

## The difference you make



### A FUTURE FREE FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FEATURES THE PUSH FOR SOCIAL HOUSING • BUSHFIRE **RECOVERY GRANTS • THE MAN BEHIND FREEMAN HOUSE** 

RENEWS REBUILDS **RESTORES** 



#### Dear friends

The past 12 months has upturned our lives. Destruction of bushfires, the coronavirus upheaval and economic hardship have created a collective trauma

for so many who yearn for a return to the 'normal' of the past.

I too look forward to the day when we are able to travel freely and visit loved ones and the needy without apprehension. However, it is important that we take stock of this historic moment and reimagine what our society can be.

This past year proved what is possible when our society shows compassion for those in need. Our political leaders managed to house the homeless. while people living below the poverty line were afforded a dignified quality of life through the JobSeeker supplement. We should not accept a return to a 'normal' where our most vulnerable are forced to choose between keeping the lights on or putting food on the table.

In these challenging times where many are faced with uncertainty, it is important to remember the example set by Christ - "for even the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve".

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW is able to help people in a variety of ways. In all, when we provide food and material support, foster a sense of community and advocate for more social housing, our members, volunteers and staff do so with love and care for those assisted. In all, we see a more just, compassionate and spiritual society.



Peter McNamara **State President** St Vincent de Paul Society NSW

#### In this issue of Impact

- **GUIDING JOANNE TO A BETTER LIFE** Having endured domestic violence at the hands of her ex-partner, Joanne and her children are building a new life free from abuse.
- **IN CARDIFF** 94 families in the Hunter have a place to call home as a result of Vinnies' social housing

**NEW SOCIAL HOUSING OPENS** 

**BUSHFIRE RECOVERY FUNDS HELP DRAKE REBUILD** 

partnership with the NSW Government.

With the backing of a bushfire recovery grant, the north coast community of Drake is building back from disaster.

**BALLINA'S HOMELESS CAN NOW ACCESS PERSONAL SUPPORT** A new drop-in facility in Ballina is providing locals

in need with a range of personal care services.

#### **SOCIAL HOUSING DEBATED IN NSW PARLIAMENT**

A petition with more than 10,000 signatures have backed a campaign calling for more social housing throughout NSW.

**GETTING BACK ON HIS FEET** After losing his job due to COVID-19, David is finding his way back thanks to the support of Vinnies.

- THE HOUSE DON HELPED BUILD Meet Don Hewitt, the man who paved the way for Freeman House - a lifeline for regional people struggling with addiction.
- **CONNECTING THROUGH CREATIVITY**

In addition to providing food and shelter, Vinnies Services allow people to express themselves through creativity.

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(02) 9568 0262 or vinnies.org.au. Correspondence can be sent to media.nsw@vinnies.org.au









#### Messages of thanks

HERE ARE SOME WORDS OF THANKS AND HOPE FROM PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES **HAVE BEEN TURNED AROUND THANKS** TO YOUR SUPPORT.

- My sincere gratitude to you people for making it feel like Christmas - my spirits are lifted. - Este
- Vinnies have given me my dignity and I'm forever grateful for their help. - Rachael
- The whole team has been amozing; I've got a friend there when I need someone to talk to. They can give you hope and that's more than anyone can ask for. - Sharnee
- With a young daughter and a son arriving any day, having safe and stable housing means the world to me. - Chloe
- Vinnies supported me by finding accommodation and funding part of the cost, I could not have done it without them as I could not find an affordable property. - Anthony

### Highlights of our work last year

WE RECENTLY RELEASED OUR ANNUAL **REPORT 2019/20, HIGHLIGHTING OUR IMPACT THROUGH STATISTICS AND** STORIES OF PEOPLE WE'VE ASSISTED **OVER THE PAST YEAR.** 

Here are some of the highlights - all made possible thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, as well as our dedicated members, volunteers and staff.



the number of visits our members made to people's homes, hospitals, aged care facilities and prisons to offer support

55,000 total number of people assisted by our members with food, clothing, financial aid and other assistance



people supported by our health, housing and homelessness, disability and community inclusion programs



to people and communities impacted by the bushfires in NSW

READ THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY **NSW ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20 ONLINE AT** NSW201920.VINNIES.ORG.AU

# Guiding Joanne to a better life

**JOANNE SUFFERED YEARS OF ABUSE AT THE** HANDS OF HER PARTNER. WHEN HE FINALLY LEFT, SHE WAS UNPREPARED FOR THE PAIN HE WOULD CONTINUE TO INFLICT.

