



St Vincent de Paul Society NSW
Support Services *good works*

Frontline

ISSUE 45 AUTUMN 2014

A NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS OF
ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NSW SUPPORT SERVICES

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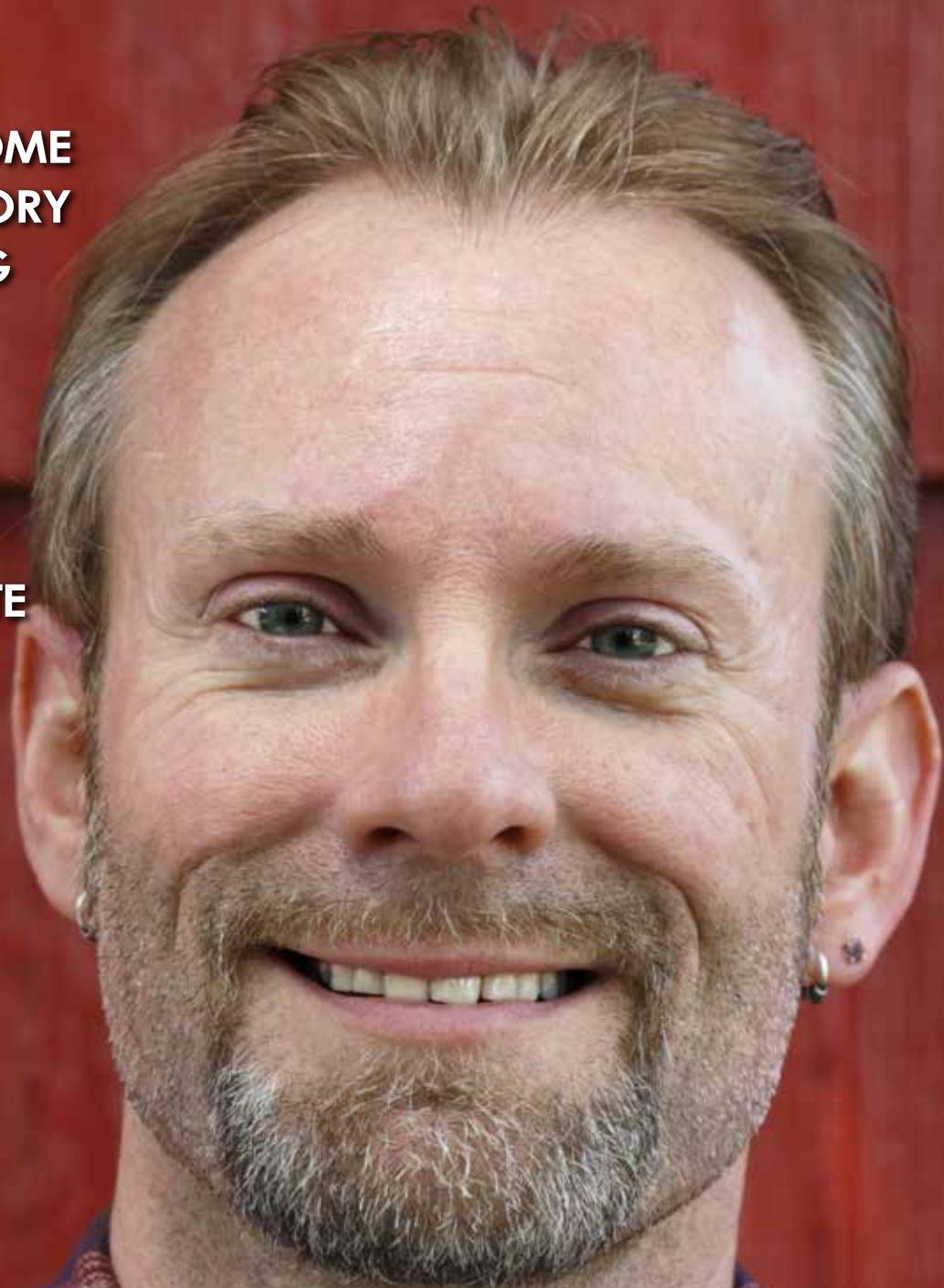
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Thank you for making a difference

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of the work we are undertaking in helping people break the cycle of homelessness so that they can lead independent lives.

