabilities.**



Take a walk in these shoes

Tim and Nadine have three children. Billy (12yo) and Tiffany (10yo) both are highly autistic and their behaviour includes regularly assaulting both their parents and each other, and significant self-harming by Tiffany. Overwhelmed by the pressures, Tim and Nadine recently separated and came close to relinquishing the children to Government care, due to the physical and mental exhaustion experienced. Although the couple have now reconciled, neither parent is able to work due to the demands of caring. The family's lack of income is worsened by constantly needing to repair damage to their rental property caused by the children. The third child, Mary (7yo), rarely gets enough time or attention from her parents and has no other social interaction with other children except school hours, where she struggles to "fit in". School holidays are particularly difficult for the whole family and the family has not had a social outing for more than 3 years.

This is a story we hear over and over. Families tested to their limits on a daily basis. It's heartbreaking but The Board Meeting Charity wants to do something about it.

Who are The Board Meeting?



HELPING LOCAL KIDS IN NEED

TBM is a dedicated group of volunteers who have been raising much-needed funds for severely physically or mentally disabled Sunshine Coast children and their families for over 16 years. No-one in TBM is paid. All work is performed by volunteers and any admin costs are covered by our generous committee members. Every cent raised goes to the families. We are a registered charity and all donations are fully tax deductible.

The families we help have usually fallen through the cracks of Government support, are doing it extremely tough financially and have children with needs those of us with healthy kids could hardly fathom. Since 2005 The Board Meeting has raised more than \$1,900,000 for these local families, primarily providing specialized equipment such as customized wheelchairs, walking frames, bed hoists and more.

But there is another piece to the puzzle – the family members who care for these severely disadvantaged kids.

With the demands on the charity continuing to grow, particularly in the areas of respite care and family support, we decided that it was necessary to create an additional arm to The Board Meeting that welcomed new benefactors and allowed us to jointly offer funded care to struggling Local families with disabled kids.



Introducing the Guardian Program

These families need your help! The Board Meeting assists many families who have problems that aren't simply solved by a one-off payment or piece of equipment. Many of these families have disabled children with on-going requirements and have no options but to turn to the community for help, or go without. This isn't a load anybody should have to bear on their own.

By becoming a Guardian, you are committing to changing the lives of the people who need it most. The funds donated allow us to provide the support these people really need. You really can make a difference!

What is a Guardian?

A Guardian is an individual, family, group or business who is prepared to commit to donating \$250/month by Direct Debit through an initial 1-year renewable sponsorship.

This will guarantee a family of 2 weekends of professional respite care per year and an opportunity to change the cycle of physical and mental wear.

The funds donated allow us to provide the support these people desperately need. Together, we really can make a difference!

How Can I Become a Guardian?

Guardianship is very simple and can be done over the phone with Mark Skinner from The Board Meeting on **0411 477 390**.

All Guardians are rewarded with 2 free tickets to the gala event, and you can invite as many extra paid guests as you like. Food, drinks, entertainment and a hell of a good time is all included.

The **Guardian Program** is your chance to make a difference to the lives of Sunshine Coast families and kids with disabilities.



Together we are making a difference

'The Board Meeting has provided a number of children with disability that we support with essential, and in some cases, very expensive equipment which would otherwise have not been available to them. The difference that such equipment can make for a child with high needs can be profound and the work that The Board Meeting has done to "lighten the load" for parents is immeasurable. Our organisation cannot speak highly enough of the work that The Board Meeting has done.'

Peter Farnham, Manager - Inclusion Plus

'As the Parent Connect Coordinator I am supporting many families on the Sunshine Coast who are in the process of having their young child assessed and diagnosed with developmental delay or disability. It is difficult assisting families to gain a diagnosis and to then have to inform them that there is no help to assist them in paying for their child's therapy or equipment needs. Many families simply do not qualify for any government financial support and they simply miss out. The Board Meeting Charity offers much needed support to these vulnerable families and stops them from falling between the gaps by offering support for their child's specialist needs. Their willingness to support these struggling families to maximise their young child's growth and development is invaluable to the Sunshine Coast families.'

Nicole Rawson – Parent Connect

'With our family not meeting the exact criteria of the public health system and government, it has been a financial struggle to access the therapy Damon requires to treat his apraxia. We are a low income family with three children and the bills and school fees are never-ending and since Damon's diagnosis it has been a struggle paying for speech therapy. He has an amazing speech therapist and it's vital to Damon's developmental well being that he continues his sessions with her. He has already come a long way but he still has a long journey ahead of him but at least now we are optimistic that he will continue to improve and not be held back in life. Your funding will help ease our financial burdens and we appreciate The Board Meetings generosity so much.'

Tia Grieger

'We were so close to giving up our child. We just couldn't cope any longer. We hadn't had a day without trauma in more than 4 years. Knowing someone out there is thinking of us is so wonderful. Your support helped us save our marriage and I don't know what would have happened to our daughter if we separated. We understand our lives will never be easy but the respite care you arranged has given us new strength.'

Kaye & Tony Morris

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