Cut off from her finances, caught in a draining legal dispute and without a close network to call upon, the support of Vinnies provided the mother of four with a path to a better life.

Joanne remembers a time when her financially secure life was "happy and comfortable".

However, when her youngest daughter was born, a daily barrage of verbal abuse began, too, leading to a toxic environment which ultimately turned physical. Having undergone surgery for back pain a year earlier, the impact of being pushed against a wardrobe saw one of the cords in her spine dislodged.

With police taking out an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) following the altercation, the abuse continued in the form of coercive financial control.

"The day he left, he cleared out the bank account, froze the credit card and paused the home loan," Joanne explains. "I found myself in credit card debt and no money left for household expenses, food or school fees."

A few days later, a threatening notice from her ex-partner's solicitor informing her to vacate the family home resulted in legal action which took a toll on both her finances and wellbeing.

"My ex-partner would come to the house vowing the children and I would be 'homeless and hungry'. It was really tough on them going to the courts and telling their story, but somehow they found the courage, even though they lived in fear."

Continuing to work throughout the legal proceedings, the mounting expenses saw Joanne turn to her local parish and primary school for help.

"The school immediately gave me food vouchers and boxes from Vinnies and asked me to reach out for support - but I didn't for a long time.

"I just quietly waited for them to put food vouchers in my letterbox, as I was so ashamed in asking for help.

"It wasn't until my youngest daughter went to bed hungry when I knew I had to swallow my pride and reach out, as I had no choice if we were to survive."

After making the choice to reach out for help, the care provided by a nearby Vinnies Conference and

Community Support Office helped turn the tide for Joanne and her family.

Gaining assistance with fresh fruit and vegetables, household bills and court-mandated family counselling, the comfort of knowing someone was in her family's corner helped to alleviate the pain her former partner had inflicted.

"At the time, it felt as though we were alone in Sydney with no family networks or support to fall back on.

"It was a long and expensive process, where our lives were on hold until a decision was made.

"Vinnies helped me with so many things. I wouldn't have been able to continue with my medication or my children's orthodontic treatments at a time that was critical to their health and wellbeing.

"They empowered me and showed my children that they matter."

Joanne and her children are now free of their abuser and beginning a new life close to family interstate.

Once again, Vinnies stepped up before they left with food vouchers to help the family acclimatise, as well as providing presents for the children to enjoy a Christmas to remember following years of unrest.

"The courts have given me full custody of my children and he is not to have any communication or access.

"We feel empowered and comforted because Vinnies opened a door and gave us reassurance that we would be okay.

"Vinnies is there to help and don't judge you in any way. They will be there to help you through the hard times and guide you to a better life."

The experience of Joanne and her children is a harrowing yet tragically common instance of domestic violence.

One in six women in Australia have experienced domestic violence by a current or previous partner during their lifetimes.

According to a 2020 study published by the Australian Government's Institute of Criminology, the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic coincided with an onset in cases of domestic violence against women. This period of time also saw an increase in the frequency of domestic violence committed against women already suffering at the hands of a current or former partner.

#### hlighted in the

- One in 20 women (4.6%) experienced physical or sexual violence during the first three months of the pandemic:
- 5.8% experienced coercive control, such as monitoring whereabouts, belittling/derogatory comments and financial abuse;
- One in 10 (11.6%) experienced at least one form of emotionally abusive, harassing or controlling behaviour perpetrated by a current or former cohabiting partner;
- Two-thirds of women who had experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former

cohabiting partner since the start of th COVID-19 pandemic said the violence started or escalated:

 More than half who experienced coercive control reported the onset or escalation of emotionally abusive, harassing or controlling behaviours during the COVID-19 pandemic

If you haven't already donated to our Autumn Appeal, please make a gift now to support people like Joanne to find safety and a path to independence.

Donate online at vinnies.org.au/ autumnappeal, using the form on the back of this magazine or calling 13 18 12.



