

# Sydney Vinnies

# connect

Winter 2016



New Sub-Conference with Suzanne Schmitz  
from the State Support Office

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## SCHOOL MUMS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Earlier this year the Mums from St Patrick's Primary School at Sutherland decided that they wanted to do more to help others.

They wanted to do so whilst still being able to run their households and maintain an active presence at the school. Along came the dream of forming a Sub-Conference to support the local Sutherland Conference and this dream has now been recognised!

A Conference can be established within any community such as a parish, town, suburb, school, university, workplace, ethnic or social group. Conference members meet regularly and together they visit people in their homes, in hospitals, institutions or wherever else they may be found needing assistance or comfort.

Mouna Roche, Family Educator at St Patrick's at Sutherland is thrilled that their dream of becoming a Parent Sub-Conference is coming to fruition!

"After initially coordinating Mini Vinnies (which I am still doing here at Sutherland), Chris Watson and I have collaborated to form a Sutherland Sub-Conference that is being mentored by Chris and the elders of the Sutherland Conference," says Mouna.

The Sub-Conference had been a very distant thought during my years as Mini Vinnies Coordinator. During my time at St Patrick's and working collaboratively with Chris Watson and the Sutherland Conference during the Winter and Christmas Appeals the relationship formed became an important key to creating depth of purpose of the good works of the Society. After promoting the concept among our community and with an outstanding parent turn out to help with Christmas Hamper deliveries the

Sub-Conference began in Term One of this year.

It is still early days but at the moment the group has 14 members and recently held their fourth meeting in which they all joined in on a training session held by Suzanne Schmitz from St Vincent de Paul Society's State Support Office.

The group is interested in a number of outreach opportunities but their main outreach will be local Home Visitation, firstly being mentored by members of the Sutherland Conference and then working in pairs independently. The mantra of the group has been "Let's get Local!" and is a wonderful example of how everyone can make a difference and offer a 'hand up' to those in need.

When Maureen McDowell one of our members was asked, "How does a mother of 3 find the time to get involved with Vinnies?" Her response was, "How can I not find the time to do this?"

## VINNIES WINTER APPEAL. RETHINK HOMELESSNESS.

For many Australians, winter is a time of sadness and despair. What can you do to change this and where would your donation go?

Last year the St Vincent de Paul Society nationally assisted 1.3 million people, provided 365,164 beds for a nights accommodation and provided hot meals for over 2 million people. This is thanks to support from people like yourselves and this year we ask you to once again help us to make a real difference to the lives of people in your local community who are experiencing disadvantage.

Last year, Sydney Archdiocese Central Council Members and Volunteers assisted 12,596 families where they provided \$2,928,719 worth of assistance to the local communities in the way of food, food vouchers, electricity costs, rent and medical expenses as well as \$645,844 of in kind assistance such as clothing and furniture from our Vinnies shops.

As winter has now set in, it is time to consider all people less fortunate than ourselves, but especially the homeless.

The state of homelessness and rental and mortgage stress for those with a 'roof over their heads' is a reality in today's world. Through home visitation, counselling and financial support, as well as referrals to other Agencies, our members try to provide immediate emergency assistance by giving those we assist a 'Hand Up'. We then work with them on their greater needs, and where appropriate provide either housing accommodation or financial support to enable them to pay their rent and thereby remain in their current residence.

This can only be done through the generous donations we receive from our supporters, so we ask you to consider "Vinnies" when looking to support your local Community.

### Tony Corkeron

Sydney Archdiocese Central Council President



Joan Xu and Greg English

## WHERE THERE'S A NEED, THERE'S A LION

Amelie House, a Women and Children Refuge located in the Sutherland Shire of Sydney has received a generous donation of \$4,000 to go towards the purchase of 16 new trundle beds for the service.

This donation was generously made by the Lugarno Lions Club and Senior Team Leader for the St George/Sutherland

Community Support Services, Joan Xu, was delighted to attend the Lugarno Lions Club annual appreciation night to receive the cheque and give thanks in person.

"New beds will make a huge difference to those we assist and we cannot thank you the Lions Club enough for their donation," says Joan.

It is wonderful to see both of these agencies working together to provide a hand up to families who are experiencing crisis in their life.



