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Volunteering AT VINNIES



A newsletter for Volunteers

December 2025

Volunteering At Vinnies - Issue 12 - 2025

Advent and Christmas are important times in the Society. Just as the community faces extra stress at Christmas, we're working that much harder in our Good Works because we know what's at stake. There's no doubt it matters.

There'll be emotional fireworks for many of us when delivering the iconic Christmas hampers. It's unforgettable seeing sorrow become relief and gratitude, and families receive children's toys, stocking stuffers and Christmas lunch staples.

It's obvious why volunteers continue to work so hard, mostly unseen, to make our many different Good Works possible. That kind of joy is addictive.

As our State Council President, Peter Houweling, reminds us:

"In this season of celebration, the complexities and challenges of life can be especially clear for many of us and many of the people we assist. It is the perfect time to recognise the call to stand with others, in solidarity and as a love-based response. May this time serve as a time for coming together, cherishing moments, expressing gratitude and reflecting on what is most important."

Message on the Tragic Incident at Bondi

Dear Members and Volunteers of St Vincent de Paul Society NSW,

It is with sorrow that we share with you the below Statement from the Society's National President Mark Gaetani on the attack Sunday evening at Bondi.

Our hearts are with all of those impacted and in particular the friends and families who have lost loved ones...

[READ MORE](#)

Spotlight on



Good Works Summit: Together, We Are More

The inaugural St Vincent de Paul Society NSW Good Works Summit brought together 400 Vincentians for a celebration of Society-wide impact. Members, volunteers and employees converged on Bankstown Sports Club in October for an energising day highlighting the diverse work of the Society, while giving attendees the chance to meet and reconnect with fellow Vincentians from all parts of the state.

[READ MORE](#)



Peter Doris Nominated as Volunteer Leader of the Year

Congratulations to Peter Doris, Wollongong Central Council President, on this honour. Over 30 years, Peter has impacted thousands of lives, leading over 400 members and volunteers. The Southern Highlands Community Foundation also named him as 'Highlands Hero' earlier in 2025.

What's new



Leadership Update – Acting Executive Directors and Director Announced
[Find out more.](#)



Great gift idea – our first poetry book
[Find out more.](#)



Other Hands On Volunteering Opportunities
[Find out more.](#)

Volunteers In Action



The Society Is There When Life Changes – Sarah's Story

This Christmas, Sarah's family don't worry about if they will have a roof over their heads that day, instead, they worry about how early their kids will make them wake up for presents.

[Find out more.](#)



Christmas Magic in Action in Bathurst and Crows Nest!

Bathurst and Crows Nest are spreading Christmas cheer! Volunteers have wrapped hundreds of gifts in Bathurst and turned Crows Nest into a festive wonderland.

[Find out more.](#)



Vinnies Youth Sydney Christmas Event



Anthony Braved Bitter Cold for Brilliant Cause

Vinnies Youth from Sydney gathered at the Vinnies Redfern Support Centre to do what they have been doing all year! Volunteering together and having fun while doing it.

[Find out more.](#)



A Signature Initiative: Good Works Awards 2025

The Good Works Awards honoured recipients during a special ceremony in front of 400 fellow members, volunteers and employees.

[Find out more.](#)

Anthony Patruno, a healthcare professional, committed volunteer in the Society's services, and member of St Thomas Aquinas Conference Bowral, slept out for the first time.

[Find out more.](#)



Team Vinnies Vans is Simply The Best

A rugby league rivalry dating back more than a century provided the perfect setting to promote the impact of our Vinnies Vans.

[Find out more.](#)



Vinnies Service Medallion: First Ever Bronze Medallion Recipients!

On 26 November 2025, the Vinnies Service Medallion team was invited to Cerdon College, Merrylands, to present the first-ever Bronze Medals to 22 students.

[Find out more.](#)



Vinnies NSW attends ACYF 2025 in Melbourne!

More than 6,000 youth and young adults gathered in Melbourne for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, a celebration of faith, community, and action.

[Find out more.](#)

Want to see even more Volunteers in action? Catch up on everything Volunteers and read more stories [here.](#)



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