## New social housing opens in Cardiff

IN MID-JANUARY, ST VINCENT DE PAUL HOUSING (SVDPH) OFFICIALLY OPENED ITS NEW SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPLEX, THE RENDU APARTMENTS, IN CARDIFF, WEST OF NEWCASTLE.

As part of the NSW Government's Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF), the St Vincent de Paul Society will be providing ongoing support to the residents.

In a COVID-safe, outdoor gathering, St Vincent de Paul Society members, volunteers, and staff marked the milestone with a small ceremony and blessing.

Guests included the Minister for Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, The Hon. Gareth Ward; Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Kay Fraser; and the Most Reverend Bishop William Wright.

NSW Society State President, Peter McNamara, was unable to attend in person but, thanks to the lessons learned in the pandemic, he was able to give an address via video.

He spoke about how the Society's capacity to help has grown since it was founded in the 1830s and the importance of helping in areas of need like the Hunter.

"Who could have imagined not just two centuries ago but even two decades ago that we would be providing 94 families with a home, coupled with personal support from the Society members, volunteers and staff?"

In his speech, Minister Ward referenced the Gospel of Matthew and the

importance of building on solid foundations.

"The solid foundations here are not just the bricks and mortar that we see in these 94 units around where we are sitting today but they are the people that will provide those vital supports, the care, the hearts and the hands that will be here to assist those people who are doing it tough."

Maitland / Newcastle Central Council President, John McKendry, spoke about how his Council settled upon naming the development for St Vincent de Paul Society co-founder. Sister Rosalie Rendu.

"As well as being a co-founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society, she started the Daughters of Charity. The Daughters of Charity established - I presume it was a convent - in Sandgate ... a nearby suburb to here."

Ahead of performing the blessing of the Rendu Apartments, Bishop Wright spoke about the importance of the Society's work in living the teachings of Jesus Christ.

"Lightening people's loads, their burdens, letting them have the security, the feeling of rest of being able to be at home, where they are – these things are part of Jesus' call 'come to me you are weary and burdened, I will give you rest'.

"So, we celebrate the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society through its conferences and through its special works in continuing to offer that invitation."

The Rendu Apartments mark the end of SVdPH's construction commitment to the SAHF, with all of the properties under SAHF's first round of funding now delivered.

St Vincent de Paul Housing CEO, Brian Murnane, was the last speaker but was focussed on the future and the ongoing need for more social housing.

"We know, Minister, that you are a great advocate for social and affordable housing in the Government and we stand ready to do more. If you've got the money, we've got the capability to deliver more."







### DRAKE'S SEWING CIRCLE IS LEADING A REVIVAL OF THE COMMUNITY HALL, THANKS TO VINNIES BUSHFIRE RECOVERY FUNDING AND DONATIONS FROM AN ANONYMOUS VINNIES VOLUNTEER.

Oddly, this hamlet between Casino and Tenterfield gets its name from the 16th century English sailor Sir Francis Drake who circumnavigated the world but came nowhere near the NSW far north coast.

Despite a confusion of names over the years, including 'Fairfield', after a local property, Timbarra, and the Aboriginal name of 'Wattum birrabin', meaning flying gliders, the township settled on Drake, after the County where it was located.

The surrounding countryside was hit hard by the bushfires of 2019/20, with homes, properties and livelihoods shattered. Vital to helping restore the community's spirit has been the support of organisations such as Vinnies, which has provided more than \$20,000 worth of assistance from our community bushfire recovery grants programs.

The funding has enabled the purchase of two large capacity water tanks and air conditioners, plus ten sewing machines and storage cupboards to help the rebirth of the popular Drake Sewing Circle, a fine example of the adage that "a stitch in time saves nine".

Like the other activities based at Drake's community hall, which was hand-built out of local timbers and mud bricks, the Circle shut down because of the bushfires, and then COVID-19.

In the process of administering the grant money our Richmond region President Michael (Mick) Albany mentioned the sewing circle to one of his members in Ballina, a woman known for her sewing skills but whose eyesight was failing. Above (I-r), Kris Love, Richmond regional president Mick Albany, Progress Association President Roger Turner, Amanda Hartley and Doree Hartley.

