

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY WA (INC) **ANNUAL REPORT 2007**



HOPE ■ COMFORT ■ DIGNITY



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

OUR MISSION

The Mission of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is to deepen the Catholic faith of its members and to go out into our nation and heighten the awareness of Jesus Christ.

We do this by sharing ourselves – who we are and what we have – with the disadvantaged on a person to person basis. We seek to co-operate in shaping a more just and compassionate Australian community, and to share our resources with our 'twinned' countries.

Our preferred option in this mission of service is to work with the disadvantaged in development, by respecting their dignity, sharing our hope and encouraging them to take control of their destiny.



THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - AN OVERVIEW

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. France was experiencing tremendous political and social upheaval, he 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 1600 at age 19.

As a young man he ministered to the wealthy; 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."

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

Today the Society operates in 144 countries and has over 950,000 members worldwide. In Australia there are 40,000 members nationally. The Perth Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society was the second conference to be founded and began in 1865. At present there are close to 80 conferences throughout the State with a total of more than 800 members.

The Society in Western Australia

For over 142 years in Western Australia 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 a commitment to the mission of the Society working together to assist people in need in the West Australian community. In the 06/07 financial year there were :-

Parish Conferences	78
Members	800
Youth & Young Adult Conferences	13
Young Vinnies Members	410
Special Works	9
Vinnies Centres	43
Volunteers	2000
Staff	62

In Western Australia the Society is governed by a State Council consisting of 14 members all of whom, except the CEO, are volunteers. There are 8 geographical Regions from which a representative from each sits on State Council. State Council also includes a number of nominated members who act as office bearers, including Vice Presidents, Treasurer 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.

State Council of Western Australia :-

State President	Genevieve De Souza
Vice President	Kevin Goff
Vice President	Brian Bull - outgoing
CEO	Alan Jennings
State Treasurer	Ray Smith
Spiritual Advisor	Father Pat Cunningham
President Perth Region	David Fitzgerald
President Fremantle Region	Terry Power
President Queens Park Region	Pam Cherry
President Joondalup/Wanneroo Region	Clem Astruc
President Isolated Region	Annette Ellis
President Osborne Park Region	Vin Barry - outgoing
President Swan Region Region	Peter Murphy
	George Walls - outgoing
President South West Region	Trevor Lyra
	Peg Matthiesson - outgoing
	Peter Mitchell

As the state's largest charity, the St Vincent de Paul Society provided a helping hand to over 155,000 West Australians in the last financial year through food assistance, material goods, shelter, friendship and support.

In the spirit of its founders the Society's core work continues to be Home Visitation - whereby members and volunteers visit people in need in their home, offering them comfort through emergency relief assistance including food, clothing, household items assistance with bills, friendship and support.

The Society also has a number of services known as Special Works. Special Works are a professional facility 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.

There are currently 9 Special Works in Western Australia, these are:

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

St Vincent de Paul Society Spirituality

By Genevieve De Souza

Have you ever wondered what drives the St Vincent de Paul Society to Good Works? It is often said that the Society is not a welfare but a spiritual organisation yet the Society is so clearly involved in providing welfare and doing charitable acts for those most in need. The action is a means of carrying out a desire – a desire to "Love God and to love one's neighbour"

Knowing words were not enough to convince others of their Christian faith, the Society's founders Frederic Ozanam and his companions took up the challenge of acting out their faith in service to those most in need.

This challenge and example of its founders still continues to feed the spirit of members, volunteers and staff within the Society.

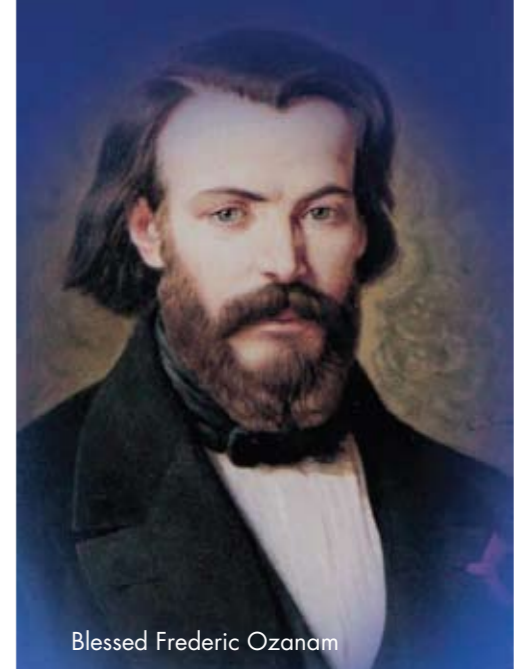
Society members, called Vincentians, embrace a vocation to follow Jesus Christ through service to those in need, seeing in each person the face of Christ and through humble service touching the hearts of those who suffer with the compassion and love of Jesus himself.

For Vincentians, this vocation is a way of life! It is a prayer, a way of meeting God in a world that can sometimes be cold and uncaring.

The Vincentian service is accomplished with complete respect for those being assisted, their dignity and the right to make their own choices.

The Society is often referred to as a fraternal organisation. Members, volunteers and staff come together in mutual respect for each other to attempt to lighten the load of distress and injustice for the many who are voiceless.

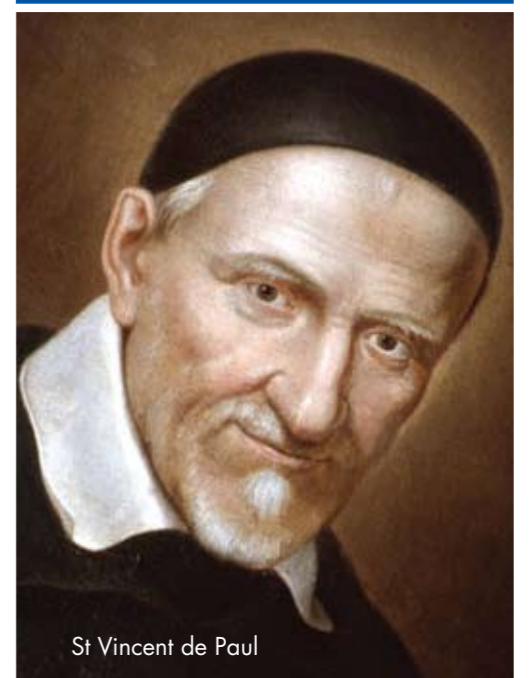
We continue to strive to be authentic witnesses to the Gospel of love and to our Mission – 'to deepen the Catholic faith of the members – to go out into our nation to heighten awareness of Jesus Christ.'



Blessed Frederic Ozanam

"Yours must be a work of love, of kindness; you must give your time your talents, yourselves. The poor person is a unique person of God's fashioning with an alienable right to respect. You must not be content with tiding the poor over in a crisis: you must study their condition and the injustices which brought about such poverty, with the aim of long term improvement"

Blessed Frederic Ozanam



St Vincent de Paul

STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"I am comforted and inspired by the kindness and generosity of West Australians in supporting people in need in the community."

When the founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society, Blessed Frederic Ozanam set out to embrace the whole world in a network of charity, I wonder if he ever anticipated that he would be so successful in his endeavour.

As another year passes on I am comforted and inspired by the kindness and generosity of West Australians in supporting people in need in the community. Our dedicated members, volunteers and staff who carry out the home visitations and Special Works have continued their work and commitment to providing hope, comfort and dignity to the lives of those who need it the most.

Amid the resources 'boom' in Western Australia it was compelling to see the generosity shown by the West Australian community through their donations to our Appeals and Special Works. Once again the community met and in many cases exceeded our fundraising expectations, enabling the Society to continue to respond to the increasing number of requests for assistance. The work of the Society, especially the emergency relief that is provided to the community could not be provided without the assistance of many corporate and community partners, and a special mention must be made to Lotterywest for their ongoing support.

Due to the variable nature of the needs in our community, the St Vincent de Paul Society made some significant changes to the Special Works being provided in Western Australia during the last financial year. As the needs grew in some areas, benefits lessened in others and the Society was forced to evaluate and cease the operations of certain Special Works. I thank the Society's members, volunteers, staff and supporters for assisting with these crucial, but often challenging transitions.

