

... I've been three days without food, Anon. Today I am... One more over  
Liz 19. Today I am... Fight for life. Today I am... I make up stories in my own  
about my mum in hospital she has a headache. I have no idea if she will be okay.  
I don't know how to be happy anymore, Gred. Today I am... I'm going to try and  
look around for breakfast. Sometimes I find a bit of loose change to get me thro  
to feed my family with, John 47. Today I am... I slept all day so I don't get h  
ss and loneliness, Jinnie 28. Today I am... I've been three days without food  
lie. Today I am... I am lonely, Liz 19. Today I am... Fight for life. Today I  
42. Today I am... I feel worried about my mum in hospital she has a headache.  
I'm as far from happy. I don't know how to be happy anymore, Gred. Today  
I'm... I look around for breakfast. Sometimes I find a bit of lo  
y I am... Die for a drink, don't feel sorry for me, don't feel sorry for anyone,  
s, I would starve, Darwick, c/o the push and long grass. Today I am... I have  
ouse, William 35. Today I am... I sleep anywhere when I find somewhere, sa  
more overdue bill, one more worry, Kylie. Today I am... My feet are swollen  
g myself because I was hurting inside, I burned myself and I missing teeth and  
is grey, today nothing will be ok, today I am hungry and cold, today I cannot  
years, tomorrow watching and waiting for me to try, tomorrow, its either that or d  
l. Today I am... I was slapped in the hand and it hit the bone and killed off ha  
en institutionalised and have been for twenty years, Jan. Today I am... I don't h  
e to this world, I am so alone, nothing ever goes right, why doesn't anyone listen  
... that I had... that I had...



## TODAY I AM...

In the winter of 2009 the St Vincent de Paul Society set out to give those in need a voice of their own. The Society did this by asking people overwhelmed by life's hardships to contribute to a journal. The journal would show one thing: what their TODAY meant to them. The journal contained the thoughts and feelings of real Australians whose lives have been wrenched off course by unemployment, family breakdown, mental illness and poverty. Throughout this report you will see snippets of their journal entries alongside the work and people of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Every day across Western Australia people are turning to the St Vincent de Paul Society for help and the Society's volunteers and staff are dealing with complex social and financial problems that require practical and in most cases immediate solutions. Together with the ongoing generosity and support of the Western Australian community, we can help make their TOMORROW different.



76 Abernethy Road Belmont

PO Box 473 Belmont WA 6984

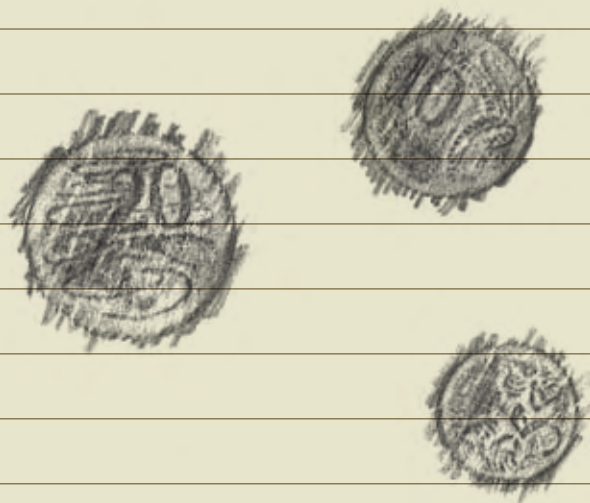
**P** 08 9475 5400

**F** 08 9475 5425

**E** [info@svdpwa.org.au](mailto:info@svdpwa.org.au)

**W** [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au)

This is ALL I have.  
To Feed my  
Family with









introduction : : *hope. comfort. dignity.*

## ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE



The St Vincent de Paul Society is a movement based on faith and inspired by the values of the Gospel. It is a vibrant example of people living biblically. Vincentians bear witness to the Gospel through the work of the Society which continued through 2008-09 to restore hope and dignity to those most marginalised in our community.

The Society's mission to create a more just and compassionate community continues to be addressed through the many good works it undertakes, including working with disadvantaged young people, the sick, the lonely, the homeless, those with a mental health diagnosis and those in crisis. In this work over the past year, the Society has responded to calls for help from those most in need and has served these members of our community with compassion and dignity.

Frederic Ozanam, Founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society, once said:

*"Yours must be a work of love, of kindness, you must give your time, your talents,*

*yourself. The poor person is a unique person of God's fashioning with an inalienable right to respect. You must not be content with tiding the poor over the poverty crisis: you must study their condition and the injustices which brought about such poverty, with the aim of long term improvement".*

The Vincentian vocation asks you to give what you can of yourself with the aim of assisting those who need it most and to understand the purpose of meaningful assistance that offers people respect and a hand up, rather than just a hand out.

Since 1865 the St Vincent de Paul Society members have been giving to the West Australian community in response to their own personal calling to help others. Through their service, Vincentians have shared with our community their gifts of compassion and love. I encourage all West Australians to find the flame within to want to help others and I encourage you to share your time and talents with those most in need through the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

I am delighted with the Society's accomplishments throughout the year, and

I congratulate the Society in WA and all its members for their good work in bringing hope, comfort and dignity to all in need over the past year.

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ,

Barry James Hickey,  
Catholic Archbishop of Perth.



## STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*"We must turn our energies towards the future in creating new, more effective ways to serve our neighbours in need."*

Everyone loves a great story. Some stories get our attention and just will not let go. Throughout this report, we are going to share with you some of the stories of the people the St Vincent de Paul Society assists on a regular basis – all these stories collected over the last financial year are true, while the names and personal details have been changed they are a clear example of the ongoing need in the West Australian community.

Though the Society's work, we believe numerous steps were taken over the last year to make a difference to the lives of many West Australian's in need and while not all stories have a happy ending, we know the compassion and love of our volunteers has allowed a small window of peace to individuals and/or families struggling under the weight of their problems and in some cases it is this intervention that has changed the ending of their story to one of hope and possibilities for the future.

Of all the challenges and development during my first year in office, I believe the most important was the review and subsequent implementation of new Governance arrangements for the State

Council and Management of the Society. The role and authority of the State Council has been strengthened and the positive relationships the Council have with all have been consolidated. We have created two new Committees - Strategic Planning and Governance that will provide support and challenge to the Society's staff and State Council. All other Special Works Committees remain committed to sharing their experience and expertise wherever relevant and beneficial to those we serve, I thank all the volunteers who sit on these Advisory Committees for assisting us in our work.

It has been a challenging time for the Society dealing with the fall out of the economic downturn, while many in the community have experienced a slowdown in demand for their goods and services – the demand for assistance through the Society and the impact on the workload of our staff and volunteers has increased. In order to meet this demand we have called on the community to support us financially and I would like to thank and acknowledge all our benefactors for making the financial sacrifice in difficult economic times to help another person. You have made a significant impact on the lives of people in need and have been an integral part of us being able to deliver the assistance required in the stories to follow in this report.

The St Vincent de Paul Society is privileged to partner in many unique and creative ways with a wide variety of organisations, both corporate and community, with the combined mission of assisting people in WA. I would like to acknowledge and thank our corporate and community partners and in particular acknowledge the ongoing committed support we receive from Lotterywest.

For the future, we know we must turn our energies towards creating new, more effective ways to serve our neighbours in need. Together must begin to prepare for a future where more people will fall victim to poverty, will come to us for help and will look to us to fight the adversity that causes them to suffer. I hope with this in mind that those of you who can will continue to give financially to support the Society's work and if not financially then by offering your time and talents as a member or volunteer of the Society.

In conclusion, I gratefully recognise the Society's achievements over the past year and acknowledge the assistance, care and devotion of our members, volunteers, donors and staff.

**Clément Astruc, State President**



## CEO'S MESSAGE



*"Much has been achieved and, with your help, the Society can continue to serve the people of Western Australia in our great tradition of care and compassion."*

This year has been very busy from a service delivery point of view. The demands for assistance, as reflected elsewhere in this report, highlight overall increased demand for services, especially in response to the fluctuating economic and job environment. This in turn has required us from an operational view point to organise our work in a way that meets this demand, provides our members, volunteers and staff with the necessary skills to carry out their roles and has necessitated us to seek and encourage community support.

All operational areas within the Society – Finance, Human Resources, IT, PR & Fundraising, Membership & Development as well as our Conferences and Special Works have actively contributed to this operational direction and have allowed us to be able to respond to the needs of the community, for this I thank them.

As part of this direction, we have continued to work on Parish partnerships and explore opportunities to develop new Conferences within emerging communities. A decision was also made in the last financial year to

implement a ninth Region to the metropolitan area – the newly formed Peel Region has taken in parts of the existing large and diverse Fremantle Region and incorporates the Peel area and surrounding communities, and is already busy responding to call for help.

Training and development of our members and volunteers has continued to be a priority for the Society. Training has provided our members and volunteers with opportunities to network and offer one another support and friendship while gaining the adequate skills and knowledge to deal with the ever increasing complex situations they find while conducting their work. The focus on training within the Society will continue as part of the strategic directions in place by State Council.

The continued upgrade of our Vinnies Centres have seen an encouraging response not only from our volunteers who have welcomed the clean and bright new environments, but importantly our customers, who have responded positively to the new shopping environment. The upgrades have directly led to an increase in customer patronage and in turn we have seen an increase in revenue that has helped us to be able to respond to the increased demand from the community. All up, over 38 Vinnies Centres have been upgraded with plans for the final Centres to undergo their upgrades in the coming year.

Our Public Relations and Fundraising efforts have continued to ensure that the Society and its work remains at the forefront in the public arena – the ongoing support we receive from the media in response to our campaigns have continued to allow us to highlight some of the social justice issues affecting some of our communities most marginalised – I would like to thank them for this important contribution. Our ability to provide services to those in need is very much reliant on the Society's capacity to raise funds. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors, grant providers and corporate and community partners for their ongoing commitment to the Society's work; they have actively made a contribution to the hope, comfort and dignity on many in our community.

In closing I would like to thank all Society staff, members and volunteers for their continued service to the community through their work. Much has been achieved and, with your help, the Society can continue to serve the people of Western Australia in our great tradition of care and compassion.

**Alan Jennings, Chief Executive Officer**



about the society : : *hope. comfort. dignity.*

## OUR MISSION



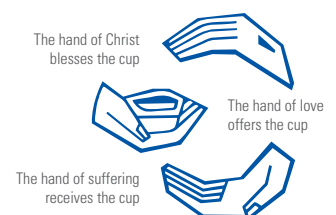
The Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

### Our Vision

The St Vincent de Paul Society aspires to be recognised as a caring Catholic charity offering "a hand up" to people in need. We do this by respecting their dignity, sharing our hope, and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.

### The Meaning of the Logo

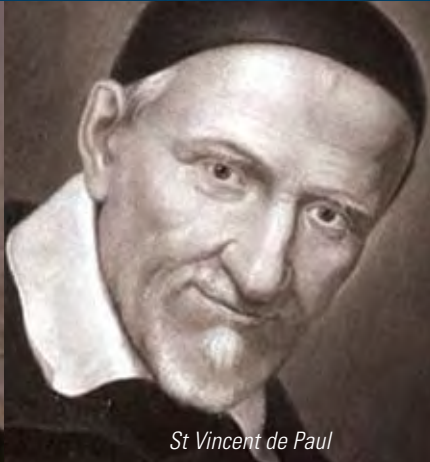
The logo is the symbol of the St Vincent de Paul Society in many countries and was designed by Australian sculptor, Tom Bass. It represents the hand of Christ that blesses the cup, the hand of love that offers the cup and the hand of suffering that receives the cup.



## OUR HISTORY



Blessed Frederic Ozanam



St Vincent de Paul



### THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY – BEGINNINGS

The St Vincent de Paul Society continues to honour its founder and patron and its members remain inspired by their teachings and the example of their lives.

#### Frederic Ozanam - Founder

The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded in Paris in 1833 by Frederic Ozanam.

At the time, Frederic was 20 years old and a student at Sorbonne University. At the time, the people of France were experiencing tremendous political and social upheaval: changes in government, the Industrial Revolution and unjust employment practices. Frederic along with six of his university colleagues wanted to respond in a practical way to the poverty and hardship they saw around them. Frederic and his group visited people in their homes offering them friendship and support. This practice, known as Home Visitation, remains the core activity of the St Vincent de Paul Society members and volunteers today.

The group formed by Ozanam and his friends became known as the first 'conference' of the St Vincent de Paul Society. They met regularly as a group to discuss the challenge of assisting the poor and offered each other mutual support in their spiritual vocation.

Frederic Ozanam died in 1853, aged forty. At the time of his death there were approximately 2,000 conferences operating throughout the world.