"This kind soul, who insists on remaining anonymous, offered to donate all her sewing materials to the Drake group," Mick recalls.

"I thought this would amount to a couple of cardboard boxes, but it turned out to be, quite literally, a truckload."

The scrap materials and equipment had been collected over twenty years, during which time the donor ran a successful haberdashery business and never let scraps go to waste. Mick Albany borrowed a truck from Vinnies recycling centre in Goonellabah, loaded up the donations and headed off to Drake where the sewing circle was set to resume making repairs and alterations, quilting, general family sewing and crafting goods for sale in the local market.

The Society's bushfire funds have also enabled the re-flooring of the craft gallery at the multi-purpose Drake Village Resource Centre, costing \$3,575. The previous floor was collapsing, threatening the only outlet for the paintings, jewellery, woodwork and other creations by talented locals.

"Our mission is to provide the community of Drake with the resources for each individual to realise their own potential," read the centre's funding submission.

Progress Association president Roger Turner expressed the community's gratitude to Vinnies for our valuable support: "Without these grants it would take much longer to give the hall the upgrades it needs, and to enable the gallery at the DRVC to be back in business."

St Vincent de Paul Society



# Ballina's homeless can now access personal support

BALLINA HAS A SPECTACULAR LOCATION, SITTING AT THE MOUTH OF THE RICHMOND RIVER AND PROVIDING A BASE FOR VISITORS FLOCKING TO THE PRISTINE BEACHES, FROM ANGEL'S FLAT ROCK TO LENNOX HEAD AND UP TO BYRON BAY WHOSE NAME IS NOW INCLUDED IN THE FLIGHT DESTINATION: BALLINA BYRON GATEWAY AIRPORT.

But there is a lesser known reality to life in Ballina (and for that matter, Byron Bay) – it has one of the state's highest homelessness rates. According to the last Census more than 500 people in the Ballina Local Government Area were either homeless or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

They bed down in parks and beach dunes, the backs of cars, in budget caravan parks and boarding houses, or couch surf in overcrowded households. All of this is unseen by visitors and most locals who regard the area as a piece of sub-tropical paradise. Aware of the pressing need to help people on the margins recover some dignity in their lives, the St Vincent de Paul Society recently opened a weekday drop-in service offering a range of personal care

services. These include light refreshments, showering facilities, outdoor space for socialising, computer access, medical and nursing care, Centrelink engagement service, legal and housing support, and psychological and counselling services.

The well located service is named Mary's Place in honour of Aileen Mary Delaney who made a generous bequest to the Society.

Adjacent to Mary's Place but independently accessed is Harmony House, owned by, and leased from, Ballina Parish. The three-bedroom service provides accommodation for residents transitioning back into community living after facing challenges that may have included homelessness. Harmony House retains its original name but has been fully refurbished and upgraded.

"Research shows that Ballina experiences significant levels of disadvantage compared to NSW generally in terms

of income, education and employment opportunities," said Niamh Mannion, Executive Director Vinnies Services.

"Members of St Francis Xavier Conference Ballina were active supporters of the project, and helped generate community backing for its development. Ballina Shire Council backed the project from the start, as did Ballina MP Tamara Smith, and local service clubs and businesses.

"It has been a wonderful community endeavour, with everyone recognising the need for a service of this kind. Living rough is a terrible experience, exposing people to violence, robbery, sexual assault and a loss of personal dignity that is hard to recover from.

"Vinnies has a long history of supporting vulnerable community members, and this service is well placed to undertake some wonderful work."

Mary's Place is the latest such service run by Vinnies on the Far North Coast of NSW, following the successful establishment of Fred's Place in Tweed Heads and Pete's Place in Coffs Harbour. These services are assisting up to 90 people each day.

### Social housing debated in NSW Parliament

### OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, OUR MEMBERS AND STAFF HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK CAMPAIGNING FOR THE NSW GOVERNMENT TO INVEST IN MORE SOCIAL HOUSING.

Defined as secure and affordable rental housing for people on low incomes with housing needs, the current waitlist for social housing in NSW is made up of 51,000 applicants or the equivalent of more than 100,000 people in need of a home. For many, the time spent waiting can run up to ten years.