The St Vincent de Paul Society WA has continued to grow through 2006 and 2007 with new members joining; a stable and vibrant volunteer base; new highly skilled staff being recruited and an increasing number of West Australians receiving assistance.

With the growing need for assistance and the mounting pressure on our services, it is crucial to the Society's development that we continue to focus on the recruitment of members and volunteers.

The reports and reflections provided within this Annual Report highlight the vast growth of the Society over the last year and indicate the need for further growth in certain areas. The Society's conferences that carry out the core work of home visitations have received an increasing number of calls for assistance with subsequent pressures mounting on the conferences, particularly those in regions of higher need. These pressures have filtered through to our Special Works and they have all worked tirelessly over the last year to support the specific needs of the community. Rising rental prices and increases to the overall cost of living have placed heightened pressures on West Australian families and individuals, and increases to living costs are imminent.

In the last year governance, accountability and occupational health and safety have been high on the Society's priority list and much planning and work has gone into ensuring compliance in these areas. I wish to thank my fellow State Councillors for their input and support in keeping alive the mission of the Society.

It has been said that there is no charity without justice. They go hand in hand. I am glad to report that we have successfully reformed the Social Justice Committee with members and staff passionate about bringing justice to charity.

In accordance with our mission to create a more just and compassionate Society, I believe Blessed Frederic Ozanam would be proud to see how the West Australian community, together with the worldwide network of Vincentians have embraced the notion of charity, through providing a hand up, not just a hand out.

I thank all our conference members, volunteers, staff and our generous donors for embracing the network of charity.

God Bless

Genevieve De Souza

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



"Conference members are being faced with ever increasing and more complex problems on their home visits as a result of increased costs of living – food, petrol and rent, changes in family structures, as well as severe medical problems."

The last year has seen many changes in the Society's activities for a variety of reasons.

The biggest change was the unfortunate closure of the six Low Cost Food Outlets. This was a very difficult decision made by State Council after many months of discussions on the service and impact it would have on shoppers and volunteers.

The Outlets became uneconomical to run with increasing rents and utility charges, and national supermarkets with a greater purchasing power being able to offer greater selection of goods and specials at more than competitive prices. The introduction of electronic point of sale equipment proved more than a challenge for some volunteers who were uncomfortable with new technology. The need to adhere to strict food handling and occupational health and safety issues also contributed to pressure being imposed on the dedicated band of volunteers who have tirelessly served the Society over the years.

Consequently on the closure of the Outlets, the conference's (parish groups) pantries which were stocked with food from the central Food Distribution Centre changed their method of operation. Instead of food parcels being distributed to people in need, by conference members, gift cards issued by national supermarkets were used. This was welcomed by ageing members who found difficulty carrying food and proved beneficial in providing people choice in what they purchased at the supermarket, especially for those from ethnic and culturally diverse backgrounds or those with an ever-increasing incidence of food allergies.

Also affecting the Society during the year was the closure of some conferences through ageing membership, with most workload being passed to nearby conferences. Unfortunately this increased the workload for many conferences which meant they sometimes had to put a limit on the number of visits the members were able to make on a daily basis.

Conference members are being faced with ever increasing and more complex problems on their home visits as a result of increased costs of living – food, petrol and rent, changes in family structures, as well as severe medical problems.

Complexities have also been encountered by the Society

in terms of its operational activities, the management of its strong volunteer base and the employment and recruitment of professional staff. To address these complexities the Society made the decision in the last financial year to appoint a Human Resources Manager to ensure the Society complies with the numerous and complex employment and occupational safety and health laws.

Another key operating initiative was the implementation of a centralised metropolitan Call Centre managed by a Call Centre Manager and staffed by volunteers. The Call Centre has allowed the Society to centralise its welfare assistance calls and adopt key technology to help support the workflow to conferences. The Call Centre has also enabled the Society to better capture crucial statistical information about the people we assist and to also better manage the Society's calls for assistance, ensuring we continue to meet the needs of the community,

Without the loyal and dedicated work of our members and volunteers, advisory committees, boards, donors, supporters and staff, the Society would not be able to be so active in the community assisting those in need.

Alan Jennings ACIS PNA MAICD CD

GOOD WORKS - A YEAR IN REVIEW

CONFERENCES

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.

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 provided 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.

Home Visits were carried out in pairs by conference members. They continued on a regular basis, providing the 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

Regional Calls for Assistance :-

Fremantle	4260
Isolated	3180
Joondalup/Wanneroo	1356
Osborne Park	2196
Perth	1272
Queens Park	3888
South West	2004
Swan	3972
TOTAL CALLS	22 128

Family Status of People Assisted by Conferences :-

Couples no children	1404
Couples with children	4284
Singles no children	6564
Singles with children	9876
TOTAL	22 128

Income Source of People Assisted by Conferences :-

Age Pension	672
Disability	5052
Newstart	4320
Low Income	600
Parenting	984
Sickness	576
Sole Parent	6924
Youth	552
Other	1728

REGIONAL REPORTS

FREMANTLE REGION

Regional President: Terry Power



For the Fremantle Region to move forward into the future with a solid platform, we have found it necessary to spend this year in a consolidation phase. This has resulted due a declining conference membership resulting from an ageing volunteer base and compassion fatigue amongst members due to the high use of our services. We thank all present and past members for the healthy state that they have left the Fremantle region in and we appreciate their dedication, devotion, and energy as without them, many in the community who

have fallen on troubled times would not have been able to regain their dignity and regain control of their lives.

Younger members are now accepting the challenges of becoming part of a conference and we are happy to report that we now have four young Presidents in the region who are bringing their own brand of enthusiasm to rejuvenate the Fremantle Region.

During the year a number of Fremantle conferences have either closed or gone into recess and this again demonstrates the changing demographics of the Fremantle region that stretches from Cottesloe to Mandurah. Our aim is to be represented in the area that needs our assistance the most.

This year the Fremantle Region in conjunction with the students from Notre Dame University have been running a pilot Homework centre. This project has made great strides and we are very pleased with the blue print it is creating for the future. This project has been driven by an enthusiastic group of students who are assisting troubled children with their homework and life skills.

Conferences:

Applecross	St Benedict's
Bateman	St Thomas More
Beaconsfield	Christ The King
Hilton	Our Lady of Mt Carmel
Kwinana	St Vincent de Paul
Mandurah	Our Lady's Assumption
Rockingham	Our Lady of Lourdes
Spearwood	St Jerome's
Willetton	Saint John & Paul

Members: 103

Vinnies Centres: 8

Calls for Assistance: 4260

Amount of Emergency Relief Provided: \$368,970



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

Blessed Frederic Ozanam



ISOLATED REGION

Regional President: Annette Ellis



The isolated conferences continue to do their share of helping people in need in their communities and are a vital part of the Society's network of faith in action in this vast state.

Following ongoing trends, our isolated conferences are suffering a decline in membership in a similar way to the Metropolitan area - this has led to the

recess of the Broome, Northam and Toodyay conferences in the last twelve months.

Since October last year, the welfare needs of the Broome area has been taken over by the Bishop of Broome who reclaimed the premises where the Society's welfare and Vinnies Centre was operated from. Currently there is no Society presence in Broome.

The South Hedland Conference continues to operate a very busy Centre with high welfare demands for clothing for people in need in Hedland and the Isolated Missions.

The Narrogin Conference members continue to work hard assisting people in their local and surrounding communities including helping to purchase a very much needed 'Gopher' for a lady in their area. She was very grateful to the Society for its help which provided her with comfort and independence.

The Bullsbrook Conference in the last financial year has moved under the Isolated Region banner and continues to help people in need in the surrounding areas of Muchea, Bindoon and Gingin

Albany, Denmark, Geraldton, Katanning and Karratha conferences continue to serve those most in need in their communities and the Society acknowledges the efforts of all its members and volunteers in the Isolated Region and recognises the complexities that can arise due to the broad and diverse needs of regional communities in Western Australia.

Conferences:

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

Members: 76

Vinnies Centres: 6

Calls for Assistance to Conferences: 3180

Amount of Emergency Relief Provided: \$186,768

JOONDALUP/WANNEROO REGION

Regional President: Clem Austruc



The Society's involvement in the provision of assistance and special care to its clients in this region spans over 30 years. The Society's achievements in those areas are largely due to the energy, passion and commitment of its conference members, auxiliary members and volunteers who identified the need to seek, reach out and care for those in

need. We are grateful to past members for their great sense of care and community and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their devotion.

