

Schools Newsletter

Term 4 2023

Canberra / Goulburn



2023 Christmas Gift Wrapping sketch captured by Urban Sketchers

Vinnies at Christmas

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Merry Christmas

from the Youth Team

**VOLUNTEER
WITH VINNIES**

Make the most of your Summer break and
volunteer at a Vinnies Shop!

Vinnies at Christmas

This year we have three different resources to help you navigate the 2023 Vinnies Christmas Fundraisers. We have the Christmas Schools Kit, Activity Booklet and our website. The Schools Kit includes information about why to donate, what to donate and how to donate. Our Activity Booklet includes activities to help guide Mini Vinnies Meetings or Classroom Activities. These resources and more can also be found on the Teachers Resources page on our website.

The Vinnies Christmas Appeal aims to raise funds for our Companions ahead of Christmas ensuring that we can continue to support our Companions during one of the most difficult times of the year. In 2023 we have continued to see raising inflation putting pressure on Australians and making people experiencing disadvantage more disadvantaged.

The Vinnies Giving Tree ensures that we share the spirit of Christmas. We give gifts like the Three Wise Men that began the tradition of Christmas gifts with their gifts to baby Jesus and St Nicholas (Bishop of Myra) who is known for his kindness and generosity especially to those who were financially disadvantaged; St Nicholas also inspired the concept of Santa Claus who brings joy to children around the world.

If you have previously organised Christmas Appeal with your local Conference, we encourage you to continue to do so, it can also be helpful to ask them what they need as each Conference's needs may differ.

If you would like to donate to the Vinnies Giving Tree, please complete this form:
<https://forms.office.com/r/8FhcghCmE3>

This form helps us to coordinate donation pick up and drop offs and record donations. If you are wanting to donate gifts to our Youth Programs, St Joes and St Nicks the final day of collection is Monday 4 December 2023. If you would like to donate towards Family Services they are requesting gifts for ages 12 and over.



2023 Fundraising Initiatives

To Inspire Your Primary School for 2024



Winter Appeal Fun Day

St Vincent's Primary School held a Winter Appeal Fun Day in August. Year groups had a different donation focus and as such a different dress-theme. By having year groups focus on a different item to donate it naturally sorts the donations which helps us quicken our sorting process.

Year K-1 dressed as superheros and donated cans of soup, Year 2-4 dressed in pyjamas and donated winter-woollies and Year 5-6 had crazy hair and free dress and donated hygiene products. Despite being a small school, St Vincents was able to fill the whole Night Patrol Van with their generous donations.



Hygiene Packs

St Joseph's Primary School in O'Connor have set up a regular donation station for students to donate hygiene items such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, baby wipes and more. Their donations go to help people experiencing homelessness and disadvantage in the Canberra community.



To Inspire Your Secondary School for 2024

Music Concert

Sophie, a year 12 student from Canberra Grammar School shares her unique fundraising initiative.

On the 22 of June, I held a musical concert titled Moonlight Recycled at my school - Canberra Grammar School.

For one of my year 12 assignments, I was required to hold and organise a musical event. My objective was to create a musical event that allowed contemporary musicians at my school to perform in a professional context.

Additionally, I wanted to use the concert as an opportunity to raise funds for Vinnies. This is related to the concert's theme of promoting recycling goods as Vinnies has many op-shops that support the circular economy, as well as providing many other essential services for the Canberra community.

The concert featured multiple rock groups formed within the school, as well as multiple duet and solo items. It ran for approximately an hour, and through ticket sales I raised around \$2700 for Vinnies.



Walking Tour

Lumen Christi Catholic College took their Year 9's on a Walking Tour, where they visited services, including Vinnies, in their local area of Pambula. On the tour, students learnt about how different services help their community.

Students visited the Vinnies Shop for a 15-minute talk and tour where they learnt about the cost of living, the purpose of Vinnies Shops and the sorting of donations. Teachers then gave groups of students \$10 to spend in the Vinnies Shop with the intention of finding an item that could be auctioned off for more money in their "LCCC Bargain Hunt". The money raised from the auction was donated to Vinnies with the winning students each getting a Vinnies Gift Card to use as they pleased.



Service Day

At the end of term 3 we had an amazing opportunity to work with a year 9 group from a Canberra school. The day begun with a talk from Vinnies staff followed by some at school volunteering.

During the talk we highlighted a few key programs that Vinnie's does in our local communities as well as future opportunities for the students to volunteer. After this we gave students an opportunity to do something hands on, the students did a competitive baking activity where they baked goods that were donated to our night patrol van.

2024 Interschools Mini Vinnies Event

As many of you know we host an interschools Mini Vinnies event each year for Primary Schools. Based on your feedback we have decided to host this event at the end of Term 1 to ensure that schools have time to arrange 2024 Mini Vinnies participants (and Captains if applicable).

For this event we request that each school brings a maximum of 2 students to the event, your group may decide to meet prior to the interschools event to discuss their contribution.

Based on the regions of the schools that advised us of their presence earlier this year, we will aim to have an in-person event in Canberra and the Westen Region.

Please note, the main focus of Mini Vinnies is giving people a hand-up. Things your group could do include, visiting a retirement village to keep people company, raising money for your local fire service, learning about sustainable recycling, or donating food to a local food pantry. Being a Mini Vinnies group is about continuing the charity work of St Vincent de Paul, the group does not have to specifically raise funds for Vinnies or call themselves “Mini Vinnies”.



Get Involved

Service Days

Service days have been a way for schools to do large group activities based around some form of community outreach. There have been some schools that have started to get us involved in their service days. Service days can look different depending on your school's context and needs.

Summer Volunteering

Make the most of your Summer break and volunteer with one of the many Vinnies Shops! We are actively looking for volunteers between November to February and offer flexibility and no long-term commitment.

We welcome groups and individuals and children as young as 10 years of age with a parent.

Did you know by volunteering in a Vinnies Shop, this allows us to put the funds raised from the sale of goods directly back into the community?

Make a difference this Summer and sign up to volunteer by completing the online form here

<https://stvincentdepaulsocietycanberragoulburn.snapforms.com.au/form/summer-campaign-enquiry-form> or simply pop into your local Vinnies Shop.

If you have students looking for some way to contribute to their community outside of the school year, we would love to have them help in our stores. This is an amazing way to give back to your community during the season of giving and it is a great time to meet some members of our Vinnie's community.



Contact

To make a booking or for any enquiries please contact:

schools.cg@vinnies.org.au

If you have any inquiries relating to student volunteering opportunities please contact Travis Ngatuere:

Travis.Ngatuere@vinnies.org.au

For any teacher or adult related volunteer enquiries please contact:

volunteer.cg@vinnies.org.au

For more resources visit our website:

<https://www.vinnies.org.au/act-surrounds/get-involved/schools-engagement-act-surrounds/teacher-resources>



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as the Traditional Custodians of this land, with deep respect. May Elders, past, present and emerging, be blessed and honoured. May we join together and build a future based on compassion, justice, hope, faith, and reconciliation.