In September 2019, we launched Build Homes, Build Hope, a social justice campaign calling on the State Government to build an additional 5,000 social housing properties each year for the next decade.

To achieve this ambitious, yet vital, target, Vinnies members set about meeting with their local MPs and collecting 10,000 signatures for a petition to be tabled in NSW Parliament. Amid the challenges of the Black Summer bushfires and COVID-19, a total of more than 13,000 signatures was delivered to Alex Greenwich, Member for Sydney, in October 2020.

On 18 February, the petition was debated in NSW Parliament where MPs from all sides of politics spoke on the importance of social housing in all parts of the state

Alex Greenwich hosted an event in the Jubilee Room at NSW Parliament House where Gareth Ward, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services; Melinda Pavey, Minister for Water, Property and Housing; and Ryan Park, Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness addressed a delegate of Vinnies members. Labor MPs Chris Minns and Jodie Harrison were also in attendance on the day.

"We are in an enormously difficult time – a time where many of our children will never be able to live in the suburbs and communities where they grew up in," said Ryan Park.

"If I could just wave a magic wand I would love nothing more than to do 5,000 homes every year for the next ten years; but let's be realistic to the treasury and the responsibilities we have," said Melinda Pavey.

During the petition debate, Jenny Leong, Member for Newtown, spoke passionately on the responsibility of government to ensure residents have a safe and secure place to live.

"If we are in this place to do one thing then surely it should be to deliver safe, affordable, habitable and secure homes for the people of New South Wales," said Jenny Leong.

Jack de Groot, Vinnies NSW CEO, spoke following the conclusion of the debate with a message on the overall quality of life that comes with having a place to call home.

"Sometimes we get confused in NSW about the value of property. We forget about the fundamental value of a life that flourishes in a home - that's what we're about."

Thanks to the support of donors like you, we are able to advocate for social change by raising awareness of issues affecting people experiencing hardship and disadvantage.

To learn more about our advocacy work and campaigns calling for a more equitable NSW, sign up to our monthly Social Justice e-Newsletter at http://bit.ly/VinniesSJnews or contact social.justice@vinnies.org.au





### Getting back on his feet

### YOU MIGHT REMEMBER THE STORY OF DAVID, WHO BECAME THE FACE OF LAST YEAR'S ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS APPEAL.

We caught up with him ahead of Christmas, when he dropped by one of our Community Support Centres to pick up a hamper for his family – and some presents for his kids.

David had been receiving help because, like many Australians affected by COVID-19, he had lost his job.

He was put in touch with the Society through a friend shortly after he was notified by his employer.

This was a rough time for David but he managed to finish 2020 on a much higher note - he found work again.

David wants full-time work and the job he's found is part-time but, he says, it's had a strong positive impact on his outlook and his life.

"I just feel heaps happier, in general, again. Because I can actually do stuff again. Not to mention we're allowed to go back out. So, I can do stuff with my kids and actually have a bit of cash now to do stuff with them," he said.

In further happy news, it's not just any job David's got. "Getting my old job back was really good. I didn't have that fear of going into a new job or anything, I went back to a place that I was familiar with and people that I knew. Not a lot of us but maybe about five or six of us came back when it opened. So, I got to see a couple of people that I used to work with as well."

David says that re-establishing ties to his old job and colleagues has put him in a much happier place.

"It's great, it's fantastic, it's good. I don't feel so down and so low on myself. I have a bit of self-esteem again," he said.

David credits the St Vincent de Paul Society with making a difficult time in his life easier to deal with for a range of reasons.

"Honestly, if Vinnies wasn't there earlier on in the year, I definitely reckon I would have struggled and just knowing that I have you guys there to support was a good thing."

The impact the Society had on his life extends to his family as well, especially his kids.

His kids are smart and empathetic, they knew he was going through rough times and he says it affected them, too.

"They could see me stressing and struggling so, obviously, when they see that Dad is down and out it affected them as well. So, now they know that I've picked up my spirits, they've picked up theirs as well. They could see, too, earlier on in the year when I had the help from Vinnies, that without that we didn't know what we were going to do. They could understand that as well."

Now that conditions have improved for David and his family, he says he's keen to help others like the Society has helped him.

"I'm hoping that I can start helping you guys now. For next year, I can be the one that's sort of helping people, like Vinnies did for me."