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW Support Services has continued to implement its new Service

Delivery Model which sees us embark on a long-term supported journey of the people we assist. This model focuses more strongly on early intervention and the prevention of homelessness.

The Society is in a great position to do this as its network of more than 5,000 members across the State visit people in their homes and are able to provide the material assistance to prevent people from falling into

deeper crisis and often homelessness. Our members can also act as a conduit between the people struggling in towns and cities across the State and our homeless services, so that we can provide the right assistance at the right time.

You will read the inspirational story of Kevin in this edition of Frontline. Kevin has been visiting the Matthew Talbot Hostel and Ozanam Learning Centre where he accesses the various classes to build his confidence and skills. His journey has now seen him move into independent housing.

Thank you for continuing your support of our homeless services and being part of the solution.

Yours sincerely,

Beverly Kerr
President

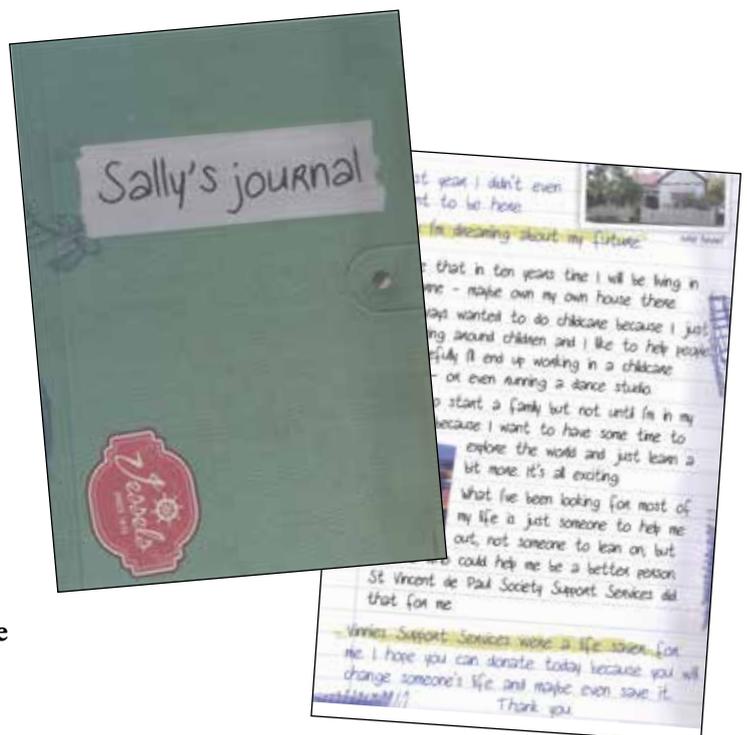
St Vincent de Paul Society NSW Support Services

THANK YOU FOR DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT THIS CHRISTMAS

This year, we asked people to share their reasons for why they help others. What we found was that there were many motivators, from having received help ourselves to being grateful for our own fortune. Whatever your reason, we would like to thank you for your generous donation to our Christmas Appeal. By doing something about it, you are supporting the many Australians who are experiencing homelessness each and every night.

With \$275,000 raised, the Society will be able to support men, women and families on their journey out of homelessness. Our aim is to break the cycle of homelessness and assist people into private or supported housing.

Thank you and know that your generosity has made a real difference to the lives of many thousands of Australians facing life without hope or security.





A PLACE CALLED HOME

In her short life, Philippa has experienced a lot of hardship. As a young girl she relocated many times with her mother and attended numerous schools, always struggling to fit in.

At home Philippa was abused by her step-father which added to her anxiety and depression. Philippa left school at 16 and was kicked out of home by her mother, left to face the world on her own. She relocated to a small rural community in NSW hoping to find a job but her lack of education made it difficult to gain fulltime employment, adding to her desperate situation.

