

9 May 2016

Vinnies says “THANKS!” to its volunteers

To mark the first day of [National Volunteer Week](#) (9th-15th May) the [St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria](#) (Vinnies) has today issued an official message of thanks to its 10,000 volunteers across the state who work tirelessly all year round to provide a hand up to people in need.

As a volunteer-run organisation, the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society relies almost entirely on the generosity and personal time of people living in communities of all shapes and sizes across Victoria. St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria State President, Mr Michael Liddy, said it is important to recognise and celebrate the work of these individuals all year round.

“The St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria is so fortunate to have the support of over 10,000 volunteers across the state who are dedicated to our mission to show compassion and offer practical support for marginalised and vulnerable members of our community,” said Mr Liddy.

“As part of National Volunteer Week we are proud to join Volunteering Australia and other agencies in thanking our volunteers for their selfless contributions to our community and to celebrate the benefits of volunteering – both for the community at large and our volunteers too.”

National Volunteer Week is an annual celebration marked by thousands of events across the country every year. The St Vincent de Paul Society will be hosting a number of morning teas in its Vinnies Shops and other venues this week to ensure its volunteers have a chance to pause and reflect on the importance of their role.

St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Volunteer Development Manager, Mrs Hazel Maynard, said Vinnies volunteers experience many benefits from giving back to their local community.

“The theme of this year’s National Volunteer Week is “Give Happy Live Happy” because research shows that volunteers live happier and healthier lives and feel more engaged with their local communities,” said Mrs Maynard.

“Our volunteers spend significant time connecting with people and helping to shape their experiences of our many services and shops. They touch the lives of thousands of people every day for which we are very grateful.”

The St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria offers a range of volunteering opportunities for those interested to build new skills and social connections in their local community.

“We offer retail and service roles in our Vinnies Shops; tutoring programs for disadvantaged children; soup van meal services for people experiencing homelessness; frontline call centre positions; friendship programs for people experiencing mental illness; and personalised home visitation and material aid programs through our local Conference groups,” said Mrs Maynard.

“The St Vincent de Paul Society is well positioned to cater for a range of volunteers and to work with the community to not only offer opportunities, but to build new roles and programs too. We welcome ongoing collaboration to ensure our programs are responding to the specific needs of local communities across Victoria.”

If you would like to learn more about volunteering for the St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria and opportunities available in your local area, please visit www.vinnies.org.au, email volunteer@svdp-vic.org.au or phone 1300 736 933.



St Vincent de Paul Society
VICTORIA
good works

- ENDS -

MEDIA ENQUIRIES: St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Marketing & Communications Manager
Haley Price | haley.price@svdp-vic.org.au | 0448 386 917 | 03 9895 5884

About the St Vincent de Paul Society:

The St Vincent de Paul Society and its wide network of members and volunteers provide practical frontline support, advocacy and friendship for the most vulnerable members of our community. Key services include home visitation; youth programs; soup vans; assistance for asylum seekers and refugees; compeer programs for people experiencing mental illness; education and tutoring; and a range of professional accommodation and health services through the VincentCare network. The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia has more than 40,000 members and volunteers. Internationally, the Society operates in 149 countries and has over 950,000 members. To find out more visit www.vinnies.org.au.