

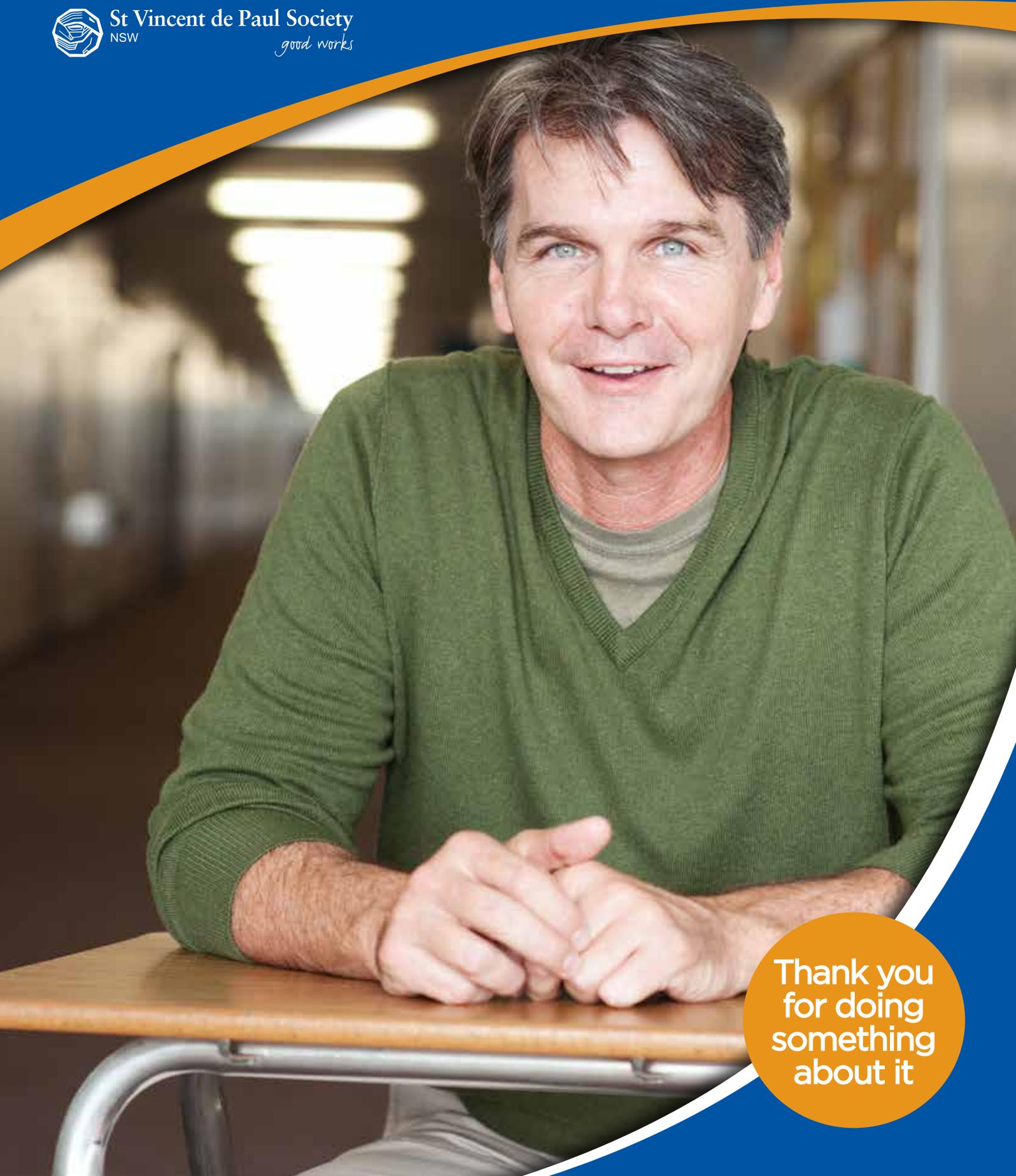
One Voice

ISSUE 37
AUTUMN
2015

A NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY



St Vincent de Paul Society
NSW
good works



Thank you
for doing
something
about it

Dear Friends,



I would like to start by thanking you for standing up against social injustice, when it is often easier to turn a blind eye. It is people like you who make a real difference in the lives of those experiencing difficulties.