The cost of living is hitting families very hard in our region, especially and with the escalation of rent. Society members have to respond to numerous stories of hardship and adversity. The situation is worsening and today we attend to more calls of distress for payment of utilities than for a food parcel. This shift to settlement of utility bills is putting a lot of pressure on the Society's resources.

Visitation to families in their homes is an essential part of our work as it helps, Society members organise much needed financial assistance to cover costs of essentials such as rent, and other accounts. The Society in the region has also established a great working relationship with many service providers and support groups. For instance, on several occasions Society members have spoken on behalf of a client to service providers, to ensure that families are not cut off as a result of late payments. In addition to helping to meet common needs, visitation to our clients also enables us to work towards addressing certain unique problems experienced by some families. Listening is a vital part of our work and through our contacts with our clients, we have been informed of children and families becoming increasingly isolated due to a lack of financial means. We are grateful for the Buddy Day program run by the Youth Department of the Society, that provides much needed activities and social interaction for children and not to mention a welcome break for the parents.

Society members in our region are involved in a wide variety of activities, from working with Vinnies Centres through to specialised initiatives such as budget counselling and core Society activities such as home visitation. The Society assists

many vulnerable people, single parents and their children, people with mental health issues, the homeless and the aged. Our volunteer members are fully prepared to protect the good reputation of the Society and are adequately equipped to provide meaningful assistance to those in need.

The experience of being a Vincentian can be life changing and to those that are joining the Society today, we wish you well, do enjoy the journey and remember that serving the poor is a privilege and a vocation.

Conferences:

Clarkson	St Andrew's
Greenwood	St Charles'
Ocean Reef	St Simon Peter
Wanneroo	St Anthony's
Whitfords	Our Lady Of The Missions

Members: 68

Vinnies Centres: 3

Calls for Assistance to Conferences: 1356

Amount of Emergency Relief Provided: \$88,740

OSBORNE PARK REGION

Regional President: Vin Barry



The Osborne Park Region is a busy and committed region of members and volunteers who work hard to assist people in need in our community.

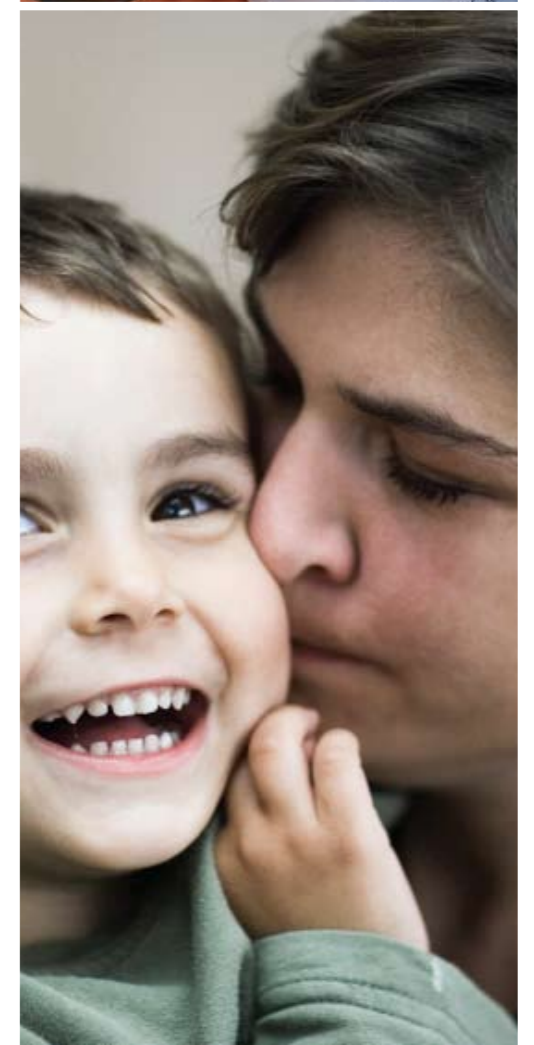
It has been disappointing in the past 12 months to see the forced amalgamation of some conferences in the Osborne Park Region due to lack of membership numbers. City Beach and Scarborough Conferences have combined and Karrinyup and Innaloo Conferences have also combined. Combining conferences ensures

the members are able to meet the demand for need in their communities – the Society continues to actively seek new members for these conferences to help support the vital work of assisting people in need in these communities.

On a positive note, the Osborne Park Region has seen the Commissioning of a new Regional President, two Conference Presidents and six new members. This has generated a great deal of enthusiasm for the Region as we continue our commitment to the people we serve

The Osborne Park Conference is to be congratulated for its fundraising efforts – this conference raised \$1100 for its twin conference to purchase a goat for their community. The goat project is a well established and successful program adopted by the Society to assist our overseas Vincentians by making a tangible and life affecting contribution to the way in which they live.

The Osborne Park Region looks forward to continuing its efforts in serving the community in which we work and putting our faith into action, adding hope, comfort and dignity to those who call on us for assistance.



Conferences:

Balcatta	St Lawrence
Ballaajura	Mary MacKillop
City Beach/ Scarborough	Holy Spirit
Joondanna	St Denis'
Karrinyup/ Innaloo	Our Lady of Good Counsel
Mirrabooka	St Gerard's
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

Members: 97

Vinnies Centres: 4

Calls for Assistance to Conferences: 2196

Amount of Emergency Relief Provided: \$147,299

PERTH REGION

Regional President: David Fitzgerald



The Perth Region is made up of ten Conferences with St Paul's, Mount Lawley currently in recess. Membership is down on last year with a decline from 85 members last year to 78 this financial year.

The Region attends to approximately 140 welfare calls per month with the busiest Conference, Queen of Martyrs

Maylands dealing with 28-30 of these calls for assistance with only 6 active members

Conferences in the Perth Region continue to meet regularly to offer support to one another in their work in the community. Regional Council meetings have also been held and attended regularly by members of the Perth Region and are held on the second Thursday of each month except January.

The Region finished the year with a positive balance of \$41,982 after income of \$121,724 and expenses of \$79,742.

The result for next year is expected to be \$15,000 less for the year ended 30th of June 2008 because of a major building program on the St Joseph Parish car park. This carpark project was used by the Subiaco Conference to raise considerable funds by selling parking for football, rugby and concerts held at Subiaco Oval.

The biggest concern of the Region is the dwindling numbers and it's ageing members. The Perth Region looks forward to the recruitment of new and committed members and the

ongoing commitment to the Society's mission of serving those most in need in our community.

Conferences:

Bedford/Inglewood	St Peter's
Claremont	St Thomas the Apostle
Leederville	St Mary's
Maylands	Queen of Martyr
Nedlands	Holy Rosary
North Perth/Highgate	Redemptorist Monastery
Perth	Immaculate Conception
Subiaco	St Joseph's
Wembley/Floreat	Our Lady of Victories

Members: 78

Vinnies Centres: 6

Calls for Assistance to Conferences: 1272

Amount of Emergency Relief Provided: \$99,428

QUEENS PARK REGION

Regional President: Pam Cherry



There have been a number of significant changes to the Queens Park Region in the last financial year including the closure of the Queens Park Welfare office and its relocation to the centralised Call Centre.

All conferences within the Queens Park Region have been busy trying to meet the demands of those in need.

The increased pressure on the housing market has had a significant impact on the region with increased rents adding pressure to the conference's resources – both human and financial.

The Victoria Park Conference has gone into recess due to lack of member numbers and for the interim has been amalgamated with East Victoria Park Conference. This combined conference continues to assist people in need in the busy Victoria Park area.

The Region has taken the opportunity to invite guest speakers to its Regional meeting to ensure members are given all the information they need to carry out their work. These included presentations from the Membership & Development Department, the Call Centre and Vincentcare.

All conferences have been busy and have actively been involved with both the Winter and Christmas Appeal; a large number of hampers were put together and delivered to people in this region over Christmas. Conferences from this Region also worked on back to school projects with other local

agencies to ensure children returning to school in January had the required tools to learn.