Frederic Ozanam was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1997.

#### St Vincent de Paul – Patron

The Society is named after St Vincent de Paul, who was born in Southern France and ordained a priest in the year 1600 at the age of 19.

As a young man he ministered to the wealthy and powerful; it wasn't until he was appointed to a poor parish that his vocation to work with those most powerless and marginalised was inspired. From then on he devoted his life to helping the underprivileged. There was no form of poverty - physical, emotional or spiritual, which he did not try

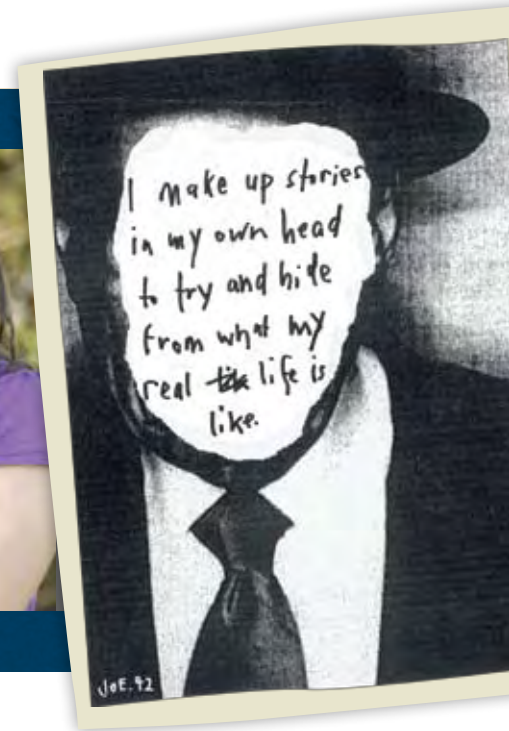
to alleviate. Vincent pledged his life to the sick, insane, orphaned, old, starving and imprisoned.

He urged his followers to bring God's justice and love to people who were unable to live a full life.

*"Deal with those most urgent needs. Organise charity so that it is more efficient. .... teach reading and writing, educate with an aim of giving each the means of self support. Intervene with authorities to obtain reforms in structure. ....there is not charity without justice."*

Vincent de Paul died in Paris on 27 September 1660 at the age of 79. He was canonised on 16 June 1737 and in 1833 the Church designated him as the special patron of all charitable organisations.

## THE SOCIETY IN WA



The St Vincent de Paul Society operates in 144 countries and has over 950,000 members worldwide. In Australia the Society is active in every State and Territory; there are currently 40,000 members nationally.

Western Australia's inaugural conference, the Perth Conference, was launched on the 8th of December 1865, just 32 years after the first conference was founded in Paris.

For over 144 years through local parish based volunteer groups and Special Works, the St Vincent de Paul Society has sought to create a more just and compassionate society by responding directly to needs identified in the community.

The Society is made up of committed men and women of all backgrounds and ages who have made a commitment to the mission of the Society and who work together in unity to assist people in need in the West Australian community.

### In the 08/09 financial year there were:

Parish Conferences	77
Members	909
Youth & Young Adult Conferences	9
Young Vinnies Volunteers	342
Special Works	10
Vinnies Centres	41
Volunteers	2500
Staff	95

### GOOD WORKS – Our Faith in Action

As the state's largest charity, the St Vincent de Paul Society provided a helping hand to over 175,000 West Australians in the last financial year through food assistance, material goods, shelter, friendship and support.

Members of the Society, known as Vincentians, live out their faith in action by assisting people in need. Members form small parish based groups that make up the membership of the Society called conferences.

In the spirit of its founders, conferences deliver the core work of the Society by

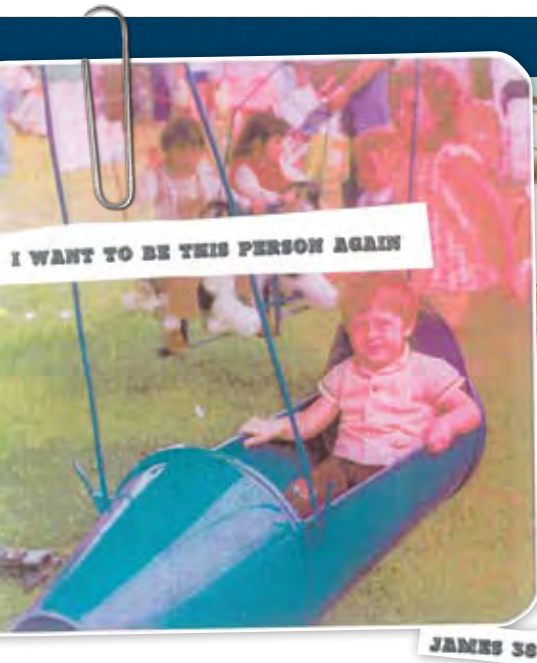
assisting people in their homes through Home Visitations, which foster an atmosphere of dignity, trust and respect. Conference members meet regularly to provide mutual support, spiritual reflection and to discuss how best to respond to the people they assist.

Conferences respond to calls from people in need in their local communities - they provide assistance through food, material aid, budget advice, utility bills, advocacy issues as well as friendship and support. The assistance given is prompt and focused on both the short and long-term well-being of the recipient.

The fundamental work of conferences in the last financial year was visiting people in their homes to provide a hand up in a time of need. Work was conducted with people, rather than for them, retaining dignity through compassion.

The Society provides Emergency Relief Assistance during these visits, which includes the distribution and provision of food, clothing, bedding, furniture, assistance with utilities and other emergency assistance. The Society also provides additional assistance to many more West Australians through its Special Works.

## THE SOCIETY IN WA



### HOME VISITATION

Home Visits are carried out in pairs by conference members in an effort to provide support and encouragement necessary to allow people to take control of their lives.

Conference members and volunteers provided assistance through:

- Advocacy
- Aged Care visits
- Assistance to migrants and refugees
- Assistance with utility bills
- Budget advice
- Clothing
- Family support
- Food vouchers
- Friendship
- Furniture
- Prison visits
- School Support
- Visits to the sick

### SPECIAL WORKS

Special Works are a professional facility program or service run by the St Vincent de Paul Society and arise out of a need which cannot be met within the normal scope of the conference. Special Works provide a specific

service and focus on ensuring the social, economic and political pressures placed on disadvantaged West Australians are lessened. Special Works are managed and supported by a combination of members, volunteers and paid employees.

The Vinnies Retail Centres are the most well known of the Society's Special Works and are often the first point of contact for the community. Many of the Society's Special Works provide care and support to some of our communities most marginalised, including – the homeless, the mentally ill, newly arrived refugees and migrants, youth and young adults.

There are currently 10 Special Works in Western Australia, these are:

- Clothing & Furniture Depot
- Household Formation & Support
- Refugee and Migrant Support
- Overseas Partnerships & Development
- Passages Resource Centre
- School Support Program
- Social Justice Advocacy
- Vincentcare
- Vinnies Retail Centres
- Vinnies Youth

### REGIONS

There are currently nine geographical Regions of the St Vincent de Paul Society that cover the Metropolitan, South West and Isolated Regions of Western Australia. The implementation of the Metro Call Centre has allowed the Society to clearly identify trends in our changing community and in turn respond accordingly.

As our State's population has grown the Society has continued to address the changing needs of our community through its geographical and operational provision of support, in the last financial year a ninth Region was implemented – Peel Region. This Region covers the very busy area of Rockingham, Mandurah and Pinjarra and surrounding communities.

Each Region in Western Australia is represented on State Council by an elected Regional President who through their participation on Council have direct input into the strategic direction of the Society.

In Western Australia the Society is governed by a State Council consisting of 18 members all of whom, except the CEO, are volunteers. There are 9 geographical Regions from which an elected representative from each sits on State Council. State Council also includes a number of appointed members who act as office bearers, including Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Youth Representatives and Spiritual Advisor. State Council meets monthly to review the strategic direction of the Society ensuring the ethos and mission of the Society is adhered to at all times. As well as State Council the Society has a number of Advisory Committees & Boards that oversee and assist the Special Works of the Society. Including these Committees, the Society's operational work is managed by a number of core staff who oversee the daily operational functions of the organisation.

### State Council



State President  
Clément Astruc



Vice President  
Kevin Goff



Vice President  
David Fitzgerald



Vice President  
Terry Power



CEO  
Alan Jennings



State Treasurer  
Frank McMahon



Spiritual Advisor  
Father Pat Cunningham



President Perth Region  
Kevin Quinn



President Fremantle Region  
Terry Power



President Peel Region  
Vince Spargo



President Queens Park Region  
Kevin Sealey



President Joondalup/  
Wanneroo Region  
Pat Cunneen



President Osborne Park Region  
Vin Barry



President Swan Region  
George Walls



President South West Region  
Margaret Wheeler



President Isolated Region  
Annette Ellis



State Youth Representative  
Catherine Wheeler



State Youth Representative  
Sarah Crute

### Special Works Advisory Committee & Board Chairpersons

Finance Committee  
Formation & Training Committee  
Governance Committee  
Overseas Partnerships & Development  
Passages Resource Centre Board  
Refugee & Migrant Committee  
Risk Management Committee  
Social Justice Committee  
State Archivist  
State Centres Board  
State Council Board  
State Youth Committee  
Strategic Planning Committee  
Vincentcare Advisory Committee

Frank McMahon  
Clément Astruc  
George Walls  
Ken Adam/Annette Ellis  
David Reed AOM  
Br Geoff Seaman/Frank Pelusey  
Vin Barry  
Bill Richardson/Patrick Durack  
Thomas Fisher  
David Reed AOM  
Clément Astruc  
Sarah Crute  
Terry Power  
Dr R. Serich/John Lazberger

### Management Team

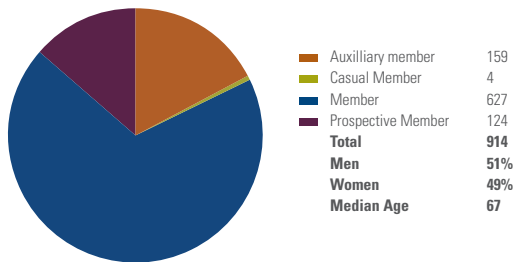
Chief Financial Officer  
General Manager, Depot  
General Manager, Retail  
General Manager, Vincentcare  
Human Resources Manager  
Manager, PR & Fundraising  
Manager, Information Systems  
Manager, Vincentcare  
Manager, Membership & Conferences  
Passages Coordinator  
State Youth Manager

Brian Niedzwiecki  
Gavin Dempster  
Lisa Pappas/Allison Stedman  
Ann Garrity  
Tom Polich  
Lucinda Ardagh  
Ray Smith  
Catherine Spini  
Colleen Williams  
Danielle Tilbrook  
Rebecca Callaghan