This edition of One Voice illustrates what the Society can do with your ongoing support. It is with heartfelt thanks that I share the following stories with you.

In Western Sydney, the Nagle Centre is helping people turn their lives around each and every day. This family care and support service provides crisis support and education and skills programs to people experiencing disadvantage.

Our Spark program proves that compassion still exists for those people coming to Australia as refugees. By assisting families and children with educational and emotional support we can ensure that the transition to Australia is a safer and happier one.

Our rural communities are still enduring the effects of drought and other natural disasters. As they continue to struggle with the financial strain, your support means that we can provide assistance where it's needed most through our Rural Assistance Advisory Committee.

You will read Cheryl's story who has worked in our Ozanam Industries for 50 years. Ozanam Industries proudly employs over 100 people with a disability, allowing them to reach their full potential.

These stories and many other hundreds like them are taking place each day across NSW. It is thanks to your support that the Society is able to provide services, friendship and hope to the many thousands of Australians experiencing disadvantage. Together, we can continue to transform people's lives.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Reynolds
President, State Council
St Vincent de Paul Society NSW

Thank you for your support

Thanks to your support we were able to raise over \$750,000 for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

For most the festive season is a time of joy and celebration but for many Christmas is a difficult and lonely time. Your generosity has meant that we have been able to make some Christmas wishes come true.

THANK YOU FOR DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT



With \$50 we provided a back to school start-up pack for a child.

With \$80 we provided a Christmas dinner for a family.



With \$212 we provided a mum and child with a safe place to sleep.

'One Voice' is produced by Fundraising and Communications, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW.

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Supervising Editor: Julie McDonald Editor: Yolanda Saiz

Design: Phil Carruthers and Claudia Williams

Because we respect the privacy of the people we assist, names in this newsletter may have been changed, stories summarised and pictorial models used.

For more information about the St Vincent de Paul Society, telephone: 02 9568 0262 or visit: vinnies.org.au

Correspondence can be sent to publications@vinnies.org.au

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Creating bright futures

FOR MANY CHILDREN, SETTLING IN A NEW COUNTRY IS A DAUNTING EXPERIENCE - NEW SURROUNDS, NEW SCHOOL, AND A NEW LANGUAGE. HELPING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH SETTLEMENT SINCE 2006 IS THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY'S SPARK PROGRAM.

Spark provides a welcoming environment for children and families of refugee backgrounds through a range of educational, social and cultural programs. Every week volunteers engage with over 300 primary school children and their families in Western Sydney through a homework, English support and activities club.

Many refugee children arriving in Australia are often placed directly in local classrooms, a huge challenge given that many of them are only just starting to learn English and whose parents are yet unable to support them in their learning environment.

This was the case for Heba who, having only recently arrived in Australia, was very shy and reluctant to talk with volunteers and other children. Heba became frustrated and unhappy at school and was forced to rely on her cousin to translate for her as she was not confident enough to speak on her own.

Soon after Heba was paired with Spark volunteer Evan who was able to bring Heba's English along in leaps and bounds as well as bring her out of her shell.

Evan explains that the change and growth he saw in Heba was remarkable.

"The first few sessions working with Heba were challenging as she wasn't confident to do her homework in front of me. After we found some games that she enjoyed Heba slowly began to communicate more with me.

"It has been a great experience seeing Heba's self-esteem improve and seeing her express herself in English. Heba now has the confidence to approach teachers, students and other volunteers and is using her great sense of humour to make them all laugh," says Evan.

Thanks to Spark, school has become a happy place for Heba and she is spreading her love of the program with other new students, acting as a translator and making them feel welcome.

With your help we can make the transition to a new country a safer and more welcoming experience for refugee children and their families.

