

MEDIA RELEASE**20 February 2018****25 YEARS OF VINNIES CARE IN FRANKSTON**

Arguably the most visible face of the St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria, Vinnies Shops offer quality pre-loved clothing, household items, furniture and bric-a-brac at reasonable prices to fund crucial support to people in need in the local community.

On 23 February, Vinnies Shops will be celebrating 25 years of care and service to the people of Frankston.

Taking up the opportunity to celebrate this wonderful occasion—and to meet Vinnies Frankston’s wonderful volunteers—is Frankston councillor Steve Toms.

Also present will be St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria’s Vice President Michael Cashman, St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Mornington Regional Council President Michael Quinn and St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria General Manager Retail Jeff Antcliff.

“Twenty-five years in a community is a significant time,” said Mr Antcliff. “Vinnies is a quintessential part of the Frankston community, loved for its role in helping to raise funds for people doing it tough and as a friendly point of contact for locals, too.”

“This 25th anniversary feels like the perfect opportunity to promote, recognise and thank our wonderful volunteers for serving the people of Frankston.”

Long-term volunteer Lorraine Auchetl said that while the shop moved from its former premises in Ross Street to its current location in Young St only a year ago, it’s enjoyed a long and happy presence in Frankston.

“Many of our customers followed us to our new shop,” said Lorraine. “And it’s not just because we have a great selection of quality second-hand clothes and bric-a-brac, I’d like to think it’s also because they like to shop here. No-one rushes anyone, and we’ve got quite a lot of young volunteers in their early 20s and even younger.”

Twenty-year-old volunteer Brandon Urquhart says there’s a real sense of community at the shop.

“When I first started almost a year ago I thought I wouldn’t last, but here I am. Still. And I love it. Knowing that I’m working in a shop that’s helping people—that I’m really giving back—is a great feeling. It’s really fulfilling.”

As part of the 25-year celebrations—for one day only—**on 24 February**, there will be 25% off all stock storewide. Every dollar raised will go towards helping to assist someone doing it tough in the local community.

Be part of the action and head down to the shop early in the week to bag a bargain, or for a slice of cake and colourful conversations with our volunteers at 12.30pm–1:30pm on Friday 23 February 2018.

Visit www.vinnies.org.au/shops for more information about Vinnies Shops. Share your finds online and hashtag #FoundItAtVinnies.

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PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: The media is invited to attend Vinnies Frankston 25th birthday celebration:

When: 12.30pm – 1:30pm on Friday 23 February 2018
Where: 80 – 82 Young St, Frankston 3199

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; Vinnies Shops; youth programs; soup vans; assistance for asylum seekers and refugees; compeer programs for people experiencing mental illness; education and tutoring; and professional accommodation and health services through VincentCare. The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia has more than 60,000 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.