Highlights within the region over the past year have included the Queens Park Conference holding two very successful sausage sizzles raising funds for the Winter Appeal and the Street Appeal. A new Conference President was commissioned for the Bentley Conference – Mrs Lynda Phua. The Manning Conference also held a very successful Caring and Sharing Mass.

The ongoing problem of declining membership affects all conferences in the Region but our members remain committed to providing hope, comfort and dignity to people in need in the Queens Park Region. We look forward to continuing this commitment in the future.

Conferences:

Armadale	St Francis Xavier
Bentley	Santa Clara
Carlisle	Holy Name
Como	Holy Family
East Vic 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	Queen of Apostles
Rivervale	St Augustine's
Thornlie	Sacred Heart
Victoria Park	St Joachim's

Members: 126

Vinnies Centres: 5

Calls for Assistance to Conferences: 3888

Amount of Emergency Relief Provided: \$299,397

SOUTH WEST REGION

Regional President: Peg Mathession



The South West remains an active and busy Region and covers a large geographical area for the Society. Members continue to put their faith into action by making a high number of residential, hospital, hostel and other visitations – offering hope and comfort to many people.

The distribution of clothing, food and food vouchers has continued and members often find the process of distributing this assistance to people in their homes allows the people we visit to talk, often providing

members with the opportunity to identify deeper problems that may exist in addition to a bare cupboard.

Members of the Region have also undertaken work involving advocacy on behalf of the people we help with utility agencies. Members have accessed Government and Community Assist Programs including Telstra Assist and Power Assist.

The Region acknowledges the growing need for the services of Child Protection



"The strongest bond of true friendship is charity, and the exercise of good charity is the practice of good works"

Frederic Ozanam, Founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society



Agencies, Disability Services Commission, Maccers and Anglicare to name a few. Working in harmony with other agencies is important and enhances the spirit of friendship and charity within the locality. Most St Vincent de Paul Conferences have a friendly working relationship with fellow charitable organisations.

The Assist-a-Student program has been a very successful project for the South West Region with many conferences supporting 2-4 students. Bunbury has 4 students from Pakistan and other conferences support students from our twinned countries.

Members within the Region also assisted a number of school students with School Support providing assistance with school necessities such as uniforms, fees and materials enabling the students to attend school with all the required tools to learn.

Some conferences initiated St Vincent de Paul Society scholarships for entrance to colleges. College students are encouraged to participate in the Society's various appeals i.e. Winter Appeal, Christmas Appeal and fundraising.

Vinnies Centres in the South West Region are not just an outlet for receiving and selling goods but an opportunity for the volunteers become aware of the deeper needs of the community. This allows volunteers to alert conferences of problems a customer might have spoken about.

Challenges arise regularly which means wisdom only comes through prayer and an understanding - do we "Hand out or hand up?". There exists major concern in the Society that is quite often drug related, mental stress related and of course born mental deficiencies, resulting in an inability to cope.

Furthermore it is becoming more difficult to encourage volunteers to service agencies. Here to date in the South West 90% of our conferences are receiving some new members and a healthy number of auxiliary members - we pray to God this will continue.

Worthy of mention is the new Bunbury Depot and Retail Centre which will open in the near future and Busselton's new Centre. There always seems to be some area of growth and activity!

Conferences:

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
Waroona	St Patrick's

Members: 78
Vinnies Centres: 7
Calls for Assistance to Conferences: 2004
Amount of Emergency Relief Provided: \$134,618

SWAN REGION Regional President: George Walls



This has been a very busy year for our members within the Swan Region. Most of our work involved answering calls for assistance from refugees and the general public. In recent times there has been an increase in calls from low income families living in rental accommodation asking for advice or monetary assistance. We are being told by those we assist

that the dramatic increase in rental costs is the main reason they need help to supply with the necessities of life for their families.

Many of our members are involved with visiting the elderly in their homes and in nursing homes. They are often, the most forgotten marginalised people in our community. Usually all they want and need is to know that someone is out there who cares and is concerned enough to take the time to come and talk to them.

The Society desperately needs more people to give back to God a small fraction of the time He has given them.

Conferences:

Bassendean	St Joseph's
Belmont/Redcliffe	St Anne's/St Maria Goretti
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

Members: 103
Vinnies Centres: 3
Calls for Assistance to Conferences: 3972
Amount of Emergency Relief Provided: \$270,835

MEMBERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT Chairperson: Genevieve De Souza Manager: Colleen Williams

The Membership & Conference Development team is there to support and assist conference members throughout Western Australia. Members and auxiliaries can then help those who are disadvantaged within the community by carrying out their work in the most effective and efficient way possible. This is achieved through the provision of training and the generation of up to date resources. Training is offered throughout the year so that members and auxiliaries can acquire the necessary skills and information to best assist people in need.

In late 2006 the Formation and Training Department was reviewed and was renamed the Membership & Development Department because of the new focus, added responsibilities and growth of the Department. Portfolios include:

- Formation of Conferences
- Membership Training and Development;
- Development of Training Manuals and Conference Materials
- Human Resources and Recruitment
- Spiritual Development through Conferences
- Conference Support
- Emergency Relief
- Call Centre

An important aspect of the role of the Membership & Development Department is to encourage the on-going process whereby Vincentians can grow as Christians and as human beings in solidarity with those who are disadvantaged, without prejudice.

In the 12 months to June 2007:

- Membership recruitment drives were held for various conferences state wide
- Training programs were made available for new Presidents and conference members at different locations throughout the state
- Festival masses were held in all regions during the year
- 4 new Regional Presidents were commissioned
- An annual retreat was held for conference members where 65 delegates attended
- A 2 day President's forum was held where 65 delegates attended

Training and Development is an integral component of the Membership & Development program and provides the most up to date information and training to members. This equips each volunteer to give the best non-judgmental service to our disadvantaged clients. Keeping Members up to date with our policies and procedures is a key factor to ensuring the Society's ethos and spirituality are upheld.

Training has been provided state wide for all members including:

- Regional Presidents Training
- New Conference Presidents Training
- Presidents Renewal Training
- New Members Training
- Home Visitation Training

It is envisaged that most members of the Society will have received training within the next financial year. These programs have now been facilitated state wide, to fit in with Conference timetables.



" The Vincentian vocation is based on the intimate desire to participate personally and directly in helping the needy by inter-personal contact and the gift of one's heart and one's friendship..."

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



Another new initiative for the Membership & Development Department is the newly centralised Call Centre for the metro area where all requests for assistance are taken and dispersed to 59 Conferences. The Call Centre is the first port of call for people who are in crisis where their needs are addressed with dignity and respect. The Call Centre takes approximately 1400 calls a month.

The Call Centre is staffed by volunteers weekdays from 9am to 2pm. Volunteers come from all walks of life; some supplementing the work they already do for the Society and who see this service as part of their spiritual vocation. (through home visitation conference work or helping out in Vinnies Retail Centres). Others are on assignment from the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service or other Community Services organisations such as PEP. Call centre and general 'job ready' training is an important component of this section and volunteers have successfully used it as a stepping stone into full time paid employment within the commercial sector.

Looking into the future, the Call Centre is continually looking at the ways it can improve the service it offers both clients and the St Vincent de Paul Society alike. Work has already started on the 'Conference Boundaries Project'. Working in partnership with Curtin University, the Call Centre has been given with the task of mapping out the current conference boundaries. The next step is to superimpose these boundaries with socio-demographic and conference information in order to assess the current status of the Society and to recommend where resources should be focused in order to meet the ever changing and growing demands of the community.

One of the most important roles of the Membership & Development Department undertakes is the rejuvenation of declining conferences and the development of new conferences. Although we have seen 5 of our Conferences move into recess over the past year, we have developed strategies for re-growth for the future. Operational Plans are being established by each Conference to enable us to set goals and plan for the future. A number of Conferences have been involved in positive recruitment drives and have successfully grown by up to eight members. Membership recruitment drives were held in Ocean Reef, Thornlie, Queens Park, Kalgoorlie, Busselton, Lockridge, Claremont and Karratha. Commissioning ceremonies are being held at Festival Masses state wide for all new members who have passed their induction phase.

Over the next 12 months the Membership and Development Department will be working to re-invigorate the 20 Conferences that have moved into recess over the past 5 years and to develop Conferences in new areas of need.