THE 14TH OF FEBRUARY 1966 IS KNOWN AS THE DAY AUSTRALIA INTRODUCED DECIMAL CURRENCY. THE DAY ALSO MARKED A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN THE LIFE OF DON HEWITT WHO BEGAN AN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NSW THAT HAS LASTED 55 YEARS.

Joining Vinnies as a 27-year-old as a means of living out his faith – "I'm not much good at prayer, but I'm pretty good at action" – Don was recently nominated alongside more than 5,500 people for an Australian of the Year award in recognition of his lifetime of community work.

Among Don's greatest achievements during his time with the Society was helping to establish Freeman House in Armidale, a service designed to support regional people struggling with addiction.

Spending his early years as a member of St Joseph's Conference in Armidale supporting people through home visitations, Don identified a cohort of older homeless men who spent their time in local parks accompanied by flagons hidden under a brown paper bag.

"The police used to come around and they had no option but to put them in a jail cell for the night until they dried out, then put them on the street again," recalls Don.

Making the decision as then incoming Regional President in 1979 to purchase the nearby Crescent Guest House for \$25,000, a new Special Work - St Augustine's - was formed specifically to support people struggling with addiction. The site was also designated as a proclaimed place which provided the police with a legal alternative where people in need

could take a shower, enjoy a meal and find comfort in a new set of clothes.

"People found the comfort of the Society members and wanted to stay. Some of the best people who helped us were the people that we'd helped."

Over time, the service was redeveloped with two adjoining properties purchased to offer additional programs, while funds provided by Vinnies and state and federal governments in the 2000s saw it transformed into a leading residential rehabilitation facility named after Cardinal James Freeman.

Today, Freeman House performs a vital role as the largest residential rehabilitation service in northern NSW. With the closest service offering withdrawal facilities located four hours away in Lismore and Newcastle, Freeman House acts as a haven offering long-term drug and alcohol rehabilitation, crisis accommodation, inpatient treatment, aftercare support and programs to accommodate patients with young children.

While much has changed at Freeman House over the past four decades, Don's original intent of providing a supportive environment for people struggling with addiction remains as strong as ever.

"Whenever people set foot in Freeman House for the very first time, they're on the road for success. Their efforts to get into Freeman House is a step in the right direction."

Thanks to the support of donors like you, Freeman House has been able to help 875 adults over the past decade address addiction and rebuild their lives.



# Connecting through creativity

ALONG WITH PROVIDING PEOPLE WITH A
PLACE TO SLEEP, REGULAR MEALS AND
MEDICAL TREATMENT THROUGH OUR
VARIOUS VINNIES SERVICES ACROSS THE
STATE, WE ALSO OFFER A RANGE OF
PROGRAMS ALLOWING PEOPLE TO FIND AND
SHARE THEIR VOICE THROUGH CREATIVITY.

One such service is Creative Space Southern Highlands in Bowral. Opening in late 2017 as an initiative of the former Ability Links program to promote community inclusion, Creative Space is a welcoming and accessible environment for everyone to come together through a shared love of creativity and making art.

Over the past year, it has brought together people of all abilities to build confidence, share their knowledge and gain new skills. The service supported in excess of 110 people, who refer to themselves as Makers, during this time.

For Tania McInnes, Creative Space Art Coordinator, the service is much more than its name suggests.

"Creating a place of welcome is key," explains Tania. With the impact of COVID-19 preventing people from



attending regular workshops and classes in person, Tania has worked to keep the spirit of Creative Space alive by producing creativity packs available for contactless pick-up or delivery.

Catering to individual's creative preferences and interests, packs range from ceramic and wooden items to decorate, pre-stamped canvas postcards to send to 'someone who needs to hear from you', drawing and painting supplies, craft, clay and small sculpture resources.

"We have tried to be as responsive as possible to continue providing social connection and a strong sense that we are here operating.

"Many Makers were unable to leave their homes or couldn't afford to purchase materials they'd like to use, so it's wonderful for us to be able to continue to answer that call."



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To make a regular or single donation, simply complete your details and post to:

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ON BEHALF OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ASSISTED BY VINNIES LAST YEAR... THANK YOU.



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works