



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

2008

annual report



Hope. Comfort. Dignity.

This time it's personal.

Winter Appeal 2008 – Photographic Exhibition

No actors were used, no film crews, producers or professional photographers involved. The 2008 Winter Appeal stories were told by none other than the people the Society assists - these are their stories and their images.

The photography project involved giving disposable cameras to people assisted through the Society's Special Works – Passages Resource Centre, Vincentcare and the Refugee & Migrant Support Program. Participants were asked to document their lives and share their own very personal stories.

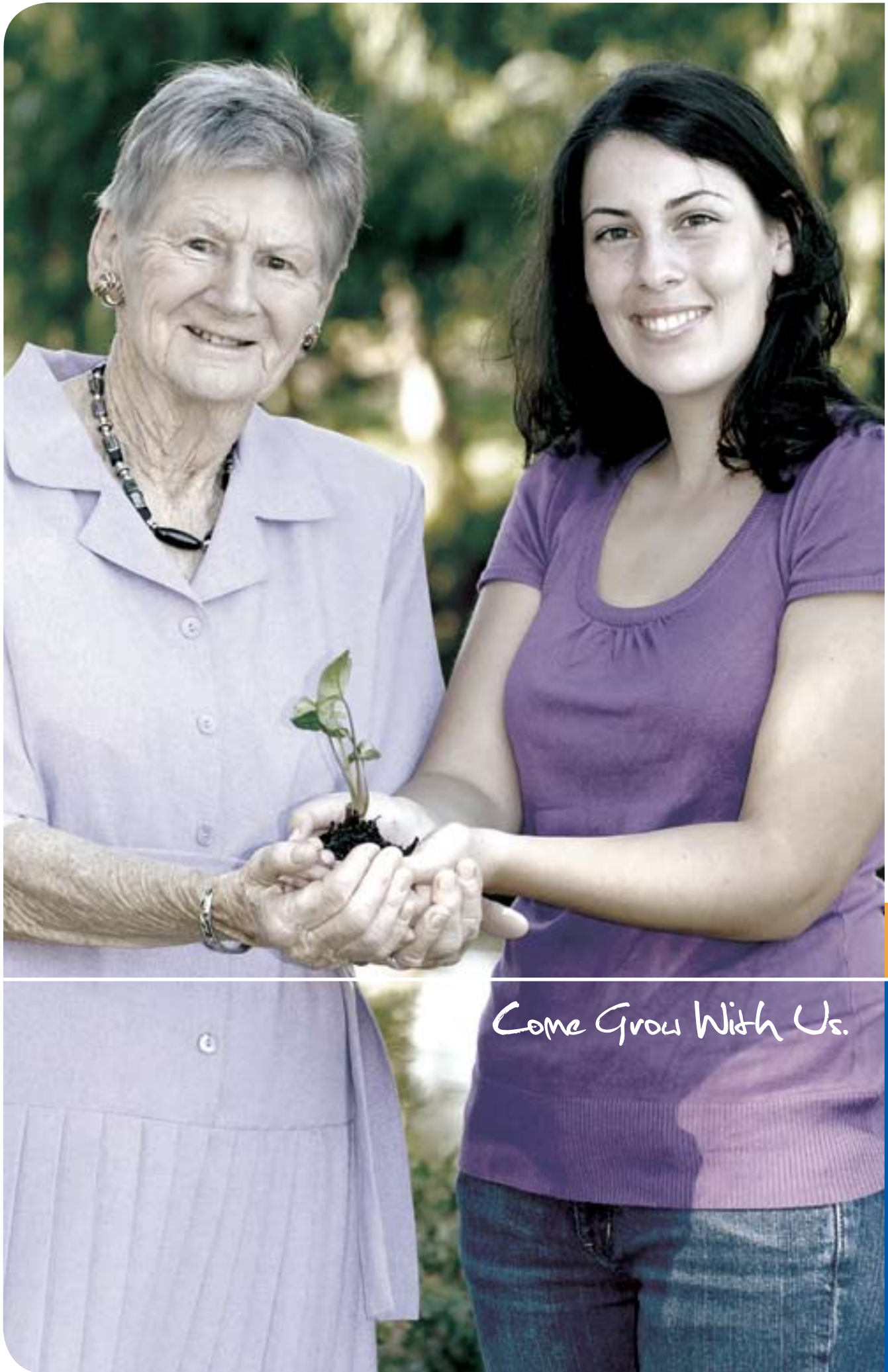
What evolved was a collection of powerful and at times shocking and emotive images, all of which expressed the same theme. Homelessness in its rawest form.

These photographs helped to put a face to the homeless and allowed them to tell their own story by inviting the public into their lives.

The generosity received throughout the 2008 Winter Appeal was astounding. Over \$890,000 was raised ensuring the people in these photographs and the many thousands the Society helps will receive the assistance they need.

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2008 Winter Appeal.





Come Grow With Us.

“Yours must be a work of love,
of kindness; you must give your time,
your talents, yourselves”.

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

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 ‘twinning’ 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

The St Vincent De Paul Society

Beginnings

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

“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.”

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, 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; 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.