VINNIES CENTRES

Chairperson: David Reed

General Manager: Lisa Chapman

For many people the St Vincent de Paul Society's Vinnies Centres are the most visible of the Society's work – clearly identified by their bold blue branding. They are often the first point of contact for people seeking assistance. They are places where people can buy quality clothing, furniture and household items at affordable prices, they hold a treasure trove of bargains for all shoppers alike; while at the same time providing much needed welfare assistance to people in need directed to the Centres by the conferences.

2006/2007 has been another busy, yet very productive year for the Vinnies Retail Centres. The past 12 months have seen some consolidation of the Centres development over the past 5 years, as well as the conclusion of some bigger projects that were necessary to move forward in certain areas. The Retail Management Team, under the direction of the State Centres Board, chaired by David Reed, has worked tirelessly over the past 12 months to ensure the Centres are continuing to provide a fresh, clean and bright face for the Society, under the new name of VINNIES.

This year has seen the introduction of the Vinnies brand with all shops in the Perth metro area being re-branded externally in line with National Style Guidelines. All regional Centres will be re-branded in the coming year to ensure all 43 Centres in WA are known as Vinnies. Together with the upgrades, the Vinnies rebranding has helped to rejuvenate the Centres and make them friendly, inviting and sociable places in which to visit, shop or volunteer.

As in previous years, the Retail Management Team have facilitated several special projects throughout the year, in addition to the daily management and operational aspects of the centres.

One of the larger projects for the year was the relocation and grand opening of Vinnies Mandurah in June. The old premises in Davey Street had served its purpose for the last 10 years and it was time to move on to a bigger, more accessible location. The new site on Pinjarra Rd has, as anticipated, exceeded all expectations and has enabled Vinnies to really continue to make a difference in Mandurah and the surrounding area. The new shop is spacious, professionally laid out and includes a large area dedicated to the selling of second hand furniture. Volunteer in Charge, Claire Greenwood has been instrumental in ensuring the smooth transition of the 50 volunteers in Vinnies Mandurah and the entire team is to be congratulated on the success of the new Centre.

A similar project was undertaken in Rockingham earlier in 2007 when the old Vinnies was relocated from Hurrell Way industrial area to Rockingham Commercial Centre in Livingstone Rd. The new Centre has again provided a pleasant, clean and fresh environment for customers, clients and volunteers. Vinnies Rockingham has now joined the hub of activity right next to Good Sammy's and this has made the Centre more easily accessible for everyone in the local area. We also welcomed some new volunteers to Vinnies; both Volunteer in Charge Rita Edwards and existing volunteers welcomed the extra support.

Another large project that has begun in mid-2007 and will continue through to completion due in late 2007 is the relocation of the Bunbury Depot and renovation of the Bunbury Vinnies Centre. This is an exciting time for Bunbury as it has allowed the Society the opportunity to reignite in Bunbury both from a retail and conference perspective.

Big things are happening in the South West with the commencement of the new premises for the Society in Busselton. The Society is building a custom designed facility in which to house retail, welfare and a depot. We look forward to seeing this project complete in early 2008. In June a lease was signed on a site in Dunsborough which will accommodate the local conference and a small Centre.

The Good Work carried out in all 43 Vinnies Retail Centres throughout WA would not be possible without the dedicated team of volunteers who work tirelessly in their Vinnies Centres day after day, stopping only briefly for small breaks at Easter and Christmas. Each volunteer has their own personal reason for volunteering and doing what they do. Whatever the reasons, we appreciate every minute these valuable people spend helping out in our Centres and we are committed to continuing to provide a safe, friendly and rewarding environment for each and every volunteer.

A very important part of becoming a volunteer is consenting to attend formal induction training at Ozanam House. In conjunction with the Human Resources Department, Retail Management has scheduled training for new and existing Centre volunteers every month. This is a great opportunity for volunteers to meet and mix with people from other Centres as well as meet the team at Ozanam House. OSH training and general on-the-job training is also conducted in the Centres with the Volunteer in Charge or Centre Manager.

We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team of Managers and Area Managers all with retail, management, operations, merchandising and/or design skills to advise, operate and manage the Centres on a day to day basis. We welcome these people into Vinnies with their particular expertise and value their input into the organisation.

We look forward to continued growth both in volunteer numbers and retail outlets in the 12 months ahead and in particular, the next area of growth and need – the South West.

In the 12 months to June 2007, Vinnies had :-

- 43 centres
- 1 350 volunteers
- 13 500 hours worked by volunteers each week
- 2 150 customers shopped in Vinnies each day
- 1 200 families were assisted with clothing
- \$65 000 (approx) worth of clothing was provided to families



"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



VINNIES Metropolitan Retail Centres -:

Armadale	13/47 William Street
Bassendean	11 Old Perth Road
Belmont	171 Abernethy Road
Cannington	Shop 10, 1490 Hometown Shopping Centre,
Claremont	26 Ashton Ave
Clarkson	7/30 Ainsbury Parade
East Fremantle	155 Canning Hwy
Fremantle	72 Wray Ave
Fremantle	Shop 2, 142 High Street
Girrawheen	Shop 4, Newpark Shopping Centre
Gosnells	2/2316 Albany Hwy
Heathridge	5/ 89 Caridean Street
Hilton	Shop 5, 352 South Street, O'Connor
Innaloo	12 Morris Place
Kwinana	3 Calista Ave, Medina
Maylands	46 Eighth Ave
Midland	285 Great Eastern Hwy
Nollamara	Shop 61, Nollamara Shopping Centre
Northbridge	267B William Street
North Perth	215 Bulwer Street
Osborne Park	59 Edward Street
Rivervale	110 Kooyong Road
Rockingham	Rockingham Commercial Centre, Livingston Rd
Scarborough	160 Scarborough Beach Rd
Victoria Park	824 Albany Hwy
Wanneroo	1/925 Wanneroo Road
Wembley	334 Cambridge Street
Willagee	92 Bawden Street

VINNIES Country Retail Centres -:

Albany	28 Lockyer Ave
Bunbury	10 Arthur Street
Bunbury (depot)	Unit 2/26 Denning Rd
Busselton	70 Duchess Street
Collie	33 Bucton Street
Geraldton	114 Durlacher Street
Kalgoorlie	165 Boulder Road
Karratha	Welcome Road
Mandurah	275 Pinjarra Rd
Manjimup	84 Giblett Street
Margaret River	2/Lot 226 Minchin Way
Pinjarra	8 James St
South Hedland	Lovell Place
Toodyay	86 Stirling Tce

OSBORNE PARK DEPOT

Chair: David Reed
General Manager: Gavin Dempster

During the year the Osborne Park Depot continued to operate as the major receipt, sorting and distribution facility for the Society.

A total of approximately \$629,000.00 of donated second hand furniture was delivered to 1912 households during the year, together with approximately \$70,000.00 of new mattresses and blankets. Donated furniture was collected from a total of 9314 households.

Approximately 725,000kgs of donated clothing was sorted with 203,000kgs deemed suitable for wear and distributed to the Society's Vinnies Centres.

Volunteers at the Depot, which include Community Based Offenders, contributed a total of 19364 hours, performing tasks as diverse as sewing bed sheets, emptying clothing bins and sorting Bric-a-Brac and Books.

A major impact on the resources of the Society has been the imposition by the City of Stirling of Rubbish Disposal Fees at its Balcatta Waste Transfer facility. During the course of its Household Collections a proportion of goods are collected which, on subsequent inspection, prove to be of no value or unfit to pass onto the community due to occupational health and safety regulations and are consigned to the rubbish tip. In addition to this there is also a large volume of general household rubbish and completely unusable goods which are dumped outside the Society's Vinnies Centres after hours by persons who wish to avoid the inconvenience and cost of transporting the goods to a rubbish tip.

This year, in addition to the labour costs involved, these fees have cost the Society \$30,000 with a forewarning that the costs will be increasing significantly next year – this is all money which has to be diverted from its intended use of assisting those in need.

Household Formation and Support -:

In addition to its core welfare role, the Depot was also responsible for operating the I.H.S.S. Program which is a Refugee Settlement Program funded by the Commonwealth Government.

