‘Learn to Live’ initially, the idea, started from me working as a nurse on a movie set in Louisiana. I was surrounded by a really creative environment, however there was so much waste and I started to get really overwhelmed by waste, what’s happening in the world, and we should be able to be doing something a little more, instead of just for ourselves.

I lived in New Orleans for a few years. I came back, I did my nursing degree at La Trobe after Hurricane Katrina. Hurricane Katrina was definitely a pivotal point in my life, it’s also one of the reasons I became a nurse. When I came back to Australia after Hurricane Katrina La Trobe was my number one nursing place, and I wanted to come here because of the international side of things, and I wanted to be part of that community.

We focus on primary and preventative healthcare, at the moment we’re focusing in Indonesia. My family’s from Indonesia, and in North Sulawesi, Indonesia they have very basic healthcare, but my family over the last seven years have experienced health problems that have ended up being fatal, and I really feel like those healthcare problems may have been avoided, or the fatality may have been avoided if they had access to good healthcare and preventable healthcare measures.

I raised $7000, I took somebody who I thought was a really good problem solver, and I took a film-maker to tell my story. We all met in Indonesia and I met with the government and I said, this is my idea I want to bring healthcare workers to access some of the rural villages up here, do like a basic healthcare assessment and see these people, and see if we can make a change, and also highlight to possibly the Indonesian government, that you guys are in need of more services. A year later I brought a team of twenty seven people from all over the world.

I’ve realised that this is my calling in life. ‘Learn to Live’, for me has opened my eyes to what the possibilities are of just having an idea and running with it. ‘Learn to Live’ is not only changing the lives of people around the world, but it’s changing the lives of my volunteers, my doctors and my nurses, and they’re gonna be better people.