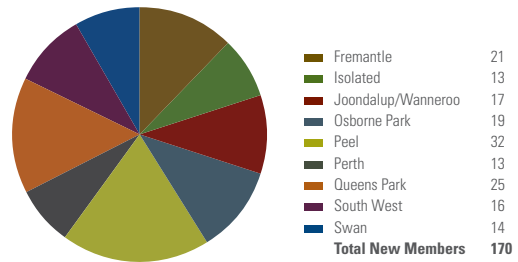
# STATE STATISTICS

## SOCIETY MEMBERS

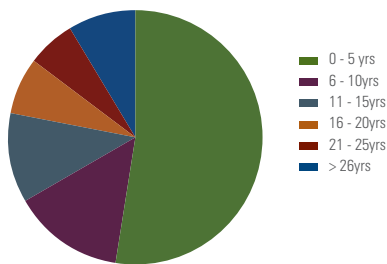
Total Society Members



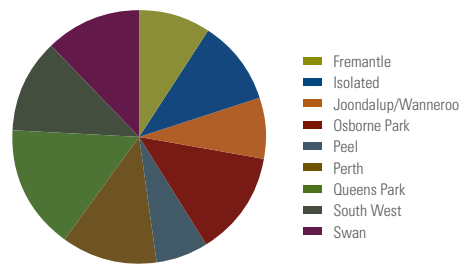
New Society Members



Society Member Time Spent in Service

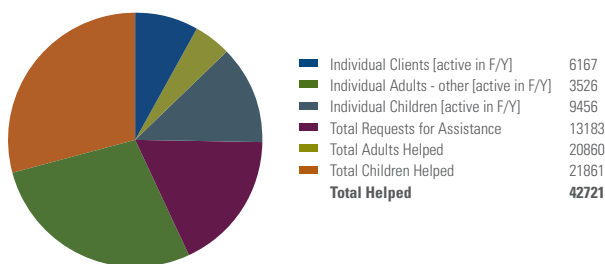


Distribution of Conferences by Region

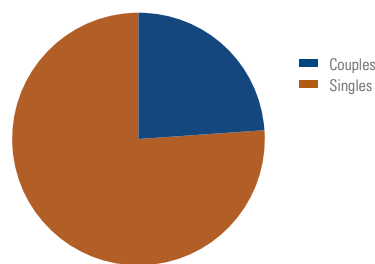


## PEOPLE ASSISTED

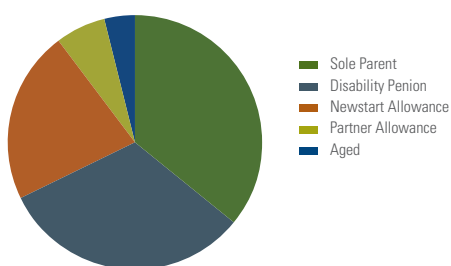
Adults & Children



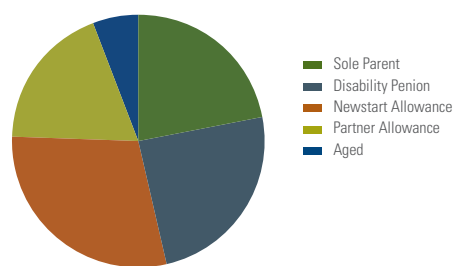
Singles & Couples



Income of People Assisted – METRO



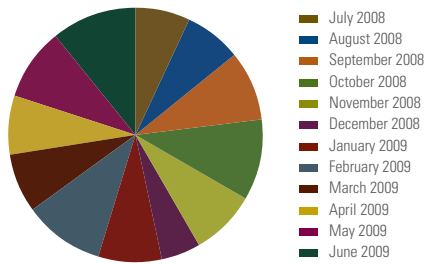
Income of People Assisted – REGIONAL



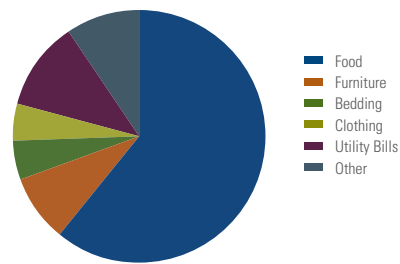


ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

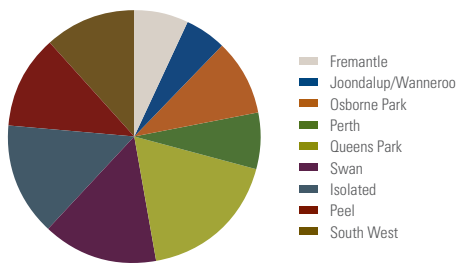
Number of Calls into the Call Centre



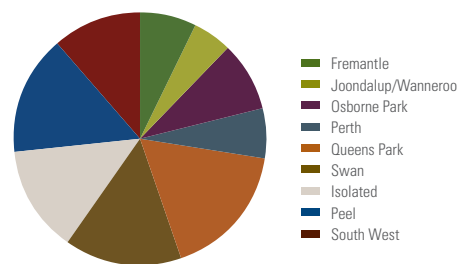
Type of Assistance Requested



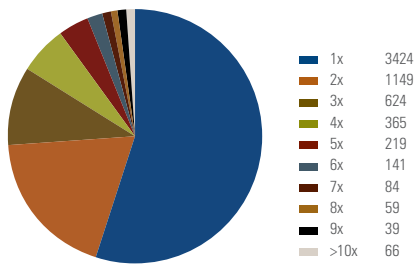
Number of Welfare Requests by Region



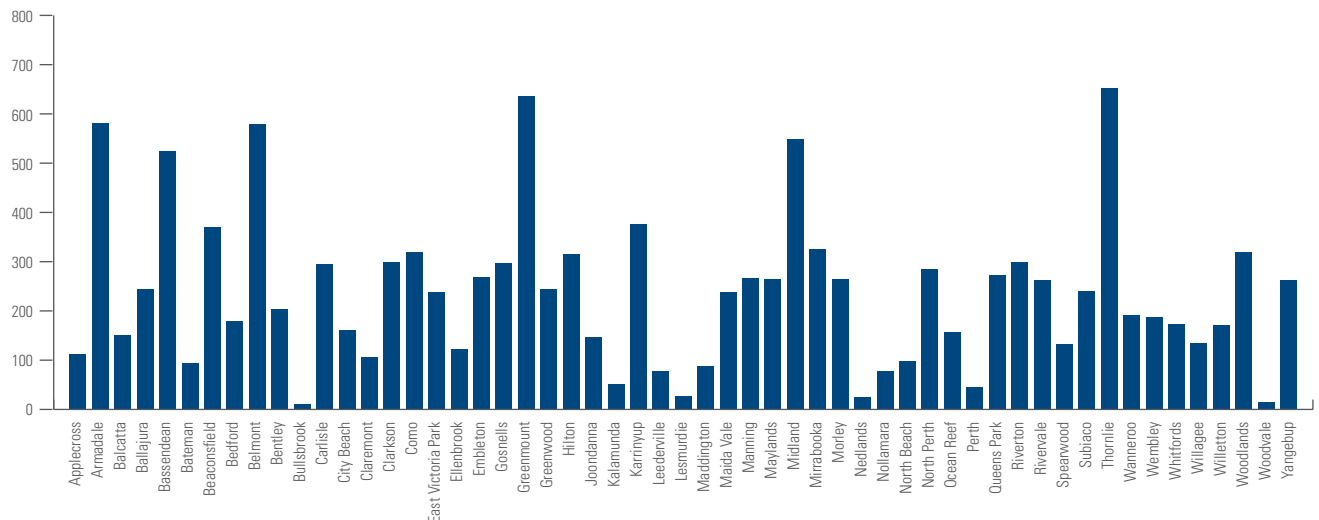
Welfare Distribution per Region



Number of Times Person/People Assisted – METRO



Number of Requests for Welfare through Call Centre – METRO





conference work : : *hope. comfort. dignity.*

## FREMANTLE REGION

### Jennifer's Story

It's a Friday and the St Vincent de Paul Society Call Centre is contacted by a lady called Jennifer who is in dire straits - the weekend is coming and the family have no money left for food until her pension arrives on Wednesday the following week.

The Call Centre operator listens to Jennifer's story intently as she explains how she has run into financial difficulties and is struggling to support a family of 6. Jennifer is trying to pay all the bills; her husband is suffering from mental illness and despite being on medication is unable to find work.

The Call Centre operator continued to collect information on the family – two boys have recently completed secondary school, a 13 year old girl and a 10 year old boy. Jennifer explains that the girl suffers from ADD and is having difficulty at school.

The Call Centre operator informs the lady that two members of the Yangebup Conference will be visiting her at home later that day. The phone call ends and the operator contacts the members who are rostered on to do home visits in the Yangebup area that day. The details of the family are passed on to the members.

Later that day the conference members arrive at the home of Jennifer and her family with a large food parcel. The children are very excited to see some of the delicious treats they have received and Jennifer is relieved the family will have food on the table until Wednesday when her pension arrives. The members are invited inside and have a chat with the couple. They discuss the overdue bills and offer to help relieve some of the financial pressure the couple are facing.

As they prepare to leave one of the members turns to Jennifer and tells her to "never give up hope, there is always someone who will care for you even though you may not know them." Jennifer is overwhelmed by the kindness these two strangers have shown her and is grateful for the hand up she has been provided.

### Jim's Story

A family from the country who had recently moved to Perth were put in contact with the St Vincent de Paul Society Hilton Conference.

Jim and his wife have two children – a young boy and girl. Jim is experiencing serious health problems and had seen his health deteriorate over the last few months, forcing him to give up work. His wife is limited in the hours she can work as the young boy is autistic and require a lot of extra attention and care.

The medical expenses combined with rental payments and household bills had left the family in despair and with nothing left over for food. They cannot afford the things many take for granted - a trip to the movies, a video games or even a weekend away to leave all their troubles behind.

The members of the Hilton Conference delivered a food hamper to Jim's home. He is surprised by the generosity of the conference and their genuine interest in his family's well being.

*"Let us aid one another, by example and advice. Let us be strong even in our suffering, for weak is the malady of our times. Let us do whatever good lies in our hands".*

Blessed Frederic Ozanam, Founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society



#### REGIONAL PRESIDENT:

Terry Power

NUMBER OF CONFERENCES: 7

Bateman – St Thomas More  
Beaconsfield – Christ The King  
Hilton – Our Lady of Mt Carmel  
Palmyra – Our Lady of Fatima  
Spearwood – St Jerome's  
Willetton – Saint John & Paul  
Yangebup – Mater Christi

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 88

NUMBER OF CENTRES: 3

East Fremantle – closed in February  
Fremantle High Street (Retro)  
Hilton  
Myaree – opened in April  
Willagee – closed in February

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED: 4,940

AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED: \$102,077





#### REGIONAL PRESIDENT:

Annette Ellis

NUMBER OF CONFERENCES: 9

Albany – St Joseph's  
 Bullsbrook – St Matthew's  
 Denmark – St Mary's  
 Geraldton – St Francis Xavier  
 Kalgoorlie – St Mary's  
 Karratha – St Patrick's  
 Katanning – St Patricks  
 Narrogin – St Matthew's  
 South Hedland – St John the Baptist

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 99

NUMBER OF CENTRES: 6

Albany  
 Kalgoorlie  
 Karratha  
 Geraldton  
 South Hedland  
 Toodyay

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED: 7,745

AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED: \$182,916



## ISOLATED REGION

### Jack's Story

It was an early winter morning in May when the Geraldton Conference was contacted by another agency in the area to assist a man named Jack who was in need of warm clothing – a jacket and a jumper. Geraldton was just starting to experience their first winter rains and the colder weather was fast approaching. The conference acted quickly and asked Jack to come down and see them at their office.

*"Charity must never look back, but always ahead, for the number of its past beneficiaries is always quite small, but the present and future miseries it should alleviate are infinite".*

Blessed Frederic Ozanam, Founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society

The Vinnies Retail Centre and conference in Geraldton run out of the same location and after an initial welfare discussion with the conference to gather some records and assess if there were any further needs requiring support, Jack was introduced to the Volunteer in Charge of the Retail Centre who provided assistance with his clothing needs. The Geraldton Conference members and Centre volunteers are devoted to providing hope and dignity to people in need and allowed the man to select his own jacket and jumper.

While shopping for the requested items Jack asked if it would be possible for him to get a pair of jeans and a blanket also. As he searched through racks of pre-loved clothing, the conference member and Centre volunteer chat to him about music, which helps Jack to feel comfortable and that there is a genuine interest in helping him to improve his overall wellbeing.

The end result was very positive, with Jack receiving two winter jackets, a nice warm jumper, a pair of jeans, some undergarments, a blanket and a backpack to carry his new clothing in, but more importantly a sense of pride for his new items.

### Denis' Story

A young man, called Denis, is sitting on the back steps of the office where the Geraldton Conference provide Emergency Relief Assistance to people in need in the area. Denis is crying, because he is an alcoholic and can't seem to get his life back on track. He desperately wants to improve his life for himself and his family who also suffer from seeing him during these dark times.

The members sit with Denis and talk to him, hold his hand and ask how they can help. He needs food and a change of clothes because he hates being dirty and smelly. The members assure him that they are there for him whenever he needs support.

The conference members speak to the Volunteer in Charge of the Vinnies Retail Centre in Geraldton and arrange for Denis to shop for a change of clothes that he will feel proud to wear. By allowing Denis to shop for clothes in line with his own tastes the conference helps to boost his self-esteem which is a positive way to encourage Denis to make a change in his life. The conference members also assist Denis by offering him a food parcel which is carefully put together with both his family and him in mind.

On and off Denis calls in to see the members of the Geraldton Conference and he seems to be doing well. He is in recovery from his addiction and is gaining self-respect. The members are often rewarded with some freshly caught fish and at Christmas with the biggest hug from a young man who is taking control of his own destiny.

## JOONDALUP/WANNEROO REGION

### John and Adam's Story

It was a late wintery day in May when the Wanneroo Conference received a call to visit a man called John and his 7 year old son, Adam who were in desperate need of assistance. John and Adam had been sleeping in their family car for three months, parking near a garage station a little out of Perth where they were able to use shower and toilet facilities and cook on a little camp stove.

When the Wanneroo Conference arrived at the location where John and Adam were living out of their car, they were shocked to see the rough and undignified state this young family were living in. The members stepped in to help straight away delivering bedding so John and Adam could keep warm as the cold weather was starting to settle in and by supplying food so they had enough to eat.