Under this program the Society receives funding from the Commonwealth Government to assist in the provision of household goods for Refugee households – a total of 1912 Refugees received this assistance from the Society during the year.

The Program is augmented by the Depot's Furniture Salvage whereby donated lounge furniture is salvaged and re-upholstered by a Tradesman Upholsterer and then distributed to Refugees.

VINCENTCARE

Chairperson: Dr R. Serich
Director: Anne Garrity
Manager: Catherine Spini

This year commenced with the renovation completion and official reopening of the Vincentcare Bayswater House. The house which required significant work was renovated by the Department of Housing and Works. It transformed a single storey, 2 bedroom, 3 sleep-out 2 toilet home into a 2 storey, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathroom, 4 toilet home, whilst managing to maintain the original beauty and character of this older style home with its high ornate ceilings and open fire-places.

Lotterywest assisted with refurbishing the house including landscaping the front garden and installing a water feature in the outside patio area. The reopening ceremony held in September 2006 was attended and enjoyed by representatives from the welfare sector, mental health services, the St Vincent de Paul Society, corporate sponsors, residents and their family representatives.

The Vincentian Village project which incorporates 28, one bedroom self contained units, a central communal dining area, games room, skills training area and the Vincentcare administration was expected to be operational this year, however due to building delays is behind schedule.

St John of God Health Care Murdoch has continued to be a staunch supporter of Vincentcare homes in their local area and this year renovated the large garage of the Coolbellup house to make a games room for residents.

In November 2006 Catherine Spini was appointed as Manager of Vincentcare upon the resignation of Rod Mapstone.

The Vincentcare Integration Program has continued to provide residents with much needed services, with financial support given again this year from the City of Swan and the Dagda Trust. The program was extensively reviewed to incorporate a recovery and rehabilitation model, with a strong focus this year on physical activity and confidence building through the implementation of a "keep fit" program that included activities such as bike riding and surfing. The residents enjoyed two camps this year featuring the great fishing tales of the North West and the scenic bush walks undertaken in the southern part of the state.

Seven Vincentcare accommodation locations are classified as Private Psychiatric Hostels.

The Hospital and Health Services Act 1927 defines Private Psychiatric Hostels as:

"Private premises in which 3 or more persons who -:

- are socially dependent because of mental illness;
- are not members of the family of the proprietor of the premises; and reside and are treated or cared for."

Standards for licensing private psychiatric hostels have been established and are monitored by the Licensing Standards and Review Unit (LSRU), Mental Health Division and the Chief Psychiatrist

Vincentcare's seven accommodation locations which come under this definition are required to be licensed annually by the LSRU a process which involves vigorous inspection of housing, safety and care standards. Vincentcare has on



three occasions in the past 12 months undergone assessment of care outcomes by the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist which gave a glowing report of the standard of care, comprehensive and high standard of Vincentcare's policies, procedures and staff training programs.

All licensed hostels also come under the jurisdiction of the Council of Official Visitors who work under a ten point charter to ensure residents rights are observed and to inspect and ensure that accommodation is safe and suitable taking into account various legislation and standards. On average each Vincentcare shared accommodation location is visited every two months which equates to thirty six visits in the past year with a 97.2 positive feedback result.

Vincentcare receives minimal Health Department Funding for its services.

In the twelve months to June 2007 -:

- 273 Referrals were received regarding accommodation
- 34% of referrals were between the age of 16 & 30
- Approximately 95% of Vincentcare residents had a mental illness
- Over 20,000 bed nights were provided to people in need
- Over 36,500 meals were provided
- Over 1,000 volunteer hours were dedicated

Vincentcare continues to work in the spirit of Frederic Ozanam, founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society when he said:

"Yours must be a work of love, of kindness; you must give your time, your talents, yourselves. The poor person is a unique person of God's fashioning with an alienable 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 a long term improvement"

PASSAGES RESOURCE CENTRE **Chairperson: David Reed** **Coordinator: Danielle Tilbrook**

Passages Resource Centre is a joint venture between the Rotary Club of Perth and the St Vincent de Paul Society. Passages caters for homeless or street present young people between the ages of 12 – 25 years. Passages is ideally situated in the inner city suburb of Northbridge and assists young people who experience disadvantage due to family breakdown, poverty, substance abuse, mental health, and poor health. Passages provides a safe, nonjudgmental environment for clients to gain assistance.

Passages can provide assistance with such things as bathroom and laundry facilities, toiletries, mail collection, phone access,

computer and internet access, kitchen facilities, food, clothing and phone vouchers, accommodation, education scholarships and referrals and advocacy to a variety of services. Passages also provides space for other services to attend the premises to assist clients with issues such as employment, mental health, legal advice, Blood Borne Virus screening, drug and alcohol, and Centrelink enquiries.

In the 12 months to June 2007:

Individual clients: 1092
Access visits: 3341
New clients: 850
Successful referrals: 1285
Use of resources: 6088

Passages Accommodation program has increased over the last twelve months and now manages 5 x 2 bedroom units. This life skills program provides young people with accommodation and assists with the transition into independent living. The program can house a single person or a couple for a period of up to 12 months, whilst they learn skills in cooking, budgeting, cleaning and renting. These units are granted by the Department of Housing and Works and are furnished by Lotterywest.

The popular Healthy Cooking Program operating at Passages has been supported by the Town of Vincent since it first started in 2000. The program incorporates a lunch menu to facilitate education and practical learning skills in cooking, meal preparation, nutrition, hygiene and teamwork. The young people sign up for the program and plan the menu in the morning period, then prepare the meal for lunch.

Fundraising for Passages is predominantly implemented by the Rotary Club of Perth. The annual Rotary Club Race Day was once again successful this year raising \$48,000. The event was enjoyed by all and provided an avenue to raise awareness of Passages and the facilities it provides. Passages Resource Centre currently receives no funding from Government.

VINNIES YOUTH **Manager: Rebecca Callaghan**

Camps

Vinnies Youth Camps for disadvantaged children (8-12 years old) and teens (13-16 years old) were held over three school holidays. Participants attending the camp were provided with a positive and encouraging environment and the opportunity to take part in activities like canoeing, abseiling, swimming, games and arts and crafts.

Buddy Days

Buddy Days are monthly outings for disadvantaged children and teenagers. Throughout the year Buddy Days have aimed to provide young people with recreational activities they may otherwise not have access to due to a range of family constraints. Approximately 180 young people have attended Buddy Days throughout the year, with the support of 50 young adult members providing 480 volunteer hours.

Juvenile Detention Centre Visits

A team of dedicated young adults visited Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre every Saturday to provide encouragement and support to Juvenile detainees. Volunteers ran a cooking program for three hours each week and also spent time with detainees playing basketball and table tennis. 15 volunteers participated in the program contributing over 300 volunteer hours throughout the year.

Belmont Homework Centre

Ernst & Young continued to ensure the success of the Belmont Homework Centre through the provision of volunteers and ongoing funding. The Homework Centre assisted students in years three to seven who were struggling to complete their homework. The centre continued to promote healthy eating, self esteem and interpersonal skills. Up to 15 students attended the centre each week with 30 volunteers on a rotating roster who helped each child on a one to one basis with their homework. A special thanks to the management and staff from Ernst & Young who have helped make this program such a success.

Fremantle Homework Centre

In March 2007 Vinnies Youth in conjunction with Notre Dame University launched a second Homework Centre in the Fremantle region. The Homework Centre has supported up to 9 students per week with a rotating volunteer roster of 20 volunteers. The Fremantle Homework Centre is coordinated and run by St Vincent de Paul Society volunteers and students of the University of Notre Dame.

Roadshow

Vinnies Youth Roadshow continued to provide recreation and support to youth in regional or remote areas of WA. Roadshow provides access to services readily available to young people in city centres. In December 2006 the Roadshow team ran a week of holiday activities for children whose families were being assisted by the Society in Busselton. The program provided much needed respite for parents and carers, while encouraging youth to participate

Schools

Over 300 students participated in 13 high school conferences. An additional 50 schools gave invaluable support to the Society's Winter and Christmas Appeals.

School members committed to fundraisers, clothing and food drives and volunteering to raise awareness of Social Justice and meet the needs of disadvantaged members of their local communities.