## MUMS RECEIVE FLOWERS TO SHOW THEY ARE VALUED

This year many Mums, residing in our accommodation services received a delightful surprise. With the support of Beyond Travel we were able to send flowers and a card to all the Mums on Mother's Day.

Sydney Archdiocese currently operates 4 refuges that provide crisis accommodation and case management for women with children who have experienced domestic/family violence and/or homelessness.

This simple gift showed the mums that they were valued and supported during this difficult time.

The company behind this gesture was Beyond Travel and without them this wonderful surprise wouldn't have been possible. On behalf of those mums treated we thank them for the generosity of their business.

Michael Livalles, CEO of Beyond Travel said, "It was a pleasure for me and my staff. We just wanted to let the ladies know that they are valuable."



## MARY MACKILLOP OUTREACH HAS A NEW HOME

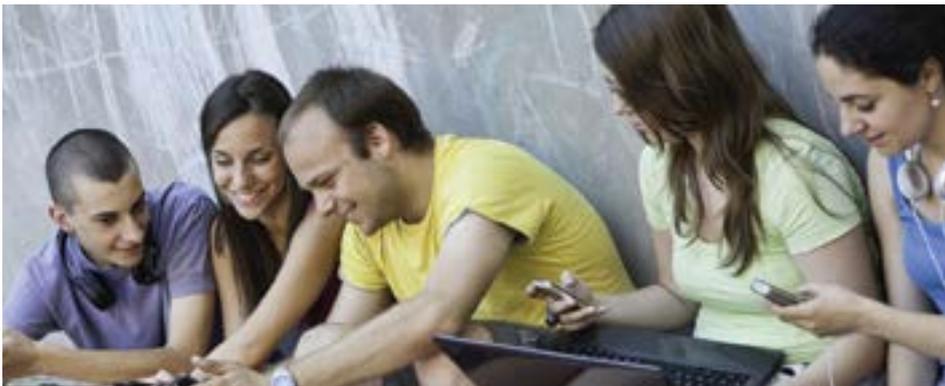
Mary MacKillop Outreach offers an extensive portfolio of educational programs designed to encourage social inclusion, personal growth and significant life skills for people with a disability or mental illness. The service also provides community based activities through regular recreational and educational bus outings.

After a nine year search this popular service is very happy to have a new home in Haberfield, in a spacious, recently restored building surrounded by magnificent grounds.

Kimberley Glavas, senior team member, had this to say about the move. "Our new workplace is a wonderful light filled and airy environment which creates a positive vibe and energy for those who attend or work at the Centre.

The new site is a wonderful example of the Society investing in the community and responding to the needs of people with disability. The space itself is much larger enabling flexibility and choice of space to suit the variety of programs on offer. We continue to have a commercial kitchen and a designated art space. We now have multipurpose rooms, a change room (personal care), spaces to hold meetings of various sizes and a larger green space which allows for programs such as outdoor games and gardening as well as providing a space which creates social communities and connections, enables opportunities for quiet reflection, stress reduction, or simply as a mood enhancer."

Doors to the new site were opened from Monday, 25th May, 2015.



## HOMEWORK HELP GROWING OUR FUTURE

The Homework Help program assists school-aged children with homework or specific areas of learning. Tutors are trained young adult volunteers who take time out of their schedule to help others.

Young Mum Roxy\* has said, "Homework Help has made such a difference to my child – he shares what he has achieved and it's also taken pressures off at home with me busy with two pre-schoolers and

freed us up to enjoy more time as a family. It's his time to interact with wonderful tutors and other children, in an enjoyable learning environment."

The program has grown this year with 12 willing children being supported by 12 generous tutors. Referrals come from Regional Councils/Conferences, Client Support Officers and Community Support Services staff.

## ON OUR WISH LIST

Sydney Vinnies Van Services is a Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society, Sydney Archdiocese Central Council and incorporates Sydney Night Patrol, Liverpool Night Patrol and Brekky Van.

These services provide food, beverages and most importantly, companionship to people experiencing homelessness.

