NEWS 1-23 WHAT'S ON 24 LIFESTYLE 25-26 CLASSIFIEDS 27-37 SPORT 37-39

CHARITY

## St Kilda mum gives back

## Sam Bidey

A MUM, once down her luck after leaving an abusive relationship, has come full circle.

In 2012, Claire (last name withheld) received secondhand baby goods and nursery equipment from the St Kilda Mums, a volunteerbased charity that helps young families in need.

Now Claire has donated all that baby gear, and more, back to the charity that helped her get back on her feet.

"I left a domestic violence relationship when my son was only eight months old – we literally had nothing," Claire said.

"It is such a beautiful experience to open one of (St Kilda Mums') beautiful parcels with much-needed clothes and be able to receive other much-needed items in a time of crisis."

Three years on, after going through homelessness and adversity, Claire and her four-year-old son are doing well and she feels it is time for her to give back.

"We are in a much nicer position now and we can actually give back in the hope that it could bring another mum any kind of assistance because I know how difficult things can be," she said.

Her donated goods included a cot, one of 413 donated during St Kilda Mums' 2015 Cots for Tots appeal; first launched by the Mums and Leader Community Newspapers in 2013.

"We are absolutely delighted with the amount of cots received," St Kilda Mums chief executive Jessica Macpherson said.

"We help about 80 families a week and at least 20 of them need cots, so that is a six-month supply for us.

"Thanks to Leader's support we hope our reputation increases and mums will feel confident they can get the support they need through us."

St Kilda Mums latest campaign, Coats for Kids, is on now. For details: or to donate go to stkildamums.org



St Kilda Mums volunteers Kristi Lambert and Hayley Clift, with chief executive Jessica Macpherson, assemble a donated cot with help from Harvey, 2. Picture: Sarah Matray