Unable to find affordable housing, John also took it upon himself to improve his situation and decided to contact the newspapers who ran a feature on his and Adam's story. Due to the coverage, the family were given one week's free accommodation.


During this time, the Wanneroo Conference addressed the key priority of the families living situation by securing a caravan for John and Adam to move into. They also provided the bond and assisted in furnishing the caravan by supplying household goods.

Adam settled in well to the new home and began attending school regularly and catching up on his school work.

The members provided pre-loved clothing from the local Vinnies Retail Centre, which was particularly exciting for young Adam who enjoyed receiving some of his new belongings.

John and Adam have now moved to South Australia to be closer to family.

The conference was touched personally by this call for help and our happy and that they were able to help John and Adam find a more appropriate place to sleep and eat, get Adam back in school and offer a hand up in the right direction. Most recently the conference received a letter from John and Adam thanking them for everything they had done for him.



**REGIONAL PRESIDENT:**  
Pat Cunneen

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**NUMBER OF CONFERENCES:** 5

Clarkson – St Andrew's  
Greenwood – All Saints  
Ocean Reef – St Simon Peter  
Wanneroo – St Anthonys of Padua  
Whitfords – Our Lady Of  
The Missions

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**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 96

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**NUMBER OF CENTRES:** 3

Clarkson  
Heathridge  
Wanneroo

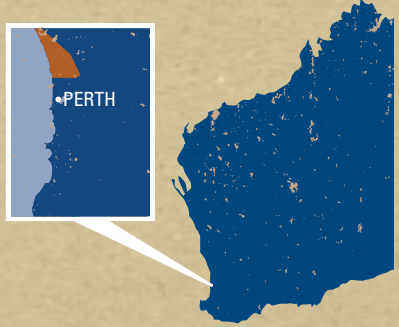
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**NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED:** 3,834

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**AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED:** \$76,782

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*“The Vincentian vocation is based on the intimate desire to participate personally and directly in helping the needy by interpersonal contact and the gift of one’s heart and one’s friendship...”*

Pierre Chouard, Former President General of the St Vincent de Paul Society

During the visit the conference members had identified a number of complex issues and there was much more support required for John and Adam other than the provision of bedding and food. Issues such as homelessness, job loss and lack of schooling were on the agenda for the conference and so the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society continued for this client and his son.



## REGIONAL PRESIDENT:

Vin Barry

## NUMBER OF CONFERENCES: 12

Balcatta – St Lawrence and Mary Immaculate  
 Ballajura – Blessed Mary MacKillop  
 City Beach/ Scarborough – Holy Spirit  
 Girrawheen – Our Lady of Mercy  
 Joondanna – St Denis'  
 Karrinyup/ Innaloo – St Dominic's  
 Mirrabooka – St Gerard Majella  
 Nollamara – Our Lady of Lourdes  
 North Beach – Our Lady of Grace  
 Osborne Park – St Kieran's  
 Osborne Park – St Louise de Marillac  
 Woodlands – Our Lady of The Rosary

## NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 116

## NUMBER OF CENTRES: 5

Girrawheen  
 Innaloo  
 Scarborough  
 Nollamara  
 Osborne Park

## NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED: 6,073

## AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED: \$146,385



## OSBORNE PARK REGION

## Diane's Story

The St Vincent de Paul Society first met Diane a few years ago after family breakdown and financial difficulties caused her to spiral into a depressive state. Struggling to cope with what life had thrown her; Diane was finally put in contact with the Woodlands Conference, who responded promptly to the request.

After an initial Home Visit with two members of the Society, Diane's needs were assessed and avenues to assist her were identified. The conference assisted Diane by providing financial support with some essential household bills such as gas and electricity and a referral was also made for Diane to visit a Financial Counsellor to help get her life back on track.

A key part to this support model was the friendship the conference showed Diane in her time of need. Members continue to visit her and provide the occasional food parcel, they also helped bring the Spirit of Christmas back into her life by sharing a cup of tea with her during the holiday period and presenting her with a food hamper.

*"Extend mercy towards others. So that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping".*

St Vincent de Paul, Patron Saint of Charity and the St Vincent de Paul Society

With the support of the Woodlands Conference, Diane's life has taken a step in the right direction but the conference will still be there to support her if she needs assistance in the future.

## Jane's Story

The Scarborough Conference first met Jane during their normal weekly conference visitations. They had received a call to attend her home to assist with utility bills and a food parcel.

During the visit at Jane's small house, she started to tell her story. Jane was a single Mum who had been physically abused over a long period of time. Her three children had been fostered to other families while she was getting back on her feet, but Jane still had contact with them. The reason for her requiring the food parcel was that her children were coming to visit in a couple of days. Jane also announced that she was pregnant.

At the next weekly conference meeting the members explained the situation with Jane and her pregnancy. They were advised to contact a lady who was involved in the Archbishop's Pregnancy Assistance Program in East Perth. After much consultation the members arranged an appointment for Jane to see one of the volunteers at Pregnancy Assistance and accompanied her there for support.

Thus began a long association with Jane. The members visited Jane on a regular basis, helping her with food, furniture, baby clothes and also arranging for her to travel to Pregnancy Assistance on several occasions. The St Vincent de Paul Society also arranged to take Jane to visit a Dentist to have some urgent work done on her teeth. The Dentist gave of their time on a pro-bono basis. After two visits Jane had her beautiful smile back. Her comment was, *"Now I can take my hand away from my mouth when I speak to people, my Mum will be very happy"*.

The good news at the end of this story is that a beautiful baby boy was born just before Christmas 2008. The conference still stays in touch with Jane and offers her assistance whenever she requires it. The latest news is that Jane will be moving to regional WA to be near her other children.

## PEEL REGION

### Sarah and Her Children's Story

The St Vincent de Paul Society conferences deliver the core work of the Society by assisting people in their homes to provide basic life necessities. Another aspect of this work is providing assistance with back to school expenses as part of one of the Society's 'Special Works'.

The School Support Program directly assists young people with school and education related expenses and is assessed and distributed by conference members on Home Visits. The program assists disadvantaged young people in improving their learning skills and self esteem by providing them with the necessary tools to learn.

The back to school period is often a difficult time of year for parents with the added financial costs and stress of Christmas and the school summer holidays. Many children do not get the opportunity to start the school term on the right foot or in some cases miss school because they do not have the necessary resources to attend with confidence.

The Mandurah Conference was contacted by a single mother with 3 children who was referred to them by her Parish Priest. Sarah was in need of assistance with back to school expenses in January. The conference provided a percentage of book and uniform costs to ease some of the financial pressure the mother was experiencing and also provided her someone to talk to as she had no other support system in place.

The client expressed her appreciation to the conference in writing saying that she did not know such assistance was available. She was overwhelmed with thanks when the Society was able to assist her.

### Michael and Natalie's Story

When the Mandurah Conference first met Michael and Natalie and their three small children they had recently moved to Perth from Queensland with big hopes of finding work. Initially the young family had no accommodation when they arrived and were living in a tent by the river. They had brought with them very little personal possessions and only the clothes they were wearing.

The family eventually contacted the Society with their story and this is when the Mandurah Conference members stepped in to provide support and a helping hand to assist the family in getting settled in their new home. The members delivered emergency food and blankets and provided clothing vouchers for the family to visit the local Vinnies Retail Centre.

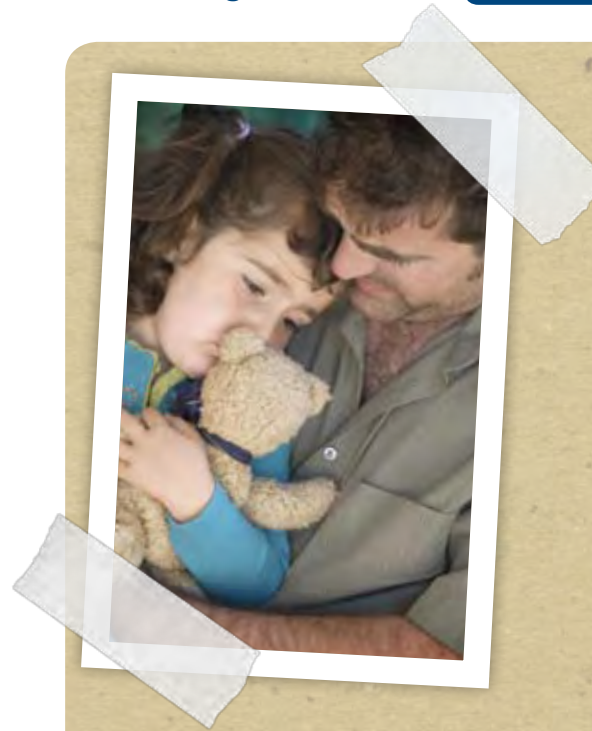
The conference also provided the family with a referral to Homeswest for bond assistance. Information on the family's case history was also passed on to other agencies in the Mandurah area that assist with accommodation requests.

*"I would like to embrace the whole world in a network of charity".*

Blessed Frederic Ozanam, Founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society

With the help of the conference the family was able to secure a rental home and get settled in comfortably. The members also helped set up the family home by providing furniture and household goods and continued to provide periodic food assistance and encouragement until Michael obtained employment.

The conference is happy to report that the family is now settled and managing well.



#### REGIONAL PRESIDENT:

Vince Spargo

#### NUMBER OF CONFERENCES: 5

Kwinana – St Vincent's  
Mandurah – Our Lady's Assumption  
Pinjarra – St Augustine  
Rockingham – Our Lady of Lourdes  
Waroona – St Patricks/St Josephs

#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 69

#### NUMBER OF CENTRES: 4

Kwinana  
Mandurah  
Pinjarra  
Rockingham

#### NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED: 8,676

#### AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED: \$240,907





**REGIONAL PRESIDENT:**

Kevin Quinn

**NUMBER OF CONFERENCES:** 9

- Bedford/Inglewood – St Peter the Apostle
- Claremont – St Thomas the Apostle
- Leederville – St Mary’s
- Maylands – Queen of Martyr
- Nedlands – Holy Rosary
- North Perth/Highgate – Redemptorist Monastery
- Perth – Immaculate Conception (recess October)
- Subiaco – St Joseph’s
- Wembley/Floreat – St Cecelia’s

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 113

**NUMBER OF CENTRES:** 5

- Claremont
- Maylands
- North Perth
- Northbridge (Retro)
- Wembley

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED:** 2,947

**AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED:** \$75,922



## PERTH REGION

### Maria’s Story

Maria was a young woman of 23 years from South America, who was visiting Perth on a holiday in the summer of 2008-2009. She was full of positive energy and spoke very good English. Maria was also friendly and was able to make friends easily during her one month stay. After a rough first week in Perth, Maria continued to have such a fabulous time on her travels and opted to extend her stay by two weeks.

On the second last day of her extended stay in Australia, Maria was invited to skateboard at Perry Lakes with a friend she had made in Perth. While skating, she was involved in a collision with another skater and her leg broke in three places. To repair the leg it was necessary to join the parts with an iron splint. This meant that Maria would have to remain in Australia for her rehabilitation which the doctors had estimated at being more than 6 months.

Her consulate negotiated an extension of her tourist visa for as long as was necessary for her rehabilitation. The consulate also undertook to find Maria accommodation and care but the cost of this would be at her expense.

Unfortunately Maria could not afford to take up their offer and as a result, she found herself stranded in Perth with no family support, very little money and nowhere to stay when it came time for her to be discharged from care. When she contacted home, Maria found that the money her family could send her would not support her for the entire time of her rehabilitation. Maria was faced with homelessness and poverty.

Maria’s crisis was resolved at the first level by Alec, a friend of a friend that she had made during her time in Perth. This young man who lived with his mother in a tiny, run-down weatherboard cottage took Maria into their home while she was in rehabilitation. Alec had recently become unemployed and had moved onto the Newstart Allowance and his mother was on the old age pension.

When the extra financial burden of assisting Maria began to affect the family’s budget, Alec and his mother sought emergency relief assistance from the Subiaco Conference. After hearing the story, the conference decided to make a small contribution to the household’s fortnightly income until such time as Maria was able to return home. The contribution assisted in covering some of the increased food expenses and medical costs currently burdening the household budget.

*“Be kind and love, for love is your first gift to the poor. They will appreciate your kindness and your love more than all else you can bring them”.*

Sister Rosalie Rendu, Daughters of Charity

The Subiaco Conference continues to visit and support Maria during her recovery. She will need to wait for the iron bar in her leg to be removed before preparing to return to South America which she hopes will be in November 2009.

The Subiaco Conference is a small player in this story of charity in action and feels privileged to have met Maria and to have been able to assist her, Alec and his mother during this difficult time. Alec and his mother have truly been Maria’s “good Samaritans”.



