



Practical Activities to put your Faith in Action- What can Schools do?

“It’s a struggle between those who have nothing and those who have too much. The violent clash of luxury and poverty is shaking the ground under our feet”

Frederic Ozanam

Mini Vinnies (Kinder to Year 6)

- Learn about issues on a term by term basis, homelessness, poverty, social justice and tie one of these into the Winter and Christmas appeal
- Assist a Student program
- Make hampers for your local refuge or nursing home, Family Boxes of love for everyone
- Adopt a Night – Night patrol
- Make mini toiletry packs for the homeless
- Make biscuits/cake/food for brekky van clients
- Write stories, poems, make cards for brekky van clients
- Have parents make soap for brekky van clients
- Put together a goody bag filled with vouchers for your local area, such as a free coffee, or \$10 off lunch at certain businesses, send this to Vinnies stores or local refuges
- Visit local nursing home just to spend time with them
- Have a street walk to see homelessness (Year 5 and 6)
- Present at assembly once a month on what you’ve learned or are doing
- Make contact with the local Adult conference to see what they are doing and can help with
- Create a knitting club and knit for nursing homes, Night Patrol, Brekky Van
- Sleep out in school library to raise awareness
- Be a guardian angel at lunch and look out for other students sitting alone
- Hold a grandparents day at school
- Holding a rice day where everyone pays what they may normally spend at the canteen to receive a simple bowl of plain rice
- Create artwork for a local refuge
- Hold a mini markets – the school donate items to sell at stalls
- Provide recipes from home and create a recipe book that can be sold at the school
- Assist the maintenance staff with the garden and the grounds, ‘Care for Creation’





Lower High School (Year 7 – 10)

- Participate in homelessness interactive experience: <http://playspent.org/>
- Participate in refugee interactive experience: <http://www.msf.org.au/rciyw/>
- Offer to help in local Vinnies centre
- Visit Local nursing home, local youth centres
- Have a street walk
- School buddies' day, arrange activities within the school for the morning (similar to Saturday sports, could have the same thing once a month)
- Arrange a fashion show with the help of the local store, Fashion for Compassion
- Prepare an Op Shop Ball, purchase the clothes from your local store and the funds go straight to Youth
- Make contact with the local Adult conference to see what they are doing and can help with
- Present at assembly on what you are doing
- Make contact with a Mini Vinnies school and encourage them or help them with what they are doing
- Invite a parent to attend a meeting
- Have a local member from your adult conference attend a meeting to share what they do
- Hold a 'cleaning out your closet appeal' to collect clothes to deliver to the local store
- Create artwork for a local refuge
- Create and maintain a prayer garden, assist the staff with the maintenance of the school grounds
- Help out with the gardening at local refuges or nursing homes
- Hold a 'crazy sock day' in support of the Winter Appeal to have fun and raise funds
- Create Pamper Packs for Women in local refuges
- Make shoe boxes of 'Love' to send out on Brekky Van or Night Patrol
- Run a 'Multicultural Day' to promote cultural awareness and appreciation
- Create a food roster for cooking for needy families from within the school, once a month
- Sell sweets at the canteen with a raffle ticket attached and have 3 prizes if you buy the sweets from Vinnies
- Hold a 'Get to know you' lunch for old people from the local community
- Help clean the local church/parish hall
- Hold a book drive to collect books for the local refuges, Night Patrol and Brekky Van

High School (Year 11 – 12)

- Participate in Youth programs such as Brekky van, Buddies' days, Green team
- Have a street retreat and meet up with the Night Patrol Van
- Get involved with Homework help
- Hold a local Buddies' Day at their own school
- Visit children at the local refuge to play for a few hours





- Assist the distribution Centre at Auburn
- Assist their local store with mannequin dress
- Provide breakfast in the mornings during winter for those in the school in need or those from the local primary school in need

BASIC EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOUR MINI VINNIES GROUP CAN DO

1. A fund-raising activity each term
2. A pastoral activity each term
3. An environment activity initiated and maintained.
4. An outreach to other members of our school community
5. A fortnightly meeting.

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

- Term 1 Bring and Buy sale - pre-loved books, toys, games etc.
- Term 2 Talent Quest
- Term 3 Dress up as a favourite Book, Movie or T. V character or famous person.
- Term 4 Toy Show

PASTORAL VISIT

Each term the members of the Mini-Vinnies will visit the local hall or nursing home to meet and entertain some elderly residents for an hour.

ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITY

Depending on the structure of the grounds, there may be scope for the children to be involved in gardening activities. Once the workmen have organised the grounds, there may be opportunities for the Mini-Vinnies to be responsible for their upkeep. It is hoped that a 'Peaceful Spot' can be made for those who wish to enjoy some quiet time on the playground.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

To focus on the total school environment, the children will be encouraged to take care of each other on the playground. They were asked to be particularly aware of those children who isolated, upset or troublesome, then to invite them to join in with a group.

To focus on the school environment on a global level, students are encouraged to bring in a gold coin to fund a student to attend school in Asia. This is part of the Assist a Student program and gives those children overseas a chance to have an education.

USE OF FUNDS

The funds raised at each activity will be used to assist the needy families in the school Community.





BASIC EXAMPLE OF WHAT CAN BE DONE ON A YEARLY LEVEL IN HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR SEVEN

Create artwork for the local refuge and be responsible for liaising with Vinnies for the drop off and presentation of such artwork.
Form a connection with the local Adult Conference, build and maintain this relationship so it can be carried on each year. Present at assembly on what the conference is doing and what you are learning.
Form a connection with the local Mini Vinnies group. Go and attend one of their meetings to provide support and encouragement.

YEAR EIGHT

Create a school level green team that assists the maintenance staff and looks after the school prayer space within the garden. Create this space if the school doesn't already have one.
Participate in a street walk and present back to the group and the school on what you learnt.
Visit the local nursing home or Youth centre to entertain and bond with the clients.

YEAR NINE

Help plan and implement a local Buddies' day within the school.
Form a connection with the local Adult Conference, build and maintain this relationship so it can be carried on each year. Organise for a member from the local Adult Conference attend a meeting and present on what they have achieved within the community.
Plan a meeting that involves the group completing one of the interactive experiences online.

YEAR TEN

Present a fashion show with the help of the local Vinnies Store.
Lead and Coordinate a local Buddies' day within the school.

YEAR ELEVEN AND TWELVE

Participate in Youth and Young Adult programs such as Brekky Van, Buddies' days and Night Patrol.
Visit the local refuge to play with the clients.
Assist the local Vinnies store with the dress of the mannequins and stock layout.

* Please note that all of the activities listed with Kinder to Year 6 can be modified and performed in high School *