- ✓ Deodorant – male and female spray and roll on bottles
- ✓ Individual toothbrushes
- ✓ Toothpaste
- ✓ Small bottles of shampoo and conditioner
- ✓ Small combs and hairbrushes
- ✓ Sanitary items
- ✓ Disposable razors
- ✓ Small packets of tissues

Please drop-off items to your local Conference, Community Support Centre or to Maria Gordon House, Charles O'Neill Way, 1D Thomas St Lewisham, or call Kaye Joyce on 02 9532 3125 for further information.

Thank you for your generous support!

## MAKE YOUR DONATIONS COUNT

Our Vinnies Centres are always looking for donations of good quality resalable clothes, books and bric-a-brac.

Profits from our retail centres are used to fund crucial services and programs to help those in need in the local community.

*For legal, health and safety reasons, we are unable to accept electrical items, gym equipment, bicycles and scooters, baby equipment including prams and safety seats, medical equipment and household rubbish.*

Please make your donations count. If in doubt, call your local Vinnies shop by finding them on the website: [vinnies.org.au/shops](http://vinnies.org.au/shops)



## THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR CHARITY GALA A SUCCESS

Over \$50,000 was raised at a community gala fundraising dinner and auction hosted by St Vincent de Paul Society Sutherland Shire Regional Council at the Sutherland Entertainment Centre on Friday 29th April.

Frank Tierney, Chairman of the Events Organising Committee and vice president of the Sutherland Shire Regional Council said that with the increased demand on St Vincent de Paul funds, a plan was put in place last year to organise its first fundraising night.

“We are very conscious of the increase in need, among the people in the Shire. I worked with a fabulous team and together we have seen what began as a dream turning into reality,” he said.

“The Gala was our first ever fundraising event and we were overwhelmed by the response, with 295 guests.

The support we received from the local community which included shops and individuals for the auction was amazing. That we managed to raise in the vicinity of \$50,000 to support good works in the Sutherland Region was due to our major sponsors Tradies, JB Distributors, C. J. Doyle Contracting Services and Sylvania BMW.”

The St Vincent de Paul Society Sutherland Shire Regional President Tony Cranney said the proceeds raised on the night will be entirely spent on the needs of the poor in the Sutherland Shire.

“On behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Sutherland Shire Regional Council I would like to thank those who attended for their support and generosity – it was an overwhelming success and the committee looks forward to organising another event in the future,” said Mr Tierney.

## MEMBERS NEEDED!

Here at Vinnies we are always looking for volunteers to join our Society in offering a hand up to those in need.

If you are aged over 16 years we encourage you to join our young adults in a variety of programs and activities.

If you would like to be involved on a more regular basis we encourage you to join your local Conference also doing good works.

To get involved or for further information, please call Kaye Joyce on 02 9532 3125 or email [kayej@sydneyvinnies.org](mailto:kayej@sydneyvinnies.org)

## WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY TO BE INVOLVED WITH VINNIES?

Young people of today are making a huge difference in the world and their local communities and Vinnies staff would be delighted to come and visit your school or university to chat with you about how you can be involved in the work of Vinnies and the programs we run to assist those experiencing disadvantage.

We can also assist by running workshops and presentations to suit your group, be it large or small, and of any age group.

To get involved or for further information, please call Kaye Joyce on 02 9532 3125 or email [kayej@sydneyvinnies.org](mailto:kayej@sydneyvinnies.org)

## PLEASE SUPPORT THE VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Vinnies makes a real difference to the lives of those we support.

Your contribution can make a powerful change to the life of somebody in need this winter and we ask that you make a donation to the Winter Appeal today.



\* To protect the privacy of the people in these stories, we have changed their names and used models in photography.

This newsletter is produced with the generous support of Ckaos (design) and Cosmo Print (print).



# PLEASE SUPPORT THE VINNIES WINTER APPEAL



St Vincent de Paul Society  
NSW  
*good works*

Out here 

## DONATION FORM

# PLEASE SUPPORT VINNIES AND HELP TO RETHINK HOMELESSNESS

(All donations are tax deductible)

### My details

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home/work/mobile): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### One-off gift

\$50  \$80  \$200  \$1,000 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque

(Made payable to St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, Sydney Central Council)

MasterCard  Visa

Card No:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information on:

- Remembering Vinnies in my Will  
 Signing up for Workplace Giving

Please send to:

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Sydney Archdiocese Central Council  
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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!