## QUEENS PARK REGION

### Eve's Story

The Thornlie Conference has continued to show compassion and support without judgment to a client in their area during her battle with alcohol addiction. Eve has five children and her health had been suffering drastically and she often looked weak and thin. Over the years the members have assisted her family with food, bedding and assistance with bills.

The conference has been happy to be involved with Eve and see her receive the help she needed to deal with her addiction and slowly move down the path to recovery. She has continued to show perseverance and determination during this tough time in her life and although there have been several setbacks; Eve currently has her addiction under control.

Eve is now looking healthy and happy. Her children have grown and the last time the conference members visited her, she proudly told them that one of the children was elected prefect at school.

The Thornlie Conference members supported her on this journey- a shining example of a hand up not just a hand out.

### Vickie's Story

Vickie is a single mother with an 8 year old son. She originally contacted the Metro Call Centre for assistance with food and was visited by members of the Carlisle Conference.

On first visit to her home, the members of the conference were extremely shocked at the state of her health. Vickie was undergoing chemotherapy for liver cancer and had lost a lot of weight. She looked 20 years older than her real age. The only nourishment she could tolerate was a food replacement powder available from pharmacies.

That particular morning Vickie was visibly upset as she had no other option but to send her son to school with an apple, the only food in the house. The conference members spent a few hours sitting with Vickie, allowing her the dignity to share her story with them.

The conference was touched by Vickie's story – the hardship she was encountering and the unconditional love she has for her son. The members stepped in to help initially by purchasing the food replacement as it was the only food Vickie could stomach, but as she was too weak to go out and shop herself, members provided food for her son so he could have energy to learn at school and play with his friends.

The conference members continued to visit Vickie regularly to see how she was going. They showed her friendship in times of need and provided a shoulder to cry on when things became too much to deal with alone.

At Christmas she was thrilled to receive gifts and a hamper from the Society, thanks to the many thoughtful benefactors.

Vickie's cancer is in remission at present and her health has improved but she still has many trials to negotiate. Her house rental has recently increased by \$60 per week but she is reluctant to leave her home which she has brightened with her craft work and indoor plants.

The conference continues to keep in touch with Vickie at least once a month, and she is always in their prayers.



#### REGIONAL PRESIDENT:

Kevin Sealey

#### NUMBER OF CONFERENCES: 12

Armadale – St Francis Xavier  
 Bentley – Santa Clara  
 Carlisle – Holy Name  
 Como – Holy Family  
 East Victoria Park – Our Lady Help of Christians  
 Gosnells – Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament  
 Maddington – Holy Family  
 Manning – St Pius X  
 Queens Park – St Joseph's  
 Riverton – Our Lady Queen of Apostles  
 Rivervale – St Augustine's  
 Thornlie – Sacred Heart

#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 131

#### NUMBER OF CENTRES: 5

Armadale  
 Cannington  
 Gosnells  
 Rivervale  
 Victoria Park

#### NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED: 12,840

#### AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED: \$344,744



*“When a poor person dies of hunger, it has not happened because God did not take care of him or her. It has happened because neither you nor I wanted to give that person what he or she needed.”*

Mother Theresa of Calcutta

**REGIONAL PRESIDENT:**

Margaret Wheeler

**NUMBER OF CONFERENCES:** 9

Bridgetown – St Brigid's  
 Bunbury – St Patrick's  
 Busselton – St Joseph's  
 Collie – St Brigid's  
 Dunsborough – Our Lady of the Southern Cross  
 Harvey – Our Lady of Immaculate Conception  
 Leschenault – Christ the Living Vine  
 Manjimup – St Joseph's  
 Margaret River – St Thomas More

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 101**NUMBER OF CENTRES:** 7

Bunbury x 2  
 Busselton  
 Collie  
 Dunsborough  
 Manjimup  
 Margaret River

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED:** 5,993**AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED:** \$132,703

PERTH

## SOUTH WEST REGION

### Compassion and understanding when needed most...

During the early nineties the Bunbury Conference became aware that there were no appropriate facilities available for visitors who came to visit family and friends at the Bunbury Regional Prison. Many of the visitors were required to travel some distance to the prison and the conference felt that a more comfortable and supportive environment was needed for visitors when they arrived.

So a decision was made to lobby the Government of the day to look into the lack of suitable facilities for visitors and to encourage them to do something about it. The Bunbury Conference saw that there was a need for a building that provided visitors to the prison with shelter from the weather, an opportunity to make a hot drink, facilities to change babies and made appropriate bathroom facilities available.

St Vincent de Paul Society member, Ian Markey took the job of lobbying the Government for a facility to be built, it was due to his persistence and devotion to this cause that the funds were allocated for a Visitors Centre to be built for the Bunbury Regional Prison.

Ian Markey was also the President of the Bridgetown Conference and saw the Hon Jim McGinty officially open the Visitors Centre in 2001. The Bunbury Conference was responsible for manning the facility and took the opportunity in their stride.

At the time the Visitors Centre contained tea and coffee making facilities, rest rooms and shelter from the weather. The Centre provides a place for visitors to be processed and is a comfortable place for them to wait before entering the prison for their appointment.

Since the opening of the Visitors Centre

in 2001, many ongoing improvements have been made to the facility to provide a more comfortable visit. Some of these developments include the building of a patio and the addition of reverse cycle air-conditioner. A TV and reading materials are also provided.

*"The knowledge of social well-being and of reform can be learned not from books, nor from public platform, but in climbing the stairs to the poor person's garret, sitting by their bedside, feeling the same cold that pierces them, sharing the secrets of their lonely hearts and troubled minds".*

Blessed Frederic Ozanam, Founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society

The conference members are available at the Visitors Centre to assist and support visitors who may feel uneasy on arrival to the prison and who may also find it difficult in filling out the necessary paperwork.

The Bunbury Conference still continue to man the Visitor Centre and offer support and assistance to visitors to the Bunbury Regional Prison.

The conference members are incredibly proud of the facility, a tribute to the work of past and present members of the Bunbury Conference and Ian Markey from the Bridgetown Conference.

## SWAN REGION

### Lauren's Story

In early 2009, the Morley/Dianella Conference visited Lauren, who was requesting assistance with paying gas and electricity bills. She had initially rung the Metro Call Centre and in turn was put in touch with two conference members who together went out to meet her in her home.

During the visit the members spoke to the mother about her circumstances and what they encountered was the problems were not just assistance with utility bills but were far more complex.

She informed the conference members that she was a recovering drug addict who had just come out of drug rehabilitation. Her young children had been taken into care while she was recovering from the addiction.

*"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, protect the rights of those who are helpless. Speak out and pronounce a sentence of justice, defend the cause of the wretched and the poor"*

(Proverbs 31:8-9)

Child Protective Services would not allow the children to come home until they had a home environment that would ensure the children were not neglected. She needed gas to cook meals for herself and the children and electricity to provide hot water for showering.

With the colder months on their way, it was also essential that the family had heating.

The three children were aged 10, 7 and 6. The client desperately wanted to start a new life for herself and her children. She wanted to show them that life is better than what they had seen at such a young and innocent stage in their lives.

When the members asked about the children's father more problems arose. He was serving time in prison for breaking a restraining order and for domestic violence that had left her in hospital. She believed it was fault that the children's father was in prison and had low self-esteem and was suffering with depression. The client was living in constant fear and anxiety that she would not be relocated before the children's father was released from prison.

The conference members listened to Lauren's story and helped her feel at ease by giving her the time she needed to talk. They did not rush her along during the visit and the asked non-judgmental questions, showing that they truly wanted to help her get back on her feet.

After return visits from the Morley/Dianella Conference to assist with utility bills, food and household goods and positive dealings with Child Protective Services on her behalf, the children were returned to their family home. Life is looking up for this client who was overjoyed to be reunited with her children.

The family is doing well but know the support of the conference will be there if the need ever arises in the future.



#### REGIONAL PRESIDENT:

George Walls

NUMBER OF CONFERENCES: 9

Bassendean – St Joseph's  
Belmont/Redcliffe/Cloverdale – Notre Dame  
Embleton/Bayswater – Holy Trinity  
Greenmount – St Anthony's  
Kalamunda – Holy Family  
Lesmurdie – Our Lady of Lourdes  
Maida Vale – St Francis of Assisi  
Midland – St Brigid's  
Morley/Dianella – Infant Jesus

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 96

NUMBER OF CENTRES: 3

Belmont  
Bassendean  
Midland

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED: 11,696

AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED: \$246,602





special works :: *hope. comfort. dignity.*

# YOUTH

## OVERVIEW

Vinnies Youth provides recreational activities and educational support for disadvantaged children in a safe and supportive environment. Programs include Camps, Buddy Days, Homework Centres, Roadshows and Juvenile Detention Centre visits.

### Tom's Story

11 year old Tom has lived a life quiet foreign to most kids his age. While many 11 year olds are looking forward to their next Playstation or computer game, Tom is worrying about his mum and siblings and how they will get through this tough time in their lives. He has a 9 year old sister and 13 year old brother and it was after Tom's father sadly passed away three years ago from a brain tumour when Tom was just 8 years of age, things changed for the family forever. Since this tragedy his family has been struggling to pay off debts from high medical costs and Tom's father's funeral.

As a result, Tom's mother has taken on a third casual job to cover the mortgage, existing debts and living expenses, making it extremely difficult for her children to live a 'normal' childhood.

Tom hasn't been able to participate in recreational activities since his dad became sick, as with his father's illness came financial hardship. In addition to this, Tom's mum was juggling a busy schedule, as a carer for her husband while he was ill. Home life and three jobs didn't leave much time for anything else.

Tom and his siblings take on responsibilities that other children their age can't even imagine. Tom recently attended a Vinnies Youth Camp and told volunteers that he had the 'best time ever' especially when he got a bullseye when doing archery for the first time, one of the many fun, exciting and educational activities on offer at a Vinnies Youth Camp.

### A New Beginning...

A young refugee family from Africa arrived in Australia 10 months ago. This fragile family consisted of a single mother with five children aged 7-14 years. Their father was killed in the struggle to leave Africa and two children passed away while living in the refugee camp. They have no idea where any other relatives are and/or if they are still alive.

The children were given the opportunity to attend a Vinnies Youth Camp and were in awe of the activities that were on offer as none of them had ever seen a flying fox or an abseiling wall or experienced shepherd's pie! The endless happiness and excitement with the activities and games on camp was an amazing eye opener to the other kids and volunteers of the sorts of experiences that can be potentially taken for granted each day.

With this family, there were extra needs that required the Vinnies Youth volunteers to go above and beyond their normal duties. On one particular occasion, three leaders had to stay with one child throughout the night as he had night terrors and would wake in a panicked state. Once calmed, he would return to sleep illustrating a small painful insight for the volunteers to the atrocities and terror this small child and his siblings had experienced.

The family found out about the activities on offer through Vinnies Youth while visiting their local Vinnies Retail Centre to purchase back to school clothes for the children.

The kids are booked into the upcoming Buddy Day, to ensure they continue to be given the opportunity to laugh, smile and make new mates.



VINNIES YOUTH VOLUNTEERS:	342
TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS:	3863
SECONDARY SCHOOL CONFERENCES:	11
MINI VINNIES GROUPS:	4
CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED HOMEWORK CENTRE:	15
CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED CAMP:	85
CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED BUDDY DAY:	97
NUMBER OF DETENTION CENTRE VISITS:	60
SCHOOLS VISITED OVER THE YEAR:	77
PRIMARY SCHOOL CONFERENCE MEMBERS:	42
HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE MEMBERS:	205
SCHOOL VISITS:	481



#### IN 2008/2009 THE SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM FUNDED:

School Books  
Stationery  
Uniforms  
School Fees  
Camp Fees

## SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM

### OVERVIEW

The School Support Program directly assists young people with school and education related expenses including uniforms, books, stationery, learning resources and excursion and school fees. The program's mission is to assist young people in improving their learning skills and self esteem by providing them with the necessary tools to learn.

The St Vincent de Paul Society's conference members work closely with individuals and families who are struggling and while undertaking this work, often identify young people needing assistance with school necessities. For many of the children assisted by the program it is the first time they have had the right school uniform, books and equipment required to learn or the option to attend a school excursion or outing.

The Program began in 2002 and has assisted hundreds of children with the basic right to have the necessary equipment to attend school and achieve a good education to assist them with their future.

### A Family in Need

A family of five – two parents and three children started to experience financial hardship when their 13 year old son became ill with his complex medical problems requiring ongoing expensive treatment. In an additional unfortunate turn of events, the family's mother learnt she was suffering from breast cancer and so had to leave her place of employment – placing the family under enormous pressure on an already stretched budget. Conference members identified help was needed and provided the family with 75% of the cost of text books and uniforms for the children reducing some of the stress they were feeling.