THANK YOU FOR DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT



Piecing lives back together

AT ONLY EIGHT YEARS OF AGE, NATHAN LOST BOTH HIS PARENTS AND YOUNGER BROTHER IN A HORRIFIC CAR CRASH - A LOSS AND TRAUMA MOST PEOPLE CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE. ALONE IN THE WORLD, THE YOUNG BOY WAS MOVED FROM ONE FOSTER HOME TO ANOTHER, HIS LIFE SLIDING SLOWLY OUT OF HIS CONTROL.

As the years ticked by Nathan found he was making many decisions that set him on a destructive and troubled path. Marrying and becoming a father at a young age, Nathan struggled to keep things together. His marriage ended and left Nathan caring for his young daughter on his own.

Struggling to make ends meet and cope with the responsibility, Nathan visited the Nagle Centre, a Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society located in South West Sydney. A family care and support service, the Nagle Centre provides crisis assistance, referral service and education and skills programs for people experiencing disadvantage and homelessness.

In the beginning Nathan would visit the Nagle Centre for help with bills, food and clothing. However, in the 15 years that have passed since, the Nagle Centre has played a bigger role in Nathan's life than he ever could have imagined, helping him get his life back on track.

With the encouragement of one of the case workers, Nathan became involved in Clemente, a university education program hosted at the Nagle Centre. Clemente aims to break the cycle of disadvantage by providing university education and study opportunities to people who would otherwise not be able to participate.

Despite leaving school when he was only 15, Nathan knew that his eagerness to learn and good listening skills would help him transition into study. Nathan excelled in his learning and studied subjects such as liberal arts, politics and sociology receiving distinctions and credits in numerous subjects.

Nathan credits the Nagle Centre for getting him where he is today.

"If study and support weren't offered to me, I think I would have come out the other end a completely different person to who I am now. I think Vinnies is good for building up people's strength and offering people a foundation in their lives. They gave me a purpose," says Nathan.

The Nagle Centre has an open door attitude and Manager Donna plans to keep it that way.

"There are no appointments needed and most importantly there is no judgement. People can drop in when they need to get a bite to eat, have a shower, get linen or clothing, or even just for a chat," explains Donna.

Nathan agrees.

"Everybody feels comfortable to just come in and talk to someone when they need. The case workers and staff do an amazing job and are always available for you."

With the right support and through his own hard work and determination, Nathan has been able to get his life back on track.

The Nagle Centre's approach has meant that Nathan was not only able to get through a rough financial period in the immediate term but also develop skills that would help change his life in the long-term.

Nathan is now living in independent and affordable housing, studying at university and deepening his connection with his family and community. Looking ahead Nathan is positive about his future and the direction he wants to take.

"I really want to go out there and help people. I want to give something back.

"Each night before I go to bed regardless of the day I've had, I always smile because when you wake up the next morning, it will be a better day. That's the philosophy I get through life with. It's a nice one to have. In the end you've got to make yourself happy," says Nathan.

Thanks to your ongoing generosity, services such as the Nagle Centre continue to provide programs which help people experiencing disadvantage gain new skills and transform their lives.

THANK YOU FOR DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT



Valuing ability

IN 1965, AT JUST FIFTEEN, CHERYL LEFT SCHOOL IN SEARCH OF A JOB. SHE FOUND AN OPENING AT THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY'S CENTRAL SORTING CENTRE AND FIFTY YEARS LATER IS STILL WORKING HARD. SHE HAS ETCHED HER NAME AS ONE OF THE LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEES IN THE SOCIETY'S HISTORY.

In her time with the Society, Cheryl, who has an intellectual disability, spent 24 years working with the Central Sorting Centre, six years with the James Moloney Work Centre in Lewisham involving general packaging and cutting duties, and 20 years at Ozanam Industries in Stanmore.

Ozanam Industries is a Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society dedicated to supplying high quality service solutions to the Australian business community. Ozanam Industries proudly employs over 100 Australians

with varying forms of disabilities at their West Ryde, Stanmore and Coonamble (Western NSW) sites.

