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Nicole Patton

Mirabel Manager

‘At the essence of it, I like that I work for a charity that believes every child deserves a childhood,’ Nicole Patton said. ‘It’s not rocket science, in fact it’s just humanity. Mirabel is a human story – of kindness, listening and caring for people. It really is that simple.’

Nicole has been there from year one, developing a deep bond as well as a formidable working partnership with Jane Rowe; riding the bumps of Mirabel and life’s fortunes together. Before starting work for Mirabel from Jane’s dining room, Nicole had been working for a parenting helpline and a homelessness service. She spotted an ad for embryonic Mirabel in the employment pages of The Age newspaper, back when those pages existed. Camping with her husband, 25-year-old Nicole read the tagline on the job ad *Every child deserves a childhood* and said, ‘That was all I needed. This was my dream job.’

Magically, she still feels that way a quarter of a century later, even if her current role as Manager Policy, Services & Partnerships has moved away from daily contact with Mirabel kids and carers. Nicole now works in the foundation’s engine room, focusing on Mirabel’s direction, raising awareness and writing grants. ‘I just so believe in what we do and that we actually make a difference,’ she said. ‘It’s my job but it’s also a part of who I am. My kids have never known me to do anything else. If I won the lottery, I would still continue our work on breaking the cycle. I can’t imagine doing anything else.’