### Dianne's Story

Dianne is a single mother with four children who was referred to the St Vincent de Paul Society by her parish priest. Dianne had always managed her funds well and never had to ask for any welfare assistance in the past, something she was extremely proud of. However, with the recent increase in the cost of living she found herself wondering how she was going to pay for her mortgage, supply food for her children and put fuel in the car. On top of this, school was fast approaching and there was not enough money to go around.

*"A good education cannot guarantee that disadvantaged children will escape from poverty, but a lack of education will guarantee that they do not".*

St Vincent de Paul Society National Social Justice Committee

Dianne was unaware that assistance was available through the School Support Program and when she was initially contacted by a Society volunteer she was very hesitant to accept the help on offer to her. Dianne was a woman of pride and was eager to prove that she had always paid her own way and expressed shame at her circumstances. Society volunteers had to assure Dianne that there was no shame in accepting some form of help and that she was not alone and finally she happily agreed to receive some assistance. Her four children were presented with books for their school year, enabling them to keep up with their studies and have every opportunity to succeed.

Dianne was so thankful to the Society and the volunteers who had helped her that she wrote them a thank you letter advising that prior to their call she had been going through her bills and asking God to help her work out how she was going to pay the book fees. She believes that God heard her prayers.

## PASSAGES RESOURCE CENTRE

### OVERVIEW

Passages Resource Centre is a drop in centre for homeless and street present youth between the ages of 12 and 25 that provides referrals, kitchen, bathroom and laundry facilities, information workshops and advocacy. It is situated in Northbridge and is a joint venture between the Society and the Rotary Club of Perth.

### Dylan's Story

When Dylan first started accessing Passages he was just 17 years old. His mother had been in prison for most of his life and he had never met his Dad. As a result he had been in and out of foster care since the age of five. His experience in foster care had been quite a tumultuous one and he was constantly being moved from place to place due to his difficult behavior.

When Dylan came to Passages he had been on the streets for three years. He said that the streets provided a more stable environment for him than foster care ever had been, because he had control of what he did and where he went.

Dylan accessed the service for about a year before he was considered him for the Passages Accommodation Program. It was felt Dylan would benefit from the one on one support Passages could provide while he was in the unit.

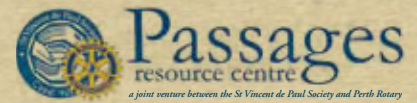
When he first began in the Accommodation Program, Dylan had been using drugs with his friends on a regular basis and had almost no aspirations for his future. He had just completed his year 10 certificate with the financial assistance of Passages but did not have an idea of which direction to take from there. Dylan agreed to attend weekly counselling to deal with his drug use and finally decided to obtain a security licence so he could work in crowd control. By the time Dylan was ready to exit the Program he had achieved many of his goals and was even beginning to obtain his driver's licence; however his most significant achievement of all was simply being able to maintain a home of his own.

### Beth's Story

Beth had been accessing Passages for five years before staff suspected that her mental health had deteriorated from an addiction to cannabis coupled with the harsh reality of being homeless. This occurred to the staff after one morning when they found Beth standing out the front of the service appearing confused and muttering to herself. They asked how she was and whether they could help her but she stated that she could not remember how she got there and that she was hearing voices that told her not to trust Passages staff.

They asked her if they could look at getting her mental health care and she said no. Two days later Beth went into psychosis and staff had to call the Psychiatric Evaluation Team. They assessed Beth and took her to stay in a mental health facility where she called Passages weekly.

After a couple of months, Beth was allowed day visits. She would go to Passages and meet old friends, use the internet and talk to staff. After a few months Beth was told she could move to a place that provided mental health care with a lower level of monitoring. After Beth moved, she decided she wanted to go back to school. With assistance from the staff and the Education Grants provided at Passages, Beth enrolled in a course. She enjoyed being at school but found it hard to do homework without a computer. Staff at Passages applied for funding from Rotary Club of Perth to obtain a computer for Beth. Rotary were happy to supply Beth with a computer and she was delighted. Beth successfully completed her course and is now saving for a holiday around Australia.



INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS: 1,176

ACCESS VISITS: 4,330

NEW CLIENTS: 120

SUCCESSFUL REFERRALS: 1,692

RESOURCES USED: 10,688

#### AGE BREAKDOWN:

12 – 15 years	2%
16 – 18 years	13%
19 – 21 years	41%
22 – 25 years	44%

#### VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Hairdresser	76hrs
Gardening	105hrs

#### PROGRAMS:

Anglicare's –  
Step 1 Street-work Program

Anglicare's – JPET program  
(Job Placement Employment  
and Training)

Perth Primary Care Network –  
Street Doctor Program

Perth Primary Care Network –  
Mobile Mind Care Van

Western Australian  
Substance Users Association

Mission Australia –  
Drug and Alcohol Youth Service

Centrelink

Youthlink

Allens Arthur Robinson

#### IN KIND SUPPORT AND DONATIONS:

Scott Printing  
Torres Butchers  
Vanguard Press  
HD Hardrive  
Jerry Maher  
Town of Vincent



23,579 bed nights were provided

70,737 meals were provided

3,034 enquiries for accommodation were received of which 19% were between 18-25 years, 59% were between 25-45 years and 22% were 45 years and over

1,560 volunteer hours were dedicated to Vincentcare

628 people attended the Vincentcare Community Integration Program (VIP) on at least one occasion with 1,714 hours of activities being provided

## VINCENTCARE

### OVERVIEW

Vincentcare provides supported accommodation to individuals who are homeless and/or living with a mental illness. The Vincentcare Community Integration Program (V.I.P) provides an opportunity to be involved in recreational activities to help build confidence and networks in the community.

### Geoff's Story

Geoff began his working life at a very young age gaining employment behind the bars of different hotels, clubs and restaurants. He had a very friendly, easygoing personality that made him popular with the customers who in appreciation would often buy him a drink, provide him with a monetary "tip" or offer advice on which horse to back in Saturday's race. So began Geoff's passion and addiction to alcohol and gambling.

Over time Geoff began to spend all his hard earned money on both his passions, with gambling being the stronger "vice". He remembers that in the early days when he was earning good money and was single, his gambling didn't appear to be a major problem as he lived a very basic life and could always earn one week what he had lost in the previous week. However as the years went by it became more difficult to keep things "afloat". He couldn't afford to pay his mortgage, run his car or support his family. Before long he found himself unemployed, on his own and unable to pay the rent on his small, one bedroom apartment.

He sought the assistance of the St Vincent de Paul Society who organised accommodation for him through Vincentcare. Today, Geoff resides in a comfortable and well appointed one bedroom unit. He is supported by Vincentcare staff that assists him with meal preparation, cleaning, laundry, financial management and ensures that he maintains an optimal level of physical and mental wellness. He states that he "cannot imagine himself in a better place" and regularly volunteers as a means of saying "thank you" for the support that he has received over the years from Vincentcare.

### Dot's Story

Longtime member of the Vincentcare family is volunteer extraordinaire Dot McGill. Dot's enthusiasm, commitment and passion for helping those in need is a true inspiration and gives those she helps, something more special than she can ever imagine.

Dot started volunteering for the St Vincent de Paul Society as a member of the Albany Conference 11 years ago with her husband Neville. It was on a move to Perth in 2001 that her commitment to the Society continued when she joined the Maylands Conference and, together with her husband, started assisting local families in need with Home Visitation to offer those requesting assistance help with material goods, friendship and support.

Wanting to expand her volunteering within the Society, Dot joined the Vincentcare team assisting with the Vincentcare Community Integration Program (VIP) lending her expertise in the area of arts and crafts. Dot's enthusiasm for life was proven when she signed up as a volunteer and took part in the "Learn to Surf" course and Friday bike rides.

Her love of helping people, great cooking and arts and crafts has proven most beneficial to the Vincentcare Integration Program with more clients taking part in these weekly activities.

Dot runs the weekly cooking and arts classes and volunteers on outings and camps and will give anything a go; not bad for someone who is 72 years young.

The VIP is a unique service that directly consults with clients in their lifestyle goals and choices, broadens opportunities by providing a holistic range of activities and assists clients to participate and contribute in everyday living. It was developed with the purpose of enhancing socialisation, meaningful activity and to develop life skills to improve participation within the wider community.



## CLOTHING & FURNITURE DEPOT

### OVERVIEW

The Clothing & Furniture Depot is located in Osborne Park and is the main receipt and distribution point for material donations. Donations are used for welfare distribution, as retail sale items in the Vinnies Retail Centres or sold for a wide range of uses.

### How Your Donations are Processed

**Donated clothing** – The Depot sorted through 730,043kgs of donated clothing throughout the year that came from charity bins which are situated around the suburbs of Perth. Truck drivers have rotational rounds to empty the bins and transport them back to the Osborne Park Depot to be sorted. Other items are collected from people's homes.

**Arrival at the Depot** – Six sorters, two storemen, five drivers, one supervisor, many volunteers and a management team all work in the Depot where the in-kind donations are delivered. The donations are then taken from the trucks and put into cages where they get moved by forklift to the sorting stations in the warehouse.

**Sorting the donations** – There are over 40 Vinnies Retail Centres around WA, some of which receive goods from the Depot. At the Depot, the useable goods are sorted into bundles and marked with a suburb of a Vinnies store around the state. Bedding for welfare recipients is made up into single or double bed packs, complete with sheets, blankets and pillows and other items such as furniture, crockery, bric-a-brac, pots and pans, jewellery, household goods, bikes etc are sorted into relevant sections of the Depot.

**Distribution of donations** – The clothing and goods sold in the Vinnies Retail Centres and the clothing distributed through welfare assistance to those in need are in good, useable condition. Some of that 'wearable' clothing is also used in Australian missions and sent to remote communities in WA or sold to exporters for international use. There is also a percentage of clothing that is deemed 'unwearable' however the Depot is very conscious of effectively using every

donation they receive. 'Unwearable' clothing is sold for the production of felt and industrial rags and wipers.

### Marie's Story

One special lady who has devoted her entire life to helping others is 91 year old Joondanna resident, Marie Walker. Even at her ripe old age, Marie shows no signs of slowing down and continues to put in her volunteering hours every week for Vinnies. Unfortunately Marie is no longer fit enough to actually work on location at the Osborne Park Depot, however she still insists on giving a helping hand in whatever way she can.

*"Let us do, without hesitation, whatever good lies in our hands".*

**Blessed Frederic Ozanam, Founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society**

To combat this logistical problem, the Depot staff came up with a great idea to keep Marie involved. She is now responsible for cutting all the buttons off the unwearable donated clothing and putting them into separate bags which are sold at the Vinnies Retail Centres for \$1 each.

Marie says "The Depot ladies drop off the bags full of clothes and I do approximately six bags a week and in the busy times I will do more, making almost 300 individual button bags a week. Volunteering is a massive part of my life, I have been involved in Vinnies for over 30 years and although now I am 'semi-retired' I will never give up the work."

With each individual bag of buttons fetching \$1 in the Retail Centres, Marie's efforts make over \$300 a week, which goes to assisting disadvantaged people in need, with the money enough to provide emergency accommodation and food to a family in crisis and assist another family with food and basic life necessities.



### WELFARE DISTRIBUTED FROM DEPOT BY REGION :

Fremantle	\$115,277
Joondalup/Wanneroo	\$47,029
Osborne Park	\$107,691
Peel	\$2,926
Perth	\$41,388
Queens Park	\$200,071
Swan	\$134,822

NUMBER OF WELFARE DELIVERIES:	1,841
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CLOTHING SORTED:	730,043kgs
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DONATION COLLECTIONS:	9,432
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RUBBISH TIP FEES:	\$32,661
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NUMBER OF REFUGEES ASSISTED:	1,384
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## VINNIES RETAIL CENTRES

### OVERVIEW

Vinnies Retail Centres provide a well priced quality shopping alternative to the public and rely solely on donated goods from the community. The Centres also provide goods that assist with welfare support through Home Visitation like clothing and furniture. The “Vinnies” shops are a great place to volunteer and learn new skills.

### Shirley's Story

Shirley has been an active and committed member of the volunteer group at East Victoria Park since 1976. She decided to join Vinnies when an opportunity arose through her local parish. Shirley's youngest daughter had just started school so she thought she would give volunteering a go with the extra time she now had on her hands.

In those 33 years, Shirley has seen the Victoria Park shop relocate 4 times and has been in the current location has been in its current location for approximately 14 ½ years. There are still a handful of volunteers working in the shop today who were also in the shop in the early days. Shirley believes some of the benefits of volunteering are; friendships made along the way; the confidence to “put up her hand and take on new things”; gets people out and about and helping others. Vinnies Victoria Park currently has 30 volunteers offering their time mostly on a weekly basis. Shirley has cut back considerably in the time she has to contribute, however still works in the shop twice a week.