"The sense of knowing your contribution, no matter how big or small, gives someone else a better chance at a better life – I wouldn't trade that for anything in the world"

A 16 year old, Youth Conference Member



SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The St Vincent de Paul Society believes education is the key to breaking the poverty cycle and provides vital Special Works in the community that ensure disadvantaged children have the opportunity to achieve an education and to learn in a caring and encouraging environment.

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.

St Vincent de Paul Society conference members work closely with individuals and families who are struggling – they provide care and support to people in need. While undertaking this work they 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, all the books and equipment required to learn or had the option to attend a school excursion or outing.

In the 2006/2007 financial year the School Support Program under the guidance of the conferences distributed \$6,172 in support to over 200 students. The funding for this program comes from direct donations from the community. The Society would like to specifically acknowledge the ongoing support of Here's Luck Lotto Agency in Belmont who continues to support this essential Special Work.

MIGRANT & REFUGEE SUPPORT Chairperson: Br Geoff Seaman

The Migrant and Refugee Committee continues to assist and serve new migrant and refugees entering Western Australia in a number of vital ways:

- Provision of Household Goods Assistance, including emergency clothing to newly-arrived Refugee households
- Assisting with travel arrangements for refugees who must pay their own travel costs. This usually involves the requesting of loans from the International Organisation for Migration as well as from other Loan Schemes, especially those offered by the Christian Brothers.
- Assisting with Leviticus Loans Applications
- Organising the provision of about 120 Christmas hampers to Refugee families.
- Organising two 'Welcome to Australia' Picnics – October '06 and May '07. In each case we catered for 65 – 70 very recent arrivals.
- Providing transport to Sunday Mass for some Catholic refugee families

- Advocating for refugees on key issues including - Housing Affordability, Citizenship Testing and aspects of Proposer Support.

Over the last financial year a wide range of household goods was provided for 1605 Refugees, including 831 children. Of the 1605 Refugees, 571 were given emergency clothing.

The Refugees assisted came from 21 different ethnic groups, including -:

Sudanese	448
Burmese	245
Liberian	149
Congolese	143
Burundian	133
Afghani	121
Sierra Leonean	80
Eritrean	54
Somali	42
Iraqi	39
Iranian	31
Ethiopian	27
Rwandan	20
Togolese	19

About 100 families or individuals were helped with travel arrangements. Of this number, 84 were assisted with Interest-free Loans, chiefly from the Christian Brothers. The marked rise in the cost of renting in 2007 has made repayment of these loans more difficult.

131 successful Leviticus Loans were granted. Chief among the reasons for these have been upgrading of furniture, car repairs, purchase of second-hand goods, computers and fees for Training Courses with the purpose of gaining employment.

The Migrant & Refugee Committee is grateful to Mrs Cathie Plowman and Mrs Elsie Tagliaferri-Boundy for representing the Committee on the Centrelink Forum so it has been able to keep abreast of changes made to Centrelink policy or practice.

Issues on which the Committee has taken action on include the financial stress felt by some Refugees who have to pay their own travel costs to come to Australia, the ever increasing problem of Housing Affordability, the introduction of Citizenship Testing and some aspects of changes to Proposer Support.

While the Committee has made some effort to meet the spiritual needs of Catholic Refugees eg. assisting with transport to Sunday Mass, there is much more that can be done for these particular new arrivals.

As Chair of the Committee I would like to acknowledge the members of the Committee who have been most generous with

their time in attendance at our regular meetings and with their contribution to the various aspects of the work we undertake. They are deserving of a very warm "Vote of Thanks".

The Committee is particularly grateful to Mrs Cathie Plowman who has for years acted as our very efficient Secretary, but who resigned in 2007 due to other commitments. Thank you Cathie.

The Migrant and Refugee Committee have been very fortunate in the last financial year to have enjoyed excellent support from various sources in various ways, including -:

- The very efficient service of the Manager and Staff of our Osborne Park Depot in the provision of Household Goods Assistance.
- The generosity of Committee Members, notably John Kelsall and Frank Pelusey, and local conferences in helping refugees with emergency clothing.
- The provision of Christmas Hampers by the students of Chisholm Catholic College, Aranmore College and Our Lady of Mercy Primary School.
- The wonderful support from other Catholic Schools who responded to the request for help sent out by Rebecca Callaghan of the Young Vinnies
- The provision of six coffee tables, beautifully made by Year 10 students at Wesley College, as gifts for Refugee families.
- The splendid efforts of staff and students of Sacred Heart College, Sorrento in contributing in such a valuable way to the happiness of our two 'Welcome to Australia' Picnics and, then, their further generosity to Refugee children and their families at their own special Fun Day Out.
- The enthusiastic support given by the Vinnies Youth Department.
- The generous help of the Christian Brothers in Girrawheen.
- The valuable help given by Ms Lucinda Ardagh and Ms Kate Van Saane from our Public Relations department in Belmont for helping to spread our good news
- The valuable cooperation received from the Staff of the International Organisation for Migration as well as from the State Office of the Department of Immigration

OVERSEAS PARTNERSHIPS & DEVELOPMENT Chairperson: Ken Adam

The 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 to provide an opportunity for Society members around the world to share one another's journey.

Twinning

Twinning is a partnership between an Australian conference and an overseas conference within our region, which broadly covers Asia and Oceania. We support our twins in three ways – spiritually, by correspondence, and financially.

Financial assistance is important because conferences in developing countries have very limited financial resources. Australian twins make regular monthly contributions to their twins, special grants at Christmas and Easter and finance a range of projects initiated by their twins. The projects, especially, are aimed at helping our twins towards self-sufficiency. Western Australian conferences now have 130 twins, our twinned conferences are mainly in India (115) with



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

Brother Geoff Seaman,
Chairman of the Migrant and Refugee Committee



our newest twins (7) in Cambodia, and others in Pakistan (4), Indonesia and the Philippines (2 each) and one each in PNG and Thailand.

Currently conferences send \$60 per quarter to their twin and usually additional grants at Christmas and Easter. This year we sent a total of \$70,595 in twinning grants, including \$12,380 at Christmas and \$13,760 at Easter.

Projects

During the year five new projects, all initiated by twinned conferences in India, and with a total value of \$5,475, were approved, and one project was completed. The approved projects were three goat banks, one cow bank and a latrine project.

In addition a child care centre in Cambodia received ongoing support. These projects are all aimed at increasing the degree of self-sufficiency of the twinned conferences and the families they support.

Assist A Student

The Assist A Student Program helps primary and secondary students throughout Asia and the Pacific. The project provides a grant of \$70 per student to provide or offset the costs of books, uniforms and other costs that prevent many children in developing countries from gaining an education. This year Western Australian conferences and individuals provided \$31,751.00 to assist 454 students, a great increase on the \$16,146 donated last year.

Pakistan Literacy Project

The Pakistan Literacy Project provides funding for teachers who take up classes of about 50 students in borrowed classrooms and other spaces outside normal school hours. These provide literacy for children who otherwise would never have schooling, in a country with one of the highest rates of illiteracy in the world. WA gave \$2,400 to this project during the year, supporting two teachers.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & FUNDRAISING

Manager: Lucinda Ardagh

The primary role of the PR & Fundraising department is to ensure the Society maintains a visible presence in the West Australian community through public relation opportunities and brand awareness, with the aim of generating donations to support the Society's good works. The department is also responsible for the planning, preparation and implementation of fundraising strategies, appeals, events, media placement, advertising, sponsorship and internal and external communications.

During the 2006/2007 financial year funds and public awareness were raised through -:

- Advertising
- Editorial opportunities
- Bequests
- Christmas Appeal
- Corporate & Community Partnerships
- Community Service Announcements
- Events
- Helping Hands - direct debit program
- Media interviews
- Money Boxes - in workplaces and local businesses
- The Spirit donor newsletter
- Sponsorship
- Street Appeal
- Wiggles Campaign
- Winter Appeal
- With Vinnies internal newsletter
- Workplace Giving

The 2006/2007 financial year saw great success in our Public relations and Fundraising efforts, including -:

An increase in donations to our Appeals of 29.6%, from \$1,301,949 in 05/06 to \$1,687,380 in 06/07, this included the acquisition of 1594 new donors in the last financial year.

