



Vinnies Youth volunteer rewarded for dedication

Vinnies Youth volunteer Daniel Ingledew has been rewarded by the charity organisation for his dedication to helping children in southern Brisbane, receiving a Vinnies Value award from Vinnies Queensland CEO Peter Maher recently.

Mr Ingledew volunteers with Vinnies Youth's Soccer Stars program in Moorooka and was involved in founding and establishing the program which brings children from various backgrounds together for fortnightly regular games of free recreational soccer on Saturday mornings.

The 21-year-old volunteer has a reputation among the children as well as his fellow volunteers as someone who always goes the extra mile for the participants and families involved in the program, as evidenced by his attendance at 25 soccer stars mornings in a row in 2017.

The Greenslopes resident was also a leader at a Vinnies Kids Camp and a trip for soccer stars participants to a Brisbane Roar match as part of his ongoing commitment to volunteering, all while completing an honours degree in psychology from the University of Queensland, from which he recently graduated.

Mr Ingledew said it's the smiles on the faces of the Soccer Stars participants that drives him to give up his time each fortnight.

"I just enjoy playing soccer with the kids and you can see how much fun they are having, and it is just really fulfilling that we can make their day in a sense," he said.

"We can bring them a really fun morning and see the smiles on their faces once every two weeks knowing that we are making a difference to them and their parents as well."

Mr Ingledew said his involvement with Soccer Stars came about after speaking with St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland Youth Engagement and Development Officer for Brisbane Anthony Forshaw, after earlier being involved with Vinnies in high school.

"I met up with Anthony a few years ago and he mentioned that he had this idea of starting up soccer stars, so I got involved from day one which was really cool," he said.

"At my high school they had a Vinnies group and I started with that when I was in grade 9 because it appealed to me and I really enjoyed it and enjoyed all the activities involved with it.

"Then after I finished high school I was looking to get back involved so I got in contact with Anthony."

Mr Forshaw said Mr Ingledew was a worthy winner of the Vinnies Value award.

"Dan works with all children in an unconditional, enthusiastic and positive manner with the aim of increasing their self-confidence, he has also mentored new Soccer Stars Leaders, providing them with guidance, support and leadership skills," Mr Forshaw said.



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Mr Ingledeew said Soccer Stars which supplies shin pads and socks as well as morning tea gives the children involved a fun and active morning each fortnight which can make a real impact on participants' mental and physical well-being.

"It's such a simple thing really, playing soccer with them every second Saturday but it does make a difference and they tell us that and we can see that in their face as well which is really cool," he said.

"The kids just want to have fun they are not looking to make big life choices or anything like that, they just want a break from it all and sometimes just playing soccer is that."

Vinnies Queensland's Soccer Stars program is open to children aged between 8-11years old and runs fortnightly on Saturdays in Moorooka and Zillmere.

For more information on the soccer stars program contact Vinnies Youth QLD on 3010 1073.

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