At near breaking point, Philippa was referred to Vinnies Services Deniliquin. Philippa became involved with the Vinnies Reconnect program which offers opportunities and support for young people and families to prevent them from falling into the cycle of homelessness.

Working closely with a counsellor and case manager over a number of months, Philippa moved into secure housing and has enrolled in a Business Course via OTEN TAFE network. A Vinnies tutor assists Philippa to stay on top of her assignments and course work.

Philippa is learning to deal with her past trauma in a positive manner and despite having a long way to go, acknowledges how far she has come.

“The best part is learning, I’m growing every day. I’ve learnt that it’s okay to make mistakes and from those I just learn more,” says Philippa.

Vinnies Services Deniliquin operates an intervention and outreach service as well as conducting routine visits to surrounding communities providing one-on-one counselling and group workshops.

Thanks to your support Vinnies Services Deniliquin assisted 300 adults, 90 young people and more than 300 children in 2013.

When Kevin first came to the Matthew Talbot Hostel over 20 years ago, he would never have imagined in a million years that on a hot summers Sydney day he would be hosting tea for the former Governor General of Australia, Mrs Quentin Bryce at the well-known service in Woolloomooloo.

KEVIN'S STORY

It was in October 2012 that Kevin first met the Governor General when he was invited to join one of the Matthew Talbot staff for an event at Admiralty House to mark Anti-Poverty Week.

"I was excited but a little bit nervous," says Kevin of the experience.

"At the end of the event I plucked up the courage and asked the Governor General if I could invite her for tea at my home at the Matthew Talbot Hostel someday. It was a dream come true when she accepted."

A quick thinker and talker, Kevin proudly gave Mrs Bryce a tour of the Talbot and adjacent education centre, the Ozanam Learning Centre. He told her about all the programs that were on offer to people who were experiencing homelessness including the art program, which Kevin is an active participant in.

"I think the Governor General was very impressed with some of the artworks we've produced as she bought a ceramic plate and bowl to take with her."



The former Governor General visited Kevin at the Matthew Talbot Hostel again last December.

On her second visit, Kevin quickly got Mrs Bryce up to speed on what he had been doing since he last saw her. Now living in private housing, Kevin still accesses the Centre regularly to catch up with his friends, meet his case manager and to take part in a range of educational and art programs.

"I love writing poetry, sculpting and doing creative things and I've started writing a book," says Kevin.

"I'm sure it will include a chapter about the day a man without a home asked the Governor General to tea."

REBUILDING TRUST



From the outside, Carissa seemed to have it all. She was in a happy long-term relationship and was enjoying great success professionally, running her own company.

What people didn't see was that Carissa had a serious gambling problem that was putting her business, relationship and finances at risk. After her mother passed away, Carissa found herself hiding away from the grief by spending hours at a time playing poker machines.

Carissa was living in a state of denial about her gambling problem and it was not until her business was about to go under that she had to face the stark reality. Carissa made the courageous decision to call Gambling Help, a service that offers free face-to-face counselling for people with gambling problems and their families.



THE TALBOT BY KEVIN

The Matthew Talbot Hostel is such a great place to go, the staff make you welcome and that it does show.

The reception is the first place you'll see, with lots of very nice staff just for you and me.

There's different staff that run the desk; Lucy, Bora, Annie, Morgan, Amanda, Mele Jorge, Bruce, Hien, Michael, Neville, Len, Greg and so many more, so why not give respect when you come in the Talbot door.

The kitchen cooks and feeds us, three meals every single day and we're really very lucky that we don't even have to pay.

Gerry runs the kitchen with all the chefs, doing the best they can.

Marty runs the kiosk with all the things we need and if you miss out on a meal then Marty's got a feed.

The kitchen and the kiosk have volunteers that help, and beautiful people they are. They do the job for free and some come from very far.

They've got a laundry so you can wash your clothes and even iron them too, it's run by the beautiful Tongan ladies working that job for you.

The clinic is important, always working like a test, with Julie, Sally Clare, Robin, Kate and Alan all doing their very best.