The Society's Winter Appeal was generously supported in the last financial year by Harvey Norman and the West Australian Newspaper. The Winter Warmers promotion generated much needed donations of winter bedding and clothing for the Society as well as significant brand awareness in the community and alignment with these two respected organisations, we thank them both for their ongoing support.

Both our Christmas and Winter Appeals reached and exceeded their fundraising targets demonstrating the trust the West Australian community has in the Society to use their donations respectfully and ethically. Thank you to all members of the community who donated to the Society in the 06/07 financial year – your ongoing support ensures the Society is able to continue its good work in the community.

In April 2007 the Society was delighted to launch a formal Bequest program, officially named the *Tom Perrott Forever Friends Club*. The new program provides donors with a respectful and dignified opportunity to discuss remembering the Society in their Will and provides the Society with the opportunity to acknowledge the generosity of this special and personal gift. A formal launch of the program was held in

April and was attended by Mrs Eileen Perrott and her son Michael both there to witness the launch of the program named in honour of their husband and father, Mr Tom Perrott - a committed member of the Society for 64 years.

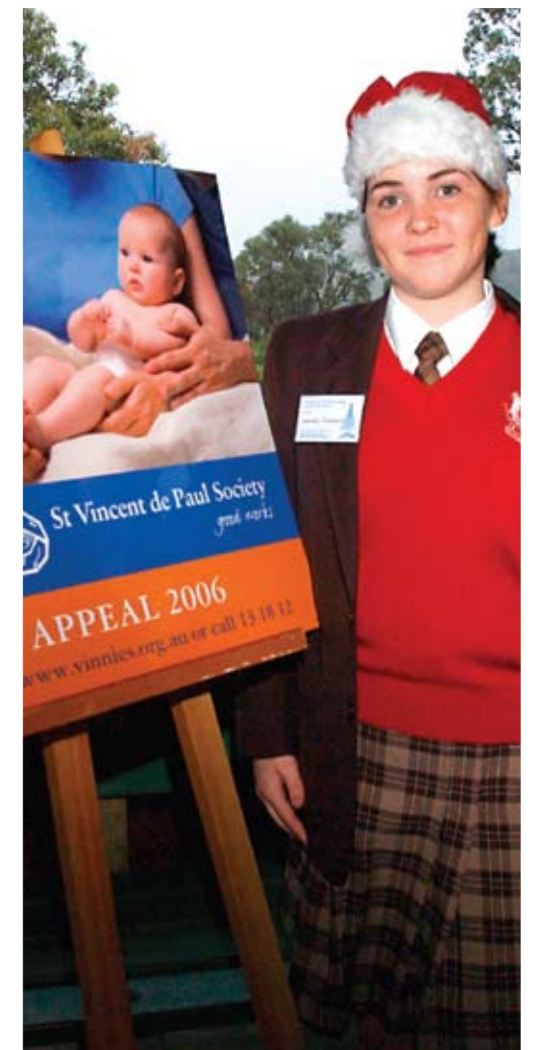
2006/2007 also saw the re-launch of the highly effective Wiggles campaign. The campaign, in its third year, focused on the Society's Vinnies Retail Centres. This fruitful partnership is planned as a long term strategy for the Society on a national level and we acknowledge and thank the Wiggles for their ongoing support of the Society and its work. We also gratefully acknowledge the opportunity for the Society to raise funds by collecting at their concerts in Perth, the Society was able to raise \$6,000 in two days.

The PR & Fundraising Department continues to roll out the implementation of the National Style Guide which includes the Society's corporate image and the re-branding of the Vinnies Centres. Over the last year the department has worked on updating corporate stationery, Ozanam House and Special Works signage, Vinnies Retail Centres signage, newsletters, the web and other visible branding in the community – the work on this project continues.

In February 2007 the Western Australian PR & Fundraising Department was honoured to receive a National Hall of Fame award at the Fundraising Institute of Australia awards ceremony in Melbourne. The award acknowledges the efforts of past and present staff of the department in its fundraising mission over the last three years.

Over the year the Society has been extremely grateful for the support from various local and national media organisations over the last year. We would like to acknowledge and thank them for their continued support of the Society's work in the community.

The St Vincent de Paul Society relies on the kindness and generosity of others to continue its good work and ensure it is able to respond to every genuine request for assistance; all funds raised during our appeals remain in Western Australia and are used directly to assist members of our community who need help.



FINANCIALS

State Treasurer: Ray Smith
 Chief Financial Officer: Brian Niedzwiecki
 Auditor: Burns Sieber Chartered Accountants

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

	2007 \$	2006 \$
Revenue		
Government grants	314,743	276,044
Sale of goods	5,180,570	6,241,590
Client contributions	413,143	343,129
Fundraising	2,440,796	2,623,430
Other Revenue	2,965,233	2,017,856
Total revenue from operating activities	11,314,484	11,502,049
Other Income		
Net Gain on Sale of Property Plant & Equipment	249,468	
Total Revenue and Income	11,563,952	11,502,049
Operating Expenses		
Sale of goods	4,310,074	6,041,940
Administration	470,846	406,399
Fundraising	626,851	545,163
	5,407,771	6,993,502
Total funds available for client services	6,156,181	4,508,547
Client Services Expenses		
People in Need Services	3,396,456	3,195,813
Homeless and Mental Health Services	1,179,785	1,045,215
	4,576,241	4,241,028
Total Expenses	9,984,012	11,234,530
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	1,579,941	267,519

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

	2007 \$	2006 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,362,243	3,303,274
Trade and other receivables	461,243	292,122
Inventories	110,259	454,839
Other assets	40,772	29,986
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	5,974,517	4,080,221
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	9,529,137	10,288,448
Intangibles	1,804	3,644
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	9,530,941	10,292,092
TOTAL ASSETS	15,505,458	14,372,313
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	489,830	778,029
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	498,193	558,237
Provisions	435,232	451,397
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,423,255	1,787,663
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	-	-
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	-	99,504
Provisions	69,629	52,513
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	69,629	152,017
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,492,884	1,939,680
NET ASSETS	14,012,574	12,432,633
EQUITY		
Reserves	5,379,255	5,379,255
Accumulated funds	8,633,319	7,053,378
TOTAL EQUITY	14,012,574	12,432,633

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 of the financial position of St Vincent de Paul Society (WA) Inc as at 30 June 2007 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with 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.

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



Genevieve De Souza
State President



Ray Smith
State Treasurer

Dated this 9 October 2007

Fully audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2007 are available upon request.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Donors

The St Vincent de Paul Society relies heavily on the generosity of the community to support vital programs and services for people in need. Thank you to the thousands of individual donors and the Estates who have given so generously over the last 12 months.

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. Their ongoing support of the work of the Society in the West Australian community is acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

Advisory Boards

We would like to thank and acknowledge all those who voluntarily served on the following Advisory Committees and Boards, for giving up their valuable time and imparting their specialised knowledge to help continue the good work of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Western Australia -:

- Formation & Training Committee
- Mental Health Advisory Committee
- Migrant & Refugee Committee
- Overseas Partnership & Development Committee
- Social Justice Committee
- State Centres Board
- State Youth Committee

Society Archives

Special thanks must be given to Mr Tom Fisher who continues his tireless commitment to compiling the history of the Society in WA from 1865, including sourcing images of all of the Society's State Presidents. The Central Archives include photos, minute books, reports and correspondence that have been sorted and made available to the Society as a resource. Tom has also compiled the chronological history from 1865 until the present on an electronic system allowing efficient access of information.

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 in all shapes and sizes, ages and backgrounds; their common thread is their mission to support and care for those who lack the resources to lead a healthy and full life. To find out 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 services, great volunteering opportunities are available. For further information on volunteering please phone the Society on (08) 9475 5420.

Make a financial donation

Credit card donations can be made by phoning **13 18 12** or by logging on to 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.

Helping Hands

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 to at our Clothing and Furniture Depot in Osborne Park or by calling (08) 9444 5622.

Make a Bequest

Please consider remembering the St Vincent de Paul Society in your Will. The Society's newly formed Tom Perrott Forever Friends 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 Forever Friends Club or remembering the Society in your Will please call our Bequest Officer on (08) 9475 5414.

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 5427.

"We must embrace the world in a network of charity"

Blessed Frederic Ozanam



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