

MEDIA RELEASE

30 April 2018

VINNIES' ONLINE AUCTION: OUT OF THIS WORLD

Science fiction fans rejoice. Beginning **1 May and running until 4 May**, the St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria (Vinnies) will be holding a once-in-a-lifetime auction of rare and collectible busts, figurines and statues from movie franchises, including *Star Wars*, *Iron Man* and *Avatar*.

Stand-outs include limited edition boxed sets of Gentle Giant Star Wars Han Solo with Boba Fett In Carbonite, Marvel's Iron Monger 1/6th scale Limited Edition Collectible Figurine MMS 164, Gentle Giant Star Wars (The Empire Strikes Back) Darth Vader Limited Edition Statue, and a DC Direct black and white Batman statue by Tony Daniel.

St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria General Manager Retail, Jeff Antcliff, said this isn't the first time that Vinnies received 'the holy grail' of collectables from an anonymous donor.

"Vinnies is often the first point of call for people wishing to donate their beloved collections," he said. "I think this might be because we have a reputation for really treasuring our donations and ensuring that all our sales help to fund meaningful, local works of charity."

Another thing that often has customers walking through Vinnies Shop doors, Mr Antcliff adds, is nostalgia.

"I certainly haven't forgotten the first time I saw *Star Wars* as a teenager—it was exciting and exhilarating because it felt so out of this world.

"I know that there are many people out there who also have a soft spot for *Star Wars* and the whole Marvel/DC/science fiction universe and, with this auction, we're giving people an opportunity to snag a piece of pop culture history.

"We've also done our research. Looking at similar items online and elsewhere we can see that we've been bequeathed some very rare items, which at some online stores are commanding prices upwards of \$700 –\$1,000."

While this auction presents a unique and special opportunity, all money raised will go towards funding Vinnie's core services, such as home visitation that provides the basics like food, vouchers, clothing, furniture and school expenses, and Vinnies Soup Vans, which deliver food and friendship seven days a week, 356 days a year.

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

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RESOURCES:

- Pics accessible [HERE](#):
- Link to auction [HERE](#).

EVENT DETAILS:

When: Tuesday 1 May 2018 – Friday 4 May 2018

Where: eBay Stores

Why: To fund St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria's volunteer-run services

Contact: St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Retail Marketing Coordinator

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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.