Shirley is also an active member of the local conference and part of her role is to carry out Home Visitation each Monday with Jesse, another shop volunteer and conference member. She remembers back to visits she has been making for the past 10 years and says “It’s a good feeling leaving (a home) knowing you have made a difference.”

Allowing people to discover new things about themselves, giving people confidence, keeping active in old age, bringing new dimensions into people’s lives and offering people a chance to talk and assist others

are all ways in which, according to Shirley, volunteering offers enrichment to a person’s life.

Shirley describes a lovely lady, Maureen, who volunteers on Friday afternoons as “a very clever and busy lady who has a top nursing job.” She explains that Maureen “just loves” volunteering at the shop as it takes her away from her busy life and job to help others to make a positive contribution within their community.

*“Volunteering for Vinnies is my hobby and my lifeline. I consider all of the volunteers as my friends and we have shared the good times and the bad times, but we all share them together”.*

Clare Greenwood, Volunteer In Charge at Vinnies Mandurah

Without dedicated and committed volunteers such as Shirley and her friends at Vinnies Victoria Park, the Society would find it extremely difficult to operate such professional, well presented and inviting shops. We rely heavily on volunteers from all backgrounds and areas to give what they can in terms of our most valuable resource – TIME.

Again we are humbled by the work of our volunteers. When asked how volunteering makes her feel, Shirley replies “Oh, I just can’t imagine what I’d do without it!”

Even as our conversation drew to a close, Shirley was off to do some baking for her Parish cake stall on Sunday.....

RETAIL SALES: \$5,517,231

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO SHOPPED AT VINNIES: 17,300 a week or 900,000 a year

VALUE OF WELFARE: \$244,931

NUMBER OF CENTRES RE-BRANDED: 39 centres received new signage and 30 Centres were upgraded

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS: 1,200 volunteers and 14,400 hours worked

## REFUGEE & MIGRANT COMMITTEE

### OVERVIEW

The Refugee and Migrant Committee is the driving force behind providing support to newly arrived people in Western Australia through the provision of household goods, emergency clothing and advocacy. They also organise a bi-annual picnic for newly arrived families to encourage social activity and support.

### A Fresh Start...

One newly arrived family that has been assisted, is a family of six from a central African country.

As is normal for the volunteers who provide assistance to new refugee arrivals, this family was helped through the provision of household goods and emergency clothing. Within a short time a warm gesture of friendship was offered when they were invited to be included in the bi-annual "Welcome to Australia" Picnic.

A little later the older children were treated to the very happy "Fun Day Out" organised by the wonderful staff and Young Vinnies at Sacred Heart College, Sorrento. At Christmas this family received a most generous hamper of gifts and food donated by the students at Chisholm Catholic College.

*"Offering a friendly welcome to newly arrived Refugees is so helpful to people trying to settle in a new and strange land."*

Brother Geoff Seaman,  
Former Chairman of the Migrant  
and Refugee Committee

This family is Catholic and something they longed for was to be able to share once again in the life of the church – a joy denied them for too long.

As a first step they were included among those refugees we assist with transport to Mass each Sunday. So, each Sunday, attired in their best, they eagerly awaited their ride to Mass. One occasion when no bus was available, they even walked more than a kilometre to get to Mass!

However, they held out hopes for more. In their refugee situation in Africa, the parents had not been able to enjoy the blessing of a church wedding nor have their children christened. They were very keen to make up for what they had missed.

On behalf of the parents, help was sought from the Parish Priest who soon arranged for the happy occasion of the baptism of their children. Then, shortly afterwards, after certain legalities had been dealt with, came the delightful celebration of the church wedding.

One might have expected a quiet, private event with just the necessary witnesses; however the bride appeared in a beautiful white wedding dress and walked down the aisle preceded by flower girls elegantly sprinkling colourful petals while cameras flashed!

Needless to say, the ceremony itself was very prayerful with a warmly supportive group of friends – many of whom were from the same place of origin – contributing to the joy of the occasion. What followed was a delightful reception in a local hall simply decorated with balloons and streamers and with former school desks grouped in small clusters making do as tables. The ample fare, brought by friends, along with lively African music and dancing ensured the joy of the occasion.

Overall, the culmination of a series of happy events! Meeting the needs of newly arrived refugees calls for more than just household goods and furniture!



The total number of refugees we provided for under the IHSS was 1381, of whom 652 are children.

The 1381 represent 20 different countries of origin as follows:

Burmese:	558
Afghani:	190
Sudanese:	132
Burundian:	112
Iraqi:	93
Ethiopian:	62
Liberian:	56
Somali:	47
Iranian:	36
Congolese:	31
Eritrean:	27

Smaller numbers from Sri Lanka, Togo, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Rwanda, East Timor, Nepal, Guinea, and Pakistan.

TOTAL ASSISTED WITH EMERGENCY CLOTHING: 680

TOTAL ASSISTED WITH TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA: 500

TOTAL ASSISTED PICNICS AND HAMPERS: 500

TOTAL ASSISTED WITH PASTORAL CARE: 50

OVERALL TOTAL ASSISTED: 2,500



ASSIST A STUDENTS: \$4,410.00

CAMBODIAN CHILD CARE CENTRE GRANTS: \$760.00

NUMBER OF TWINS: 123

SIX NEW TWINNING PROJECTS:

Goat Bank \$1,009.00  
 Vegetable & Fruit Vending \$1,113.00  
 Multipurpose Self-Help \$1,113.00  
 2 x Goat Banks (each) \$1,238.00  
 Cow Bank \$1,238.00

THREE COMPLETED PROJECTS:

Cow Bank  
 Goat Bank  
 House Repair

## OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

### OVERVIEW

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Western Australia provides strong commitment and support to people in developing countries through an active Overseas Development Committee. These links are intended to foster and enrich cultural exchange and give hope to many people living in poverty throughout the world. The committee runs various projects such as Assist-A-Student, self-help projects and Twinning.

Twinning is a partnership between an Australian conference and an overseas conference and the Society in Western Australia broadly covers Asia and Oceania. Our twinned conferences are supported in three ways – spiritually, by correspondence and financially.

### To Cambodia with Love

A recent trip to Cambodia by a very devoted and passionate St Vincent de Paul Society member writes to her fellow committee members back home and tells of rich cultural exchange, diversity and spiritual nourishment second to none.

“I spent three days in Kompong Cham with Rose Yip’s latest conference activity – Martha’s Kitchen Cooking Training Centre – a self-help project for poor rural women, teaching traditional Khmer desserts. My stint as pseudo-guest attempting to teach a variety of Western cakes and biscuits that are simple and replicable with basic ingredients was great. It was amazing to see my family favourites work in the equivalent of a cut-out metal bucket lined with concrete with white hot charcoals on top and under the cooking pot. We were also restricted to one small sized baking tin and limited utensils to use! Despite language barriers, sign language, much hilarity and nonsense, the successful outcomes of all adapted recipes were largely due to Rose’s skill and our sense of smell. Excess mixture became muffins and a great recipe from Louise’s 4 Ingredients Cookbook was adapted to show how one basic recipe

became five by changing some ingredients with different batches.

The funds raised at a local level through our conference and local parish has been greatly appreciated in Kompong Cham and has gone a long way in helping the region. 100USD was given for the provision of rice for two Vincentian projects at a Day Care Centre and Elderly Centre, 40USD was given for ingredients and utensils for Martha’s Kitchen, for the purchase of a box of goods including the cost of sending the goods by bus from Siem Reap.

*Our Vincentian effort is gratefully appreciated up here and we are making a real difference.*

A further 300USD was given to Bishop Anthony of the Kompong Cham province for two water wells in poor villages within the diocese and finally 100USD to Sister Nazarene of the Mother Superior Missionaries of Charity in Siem Reap to purchase rice for their Home of Joy which is a centre for malnourished children.

On to Siem Reap via a three hour bus trip and flight from Phnom Penh, it was a total Vincentian immersion from the minute we arrived. 6.30am mass and breakfast with the Missionaries of Charity nuns to celebrate Mother Teresa’s feast day was quite lovely. Very quick trip to new Piak Snaig Village to see Jesus Farm, the dam and latest developments, new crops, outbuildings etc. Also visited the old Piak Snaig Village for Nutrition and Health program, de-lousing 125 children by water pump and then on to inspect our cows. Locals were able to purchase cows at a good price and with our additional funds there’s enough in the kitty to get three more cows”.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### OVERVIEW

The Society is committed to enriching the lives of those experiencing hardship and advocates for a fair, equal and compassionate community through the Social Justice Committee. The Committee works hard to raise awareness and tackle new projects of great need within local communities.

### Delwyn's Story

The Family Friends Program is the first of its kind and provides support to single parent families who are disadvantaged. The Program has the full support of the Society's State Council and through the Special Work – the Social Justice Committee – it is being introduced to 74 conferences state wide for consideration in their areas.

Currently there are ten families in the Whitfords area in the Program who enjoy the friendship of their "family friends" and benefit from regular phone calls, regular visits to their home and receive gifts on their children's birthdays. The Program is also run in conjunction with other charitable groups such as youth groups, pregnancy assistance, and the Legion of Mary.

One single mother who is part of the program is 39 year old Delwyn. Struggling to care for her children after the tragic murder of her eldest son, Delwyn spiralled into a depressive state and found it impossible to function normally and care for her family. It was then, in 2004 that Delwyn met a Society volunteer who responded to her call for assistance and, upon visiting her home and providing material assistance, realised the problem was far greater.

Delwyn says the Society's volunteers gave her a great deal of support in her tough times and even just having someone to talk to and listen was very important in her recovery. She says they were never judgemental and were there for her when she desperately needed help. Over the time their friendship has developed and the future is looking promising for Delwyn

and she is now a very proactive helper to volunteers and aids in the rehabilitation of other single mothers in devastating circumstances by sharing her own story and giving them hope for a brighter future.

### Catherine's Story

It was after Catherine's husband ended their marriage, that things started to get tough. "Everything was ok until the car broke down and needed \$450 worth of repairs, followed by another \$200 after a further break down. On top of that I had a \$450 water bill, \$750 in house insurance, \$350 for school uniforms and the rates had just come in for a further \$1200. I was sitting there wondering how I was going to afford all of this."

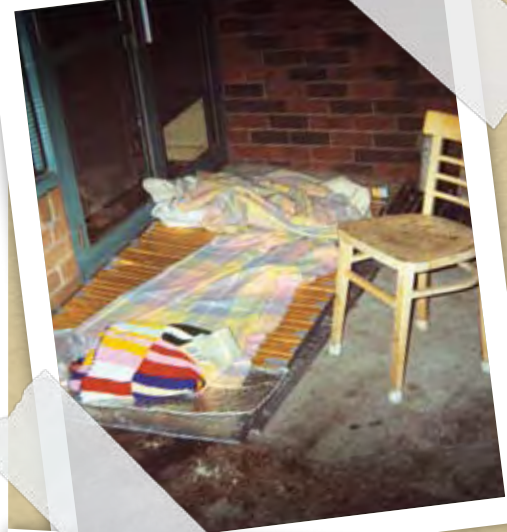
It was then Catherine met a Society volunteer who assisted her with food and help with the bills. The volunteer also assisted with clothing for the children and most of all, gave Catherine someone to talk to – something she needed more than anything. Catherine became a part of the "Family Friends Program" and volunteers were there for Catherine and her children when they needed some help.

Some examples included Catherine needing her lawn cut and gardening done and her 'Family Friends' also give gifts to the children on birthdays and special occasions. Just last Christmas, a Conference member helped set up a trampoline Catherine had bought for her children – without this, she would have had no one else to call, being a single mother with no family around her.

Catherine says the "Family Friends Program" has helped her in her times of need, "I would never be in this position and have such a positive outlook if it weren't for the help of Vinnies. When I am in a stressful situation and I need some extra help, I have someone to turn to, and the best part is that they are never judgemental."