Upstairs there's a garden roof with a lovely city sight and you can even see it better when you see it in the night.

The OLC has a lot of great courses and is a great place to be. All of the staff will help you, just you watch and see.

Chicka's a good fellow that works in the OLC doing his best just for you and me. Then there's Brett and his team doing their best for us. SO always enjoy the OLC and try not to make a fuss.

There are so many more people that are there to help; case workers, counsellors, doctors, mental health and pretty much whoever you need. So always enjoy the Talbot if not for the doctor then maybe for the feed.

So all I can say is the Matthew Talbot Hostel helped me when I had nowhere to go. So I will always respect the building, the staff and that I do know.



One of Kevin's sculptures

When Carissa first met with Gambling Help counsellors she was full of shame and fear. Counsellors referred her to a financial counselling service as well as a free legal service for people with gambling related issues.

Carissa was determined to overcome her gambling addiction and worked hard on the issues she felt were contributing to her problem. In addition to her own counselling sessions, Carissa and her partner attend a couple's session each week for extra support.

Through counselling and by tackling her addiction head-on, Carissa is slowly rebuilding trust with

her partner, daughters and broader family. After applying for bankruptcy, Carissa has a new business partner and has started another business.

Carissa is no longer gambling and looks to the future with new found determination.

“Knowing how close I came to losing everything makes me determined to keep on track and live a life free of addiction, secrets and debt,” says Carissa.

Thank you for your support, which means people facing this often hidden addiction can turn to us for help.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS



Over the past two decades, the definition of poverty has evolved from solely measuring a person's income to looking at a range of indicators for social inclusion such as access to health services, education and employment opportunities. These are things which many of us take for granted, but which many Australians are missing out on.

The Ozanam Learning Centre (OLC) in Woolloomooloo addresses some of these issues by providing people with access to facilities and courses that will help them develop new skills and increase their ability to break down some of the barriers they face in leading independent lives.

With the combined effort from case managers, volunteers and various corporate partners, the OLC is able to provide a range of programs including computer and digital media training, music production, fitness and nutritional cooking classes, art workshops and TAFE accredited courses.

Warren first came to the OLC two years ago after substance abuse and family breakdown saw him moving from one inner city homeless service to another. Warren had nowhere to go and often ended up sleeping rough on the streets.

Warren began attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at the OLC. Soon he became involved with painting through the art program and then enrolled in a TAFE screen printing course. After completing this course, Warren began accessing the OLC Mac Computer Lab and enrolled in a TAFE digital media course learning about Photoshop programs and how to create digital artworks.

Warren found that using his creativity in a positive and productive way, allowed him to deal with some of the issues he had previously ignored or struggled to cope with.

Feeling stronger, more confident and engaged, Warren eventually moved into independent accommodation and is currently studying a Diploma in Graphic Design at TAFE.

The partnership between the St Vincent de Paul Society and TAFE has proven invaluable for creating pathways for the people we assist to get back into mainstream study and employment.

Thank you for your generous donation that allows many people experiencing homelessness to access education and begin to explore opportunities they would otherwise have missed out on.



JOIN THE 2014 VINNIES CITY2SURF TEAM TODAY

Are you interested in getting fit, fundraising for Vinnies and having a fun day out? Join the 2014 Vinnies City2Surf team today!

Registrations for this year's City2Surf on Sunday 10 August, are now open.

All funds raised for Vinnies will support people and families experiencing disadvantage across NSW. So whether you want to walk, jog, side step, skip, moon walk or run the course, your support will make a life-changing difference.

To register visit city2surf.com.au and select St Vincent de Paul Society from the charity listing menu.



Team members from 2013

Why not join the Vinnies team as a Gold Charity Runner?

- Registration fees will be covered on the proviso that you reach your pledged target.
- Start up the front on race day in a designated Gold Charity start group, leaving after The Sun-Herald red runners, with plenty of space and freedom to run.
- Collect your race pack from the exclusive Gold Charity booth at the Westpac Fitness and Health Expo, with no queue or wait time.