Cheryl is a skilled all-rounder at Ozanam Industries and regularly moves between sections when needed, assisting others in whatever way she can.

Ray Reynolds, President of the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW says, "By providing supported employees with better opportunities, it shows people with a disability that the Society recognises them as valued employees and members of the community."

After 50 years Cheryl says that Ozanam Industries and the Society feels like a second home. Quite the socialite, Cheryl regularly organises outings with her colleagues at Stanmore and West Ryde.

Thanks to your support we can continue to provide meaningful employment opportunities for people with a disability allowing them to reach their full potential.

THANK YOU FOR DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT

Rural relief

RECENTLY IN RURAL AND REGIONAL NSW, AN ARMY OF TRUCKS WERE MOBILISED TO DELIVER 8,000 LARGE SQUARES AND ROLLS OF HAY TO STRUGGLING FARMERS AFFECTED BY THE DEVASTATING IMPACTS OF DROUGHT, FLOODS AND BUSHFIRES.

The assistance was provided with the help of the St Vincent de Paul Society's Rural Assistance Advisory Committee (RAAC) which provided \$12,500 in fuel to support the *Burrumbuttock to Bourke Hay Run*. With this support, the group organising the hay run was able to provide over 750 farmers with the equivalent of eighteen truckloads of hay for their use. An additional 19 trucks went to the Brewarrina and Weilmoringle region where 70 farmers received ten bales of hay each for their stock.

The Society is providing much needed assistance and personal support to farming families and rural communities through the RAAC. The committee works closely with people in rural communities gaining firsthand knowledge of the issues these communities are facing day in and day out.

In addition to the effects of natural disasters on livelihood, communities are struggling with increases in utilities, fuel and household expenses. More and more families are turning to the Society to help ease the financial strain.



The RAAC not only support local groups working in rural areas but also provides direct assistance with food, water and power bills, vehicle repairs and registration, medical costs, and phone bills.

This often unsung assistance is making a huge difference to the lives of many struggling rural families. Thanks to your help we're able to make a difference in the lives of our farming and regional communities around NSW.

THANK YOU FOR DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT



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 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 in my Will

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

Last Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Phone.....Mobile.....

Email.....

Post to: The Bequest Team, St Vincent de Paul Society, 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 *good works*

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Helping early learning

AS THE PATRON SAINT OF WORKERS, ST JOSEPH OVERSEES THE EFFORT OF THOSE VOLUNTEERS WORKING TO HELP OTHERS AT THE ST JOSEPH'S WORKSHOP IN GOSFORD.

Volunteers at St Joseph's Workshop work with a healthy vigour, crafting necessities for those who can't afford them, making beds, drawers, cabinets and tables, anything to make life easier for people in need.

Since 1992, over 60 volunteers have dedicated their time and skills to St Joseph's Workshop producing necessities for thousands of people struggling to make ends meet. In the last year over 1600 furniture items were crafted in the workshop and distributed around the Central Coast and Northern Sydney region.

Recently St Joseph's Workshop has been working with Aboriginal education group Gunawirra to help pre-schoolers in Aboriginal communities get an early start with education. Volunteers from the workshop have



designed, made and painted colourful and durable wooden teaching aids with Aboriginal designs to help children to learn at play.

Former Conference President Bruce Dent said that it's a great way to teach children about shape, texture and co-ordination. The teachers were so impressed by the teaching aids they ordered a further 200 to be produced to be able to reach more young children.

Thanks to your support services like St Joseph's Workshop can continue to provide a helping hand to people experiencing disadvantage.



With your help we can make a difference

To make a **regular** or **one-off** donation to the **St Vincent de Paul Society**, simply complete the details below and post to: **PO Box 19, 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**.

- monthly
 quarterly
 half-yearly
 annually

DONATION AMOUNT

- \$100 \$50 \$300
 \$20 \$500 Other: \$

First donation commencing _____ (date) until cancellation.

CONTACT DETAILS

NAME

POSTAL ADDRESS

POST CODE

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

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



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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'**. Post to: **PO Box 19, PETERSHAM, NSW, 2049**

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