*"Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveller who has been attacked. It is justice's role to prevent the attack."*

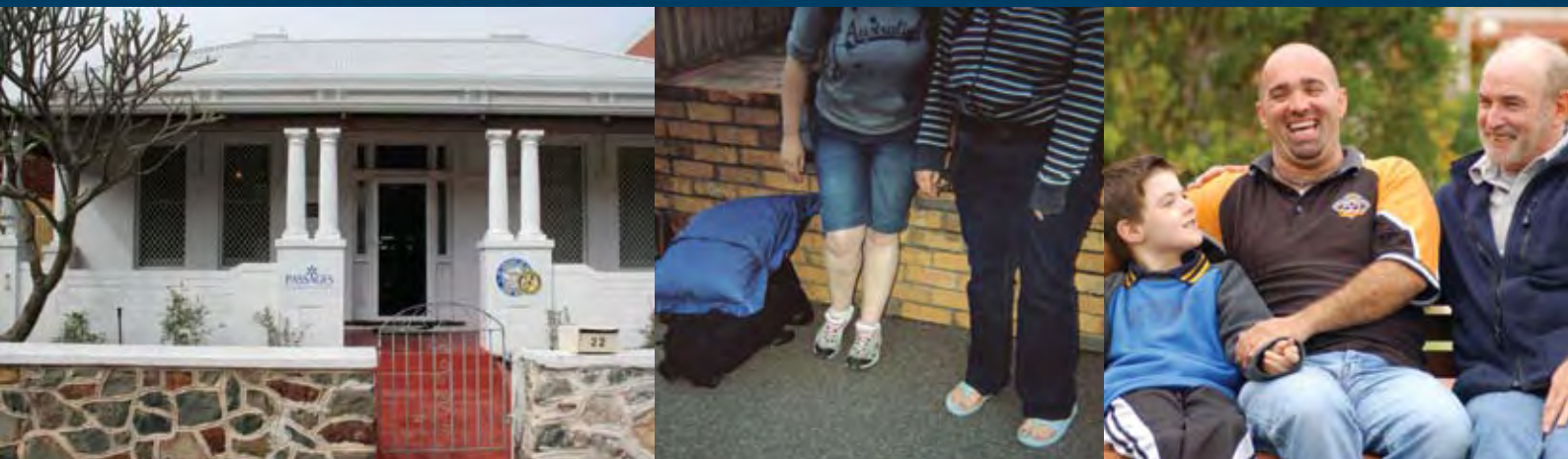
Blessed Frederic Ozanam, Founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society





financials :: *hope. comfort. dignity.*

## FINANCIALS



### STATEMENT BY STATE COUNCIL

In the opinion of the State Council the financial report as set out in the fully audited Financial Statements:

- 1 Presents a true and fair view on the financial position of St Vincent de Paul Society (WA) Inc as at 30 June 2009 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
- 2 At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the St Vincent de Paul Society (WA) Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

As a result of the healthy operating surplus recorded in the 2008-09 financial year and the strong Balance Sheet St Vincent de Paul Society (WA) Inc is more adequately positioned to take on challenges that it has set itself for the 2009-10 financial year in helping those in need within the Western Australia community. With the Society's major objective of assisting those in need and the previous tight financial years the Society has not maintained some of its property plant and equipment that it uses to deliver assistance to those in need at the required level which it now needs to address.

Some of the specific areas that St Vincent de Paul Society WA Inc will be investing in during the 2009-10 financial year will be as follows:

- 1 An upgrade/replacement program of its Commercial Motor Vehicle fleet that is used to deliver material goods to people in need.
- 2 Upgrade St Vincent de Paul Society owned facilities to ensure that they meet required occupational health and safety standards.
- 3 Invest funds in Mental Health and Homeless services.
- 4 Investment in Members, Volunteers and Staff who are the life blood of the Society.
- 5 Invest additional funds in the provision of assistance to those in need. With the increase demand and complexity of issues that people are coming to St Vincent de Paul Society for assistance with, there is a need to review the delivery and nature of services provided.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of State Council and is signed for and on behalf of the State Council by.

Clément Astruc  
State President

Frank McMahon  
State Treasurer

Dated 1st October 2009.

Fully audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009 are available upon request.

## INCOME STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>CONTINUING OPERATIONS</b>		
Fundraising:		
Donations and appeals	2,407,642	2,274,434
Bequests	523,842	302,230
Government funding	627,824	335,499
Rendering of Services	2,363,951	1,877,900
Sale of goods - Centres of charity	5,829,359	4,917,259
Investment income	268,178	261,724
Other Income	883,665	1,169,146
Net gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	264,402	41,770
<b>REVENUE and OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>13,168,863</b>	<b>11,179,962</b>
Communication & Fundraising costs	893,988	842,473
Costs of sales - Centres of charity	4,524,373	4,300,993
People in need services	3,883,797	3,502,229
Homeless & mental health services	1,382,092	1,579,903
Management and administration	761,681	484,955
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>11,445,931</b>	<b>10,710,553</b>
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	1,722,932	469,409
<b>NET SURPLUS for the period</b>	<b>1,722,932</b>	<b>469,409</b>



## BALANCE SHEET

For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	7,761,918	5,051,727
Trade and other receivables	490,979	413,605
Inventories	125,490	157,609
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>8,378,387</b>	<b>5,622,941</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	9,541,809	10,041,101
Intangible asset	-	920
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>9,541,809</b>	<b>10,042,021</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>17,920,196</b>	<b>15,664,962</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	941,211	512,684
Provisions	705,352	494,497
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>1,646,563</b>	<b>1,007,181</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Provisions	178,717	175,797
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>178,717</b>	<b>175,797</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,825,280</b>	<b>1,182,978</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>16,094,916</b>	<b>14,481,984</b>
<b>Capital Funds</b>		
Funds for future social programs	2,380,707	2,380,707
Reserves	2,768,548	2,998,548
Accumulated Funds	10,945,661	9,102,729
<b>Total Capital Funds</b>	<b>16,094,916</b>	<b>14,481,984</b>

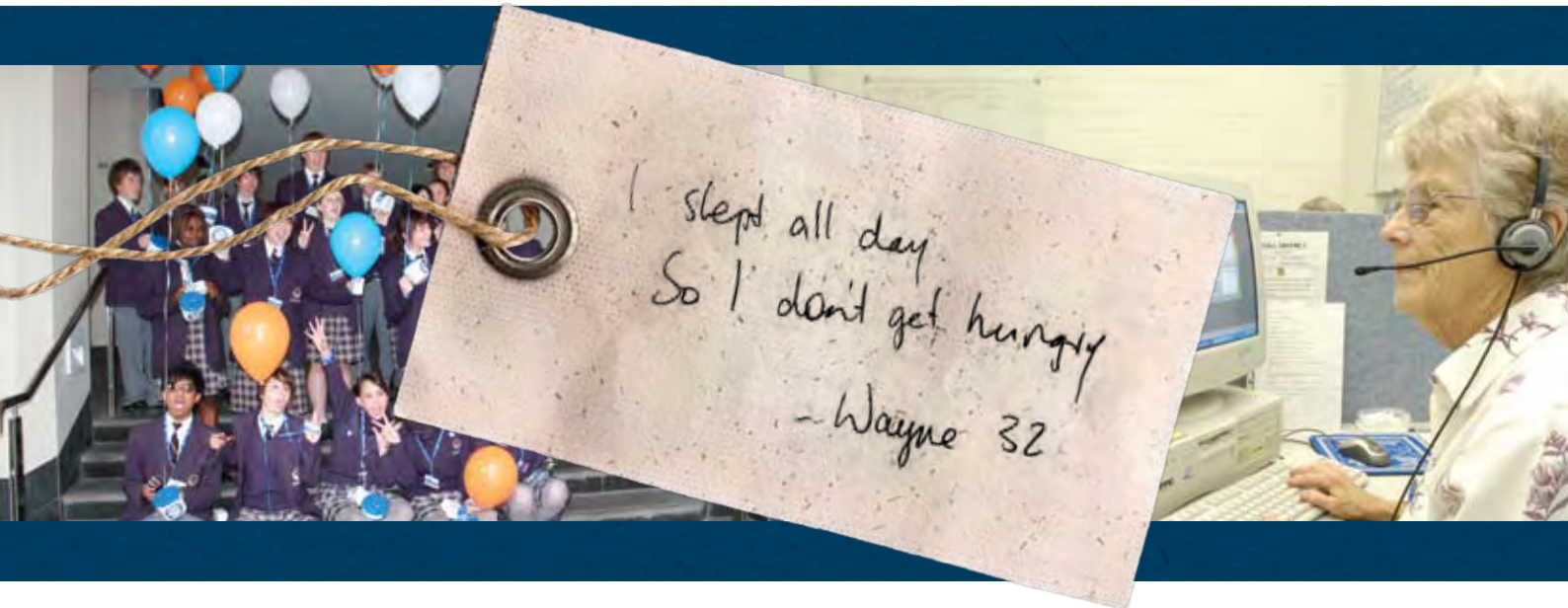


wa community :: *hope. comfort. dignity.*

# PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANK YOU



The St Vincent de Paul Society would like to acknowledge and thank the many individuals, businesses, clubs and organisations who make it possible for us to carry out our Good Works in the community.

The Society is committed to supporting West Australians in need and through the community's ongoing support we can ensure we are able to respond to every genuine call for help we receive.

If you would like to help create a more just and compassionate Western Australian community, there are many ways in which you can get involved through the St Vincent de Paul Society. Together, we can make a difference.

### Donors & Benefactors

The St Vincent de Paul Society relies greatly on the generosity of the community to support vital programs and services for people in need in WA. Thank you to the thousands of individual donors and the Estates who have given so generously over the last 12 months, your donations have made a big difference to the lives of many in our community.

### Corporate & Community Partners

Thank you to our Corporate & Community Partners who continue to support our good work. On behalf of the thousands of people who have received help from the St Vincent de Paul Society we gratefully acknowledge and thank everyone who has in any way assisted us over the past 12 months.

### Media

Special thanks to all West Australian media outlets (newspaper, radio stations and television stations) for promoting the Society's Appeals and campaigns through free of charge community service announcements and through editorial commentary. The media's ongoing support of the work of the Society in the West Australian community is acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

### Schools

Thank you to all the schools across Western Australia who participated in youth programs, volunteering, donation drives and fundraising activities. A special thank you to all the teachers who assisted by coordinating the programs and volunteers within your schools.

### Advisory Boards

We would like to thank and acknowledge all those who served voluntarily on Advisory Committees and Boards for sharing their valuable time and knowledge with the Society with the aim of assisting people in need.

### Call Centre Volunteers

We would like to acknowledge and thank the many people who have volunteered their time through the Call Centre over the past year. The Call Centre volunteers have been dedicated to the role of receiving calls from people in need in the community and relaying the necessary information to the volunteers undertaking Home Visitations. We thank them for undertaking this vital work for the Society.

### Members, Volunteers and Staff

A special thank you to all our members, volunteers and staff for their ongoing dedication and commitment to the Society and the people it helps. We are humbled and amazed by the work of these groups and our sincere thanks and prayers go out to them.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP



### Become a Member

The St Vincent de Paul Society provides an avenue for individuals to help others in an environment of respect and compassion. Members come from all walks of life; their commonality is their mission to support and care for those who lack the resources to lead a healthy and full life. To find out how you can become a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society please phone the Society on (08) 9475 5400.

### Volunteer your time

If you are interested in helping people through any of the St Vincent de Paul Society's services, great volunteering opportunities exist. For further information on volunteering please phone the Society on (08) 9475 5400.

### Make a financial donation

Credit card donations can be made by phoning 13 18 12 or by logging on to [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au). All donations are used to assist the disadvantaged with whom we work. To have your name added to our bi-annual Appeal mail out, please phone our Fundraising Department on (08) 9475 5400.

### Leave a Bequest

Please consider remembering the St Vincent de Paul Society in your Will. The Society's Tom Perrott Friends Forever Club honours the generosity of Bequest donors in a dignified and respectful way. The Society is able to assist thousands of people because of the generosity of those who have remembered the Society in their Will. To find out more information on the Tom Perrott Friends Forever Club or how you can remember the Society in your Will please call our Bequest Officer on (08) 9475 5414.

### Helping Hands Regular Giving Program

The Helping Hands Program allows donors to make a periodical commitment to the work of the Society and receive only one tax-deductible receipt each year. Helping Hands supporters are kept informed of the Society's good works through the bi-annual newsletter *The Spirit*. For more information call the Society on (08) 9475 5400.

### Donate pre-loved goods

Donations of pre-loved clothing, household goods and furniture can be made at our Clothing and Furniture Depot in Osborne Park or by organising a pickup in your area by calling (08) 9444 5622.

### Become a Corporate Partner

The St Vincent de Paul Society recognises the importance of developing and nurturing strong links with the corporate and philanthropic sectors to allow us to continue to help make positive changes in the lives of the people we help. The Society seeks to engage all partners in long-term, strategic and mutually beneficial relationships. Companies can support the St Vincent de Paul Society through Corporate Partnerships, Corporate Sponsorships, Cause Related Marketing and/or Philanthropic Donations. To find out more please call the Public Relations and Fundraising Department on (08) 9475 5400.







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