Hurry! Gold Charity spots are strictly limited or alternatively you can still do something about it through general registrations.

If you are interested in joining the Vinnies City2Surf team, either as a Gold Charity runner or a general runner please email kristina.kanaris@vinnies.org.au or call (02) 9568 0266.

Are you ready for the unexpected?

Life has a habit of throwing the unexpected at us, we never do know what's around the corner. That's why it's always important to be prepared, have our financial and legal affairs in order, and know how to access vital information quickly and easily. Having an up to date Will is a very good start.

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW has produced a free and helpful resource called Mapping Your Assets to assist you record your assets and important information.



Simply complete and return this coupon for your complimentary book.

Please tick all that apply

- I would like a FREE copy of 'Mapping Your Assets'
- I would like to remember the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW Support Services in my Will – Please contact me regarding your honorary solicitor service in my area.
- I would like to enquire about the free services you provide to help me make or update my Will.*
- I have already remembered the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW Support Services in my Will

Title.....First Name.....

Last Name

Address

..... Postcode.....

Phone..... Mobile

Email.....

Post to: The Bequest Team,
St Vincent de Paul Society NSW Support Services,
PO Box 19, Petersham NSW 2049 or contact our Bequest
Officers on (02) 9568 0234 or email bequests@vinnies.org.au.



St Vincent de Paul Society NSW
Support Services *good works*

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CORPORATE SUPPORT

The St Vincent de Paul Society is very thankful for the support we receive from our corporate partners in helping us to raise vital funds for our programs across the country.

IGA joined forces once again with Vinnies to help raise over \$420,000 nationally for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Throughout the Christmas period IGA customers could purchase a \$2 Vinnies Christmas bauble or specially marked products with all the proceeds going to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. IGA



Best&Less staff deliver bikes

also auctioned off their IGA branded Vespa LML Star Series Scooter which was featured in their Christmas ad campaign raising an additional \$10,000 for Vinnies.

After the enormously successful fundraising effort by

Holly Kramer, CEO Best&Less at the 2013 Vinnies CEO Sleepout, the St Vincent de Paul Society and Best&Less entered into a new national partnership to continue support for people experiencing hardship around Australia. The *Shop for Good* initiative raised over \$225,000 to assist families struggling with back-to-school costs. By simply purchasing a \$2 Vinnies cardboard T-shirt in any Best&Less store, customers raised funds to provide essential school equipment and uniforms to kids who need it most.

Best&Less head office staff also built 25 children's bikes which they delivered before Christmas to a St Vincent de Paul Society refuge for women and children. One Best&Less team member said, "It was an amazing experience being involved, it was the most moving moment of my life. This is what the Christmas spirit is all about."

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Because we respect the privacy of the
people we assist, names in this newsletter
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All correspondence can be sent to:
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With your help we can make a difference

To make a **regular** or **one-off** donation to **St Vincent de Paul Society NSW Support Services**, simply complete the details below and post to: **PO Box 259, Petersham, NSW 2049**

Type of donation

I would like to make a **regular donation**, through the **Circle of Hope** regular giving club, on the basis indicated at right →
OR

I would like to make a **one-off donation**.

Contact details

NAME

POSTAL ADDRESS

POST CODE:

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

- monthly
 quarterly
 half-yearly
 annually

Donation amount

\$100 \$50 \$300

\$20 \$500 Other: \$

First donation commencing _____ (date) until cancellation.

Credit card details Visa MasterCard Amex Diners

Credit card number:

Expiry date: / Name on card:

Signature:

OR I would like to donate by Direct Debit Please send me a direct debit form



St Vincent de Paul Society NSW
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CALL THE DONATION HOTLINE: 13 18 12 OR VISIT: vinnies.org.au

If you wish to enclose a **cheque** (marked 'not negotiable') or **money order**, please make payable to: **'St Vincent de Paul Society NSW Support Services'**. Post to: **PO Box 259, PETERSHAM, NSW, 2049**

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