Frederic Ozanam - Founder



St Vincent de Paul – Patron

The Society in Western Australia

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 143 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 07/08 financial year there were -:

Parish Conferences	74
Members	871
Youth & Young Adult Conferences	9
Young Vinnies Volunteers	319
Special Works	10
Vinnies Centres	42
Volunteers	2000
Staff	95

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 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 Representative 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 07/08 financial year -:

State President	Genevieve De Souza
Vice President	Kevin Goff
Vice President	David Fitzgerald
CEO	Alan Jennings
State Treasurer	Frank McMahon
Spiritual Advisor	Father Pat Cunningham
Presidents Perth Region	David Fitzgerald/ Kevin Quinn
President Fremantle Region	Terry Power
President Queens Park Region	Pam Cherry
Presidents Joondalup/ Wanneroo Region	Clém Astruc/ Pat Cunneen
President Isolated Region	Annette Ellis
President Osborne Park Region	Vin Barry
President Swan Region Region	George Walls
Presidents South West Region	Peg Matthiesson/ Margaret Wheeler

As well as State Council the Society has a number of Advisory Committees & Boards that oversee and assist the Special Works of the Society.

“THE PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE, ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OUR VARIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEES HAS ASSISTED THE SOCIETY WITH ITS PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING.”

Special Works Advisory Committees & Boards and Chairpersons for the 07/08 financial year -:

Finance Committee	Frank McMahon
Formation Committee	Genevieve De Souza
Mental Health Advisory Committee	Dr R. Serich
Overseas Partnerships & Development	Ken Adam
Passages Resource Centre Board	David Reed AOM
Refugee & Migrant Committee	Br Geoff Seaman/ Frank Pelusey
Social Justice Committee	Bill Richardson
State Archivist	Tom Fisher
State Centres Board	David Reed AOM
State Youth Committee	Vacant

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.

Management team for 07/08 financial year -:

Call Centre Manager	Michael Dwyer
Chief Financial Officer	Brian Niedzwiecki
Conference Support Manager	Colleen Williams
Depot General Manager	Gavin Dempster
Director of Vincentcare	Ann Garrity
General Manager Retail	Lisa Pappas
Human Resources Manager	Tom Polich
Manager Information’s Systems	Ray Smith
Manager of PR & Fundraising	Lucinda Ardagh
Manager Vincentcare	Catherine Spini
Passages Coordinator	Danielle Tilbrook
State Youth Manager	Rebecca Callaghan





State President's Message

I come to you in this my final message as State President as I hand over the reins of the Society to the newly elected State President with gratitude and admiration for the Society. Over the last three years I have greatly enjoyed the challenge of leading the Society. It has allowed me to develop an even greater respect for the volunteers who carry out the work of the Society and I also acknowledge and thank the wonderful team of staff who support them in their vocation.

As I reflect on my term of office I acknowledge there have been many achievements that as an organisation we should be proud of, including the opening of Vincentian Village – the much awaited facility that will provide support with dignity to the homeless and mentally ill, the increased support we receive from the community allowing us to respond to the ever increasing demands on our services, the implementation of the Metropolitan Call Centre, the upgrade of various Vinnies Centres throughout the State that now provide safe and pleasant working environments for our volunteers and the resurgence and the excitement of our Youth members and volunteers as they prepared to embark on the spiritual journey that was World Youth Day.

While we have achieved much, some of this has come from the need to make tough decisions on how we do business and run our operations as a charity and has called for us, where necessary, to make changes and I thank my fellow State Councillors for their support and assistance in ensuring that we remain on track with our Mission.

Thank you to all our benefactors, without you we could not continue our work and many in our community would have nowhere to turn when they

need it most. The consistent generosity of the West Australian public, individuals, businesses, clubs, other religious organisations, etc, has allowed the Society to give relief and hope to so many in our community. This last financial year has seen soaring prices of private rentals, this factor alone has had a significant impact on the Society.

Many people have asked if we have seen an increase in the number of people calling on us for assistance, while numbers on average are higher, what we are seeing are people coming to us with far more complex problems that as a Society we have had to remain motivated and committed to respond to.

In closing, I would like to personally acknowledge the support of a fantastic team of staff, dedicated members and volunteers who have not only selflessly given countless hours ministering to the disadvantaged but have committed themselves to ensuring the assistance delivered is effective and given with dignity, compassion and deep respect. You have inspired and given me much needed support during the last three years and I leave my term as State President with great hope for the future.

I wish my successor Clém Astruc all God's blessings for a successful and Spirit filled term of office. The Society in Western Australia could not be in better hands.

God Bless



Genevieve De Souza
State President



“OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS I HAVE GREATLY ENJOYED THE CHALLENGE OF LEADING THE SOCIETY.”

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Western Australia is experiencing an economy where the top end has been accelerating and the bottom end slowing. Yes, a boom for some in this State, but a potential picture of gloom could be painted for those already experiencing hardship meeting ongoing financial commitments for themselves and their families.

As winter is drawing to a close and spring is approaching, there is little spring in the steps of some of the people we assist affected by the bottom end of the boom.

There are an increasing number of people requesting assistance with utility bills when they receive disconnection notices. In many cases money previously used for food and utilities is being diverted to pay increased petrol prices and rent which is the person's first commitment to keep a roof over their head to keep the family intact and avoid eviction and relocation costs. And for those surviving from week to week facing the impact of prospective increased interest rates, challenging times are ahead with a possible mortgage crisis for those on low incomes or young couples not being able to access the housing market.

Members and volunteers are the heart of the Society. Members' core work is Home Visitation, visiting homes in pairs to assess needs and provide immediate assistance or referrals for issues outside their expertise where professional guidance is needed. Without our band of committed volunteers our Centres would not be able to operate. To our shoppers, these volunteers are the face of the Society.

The professional guidance, advice and recommendations we have received from our various

advisory committees has assisted the Society with its planning and decision making.

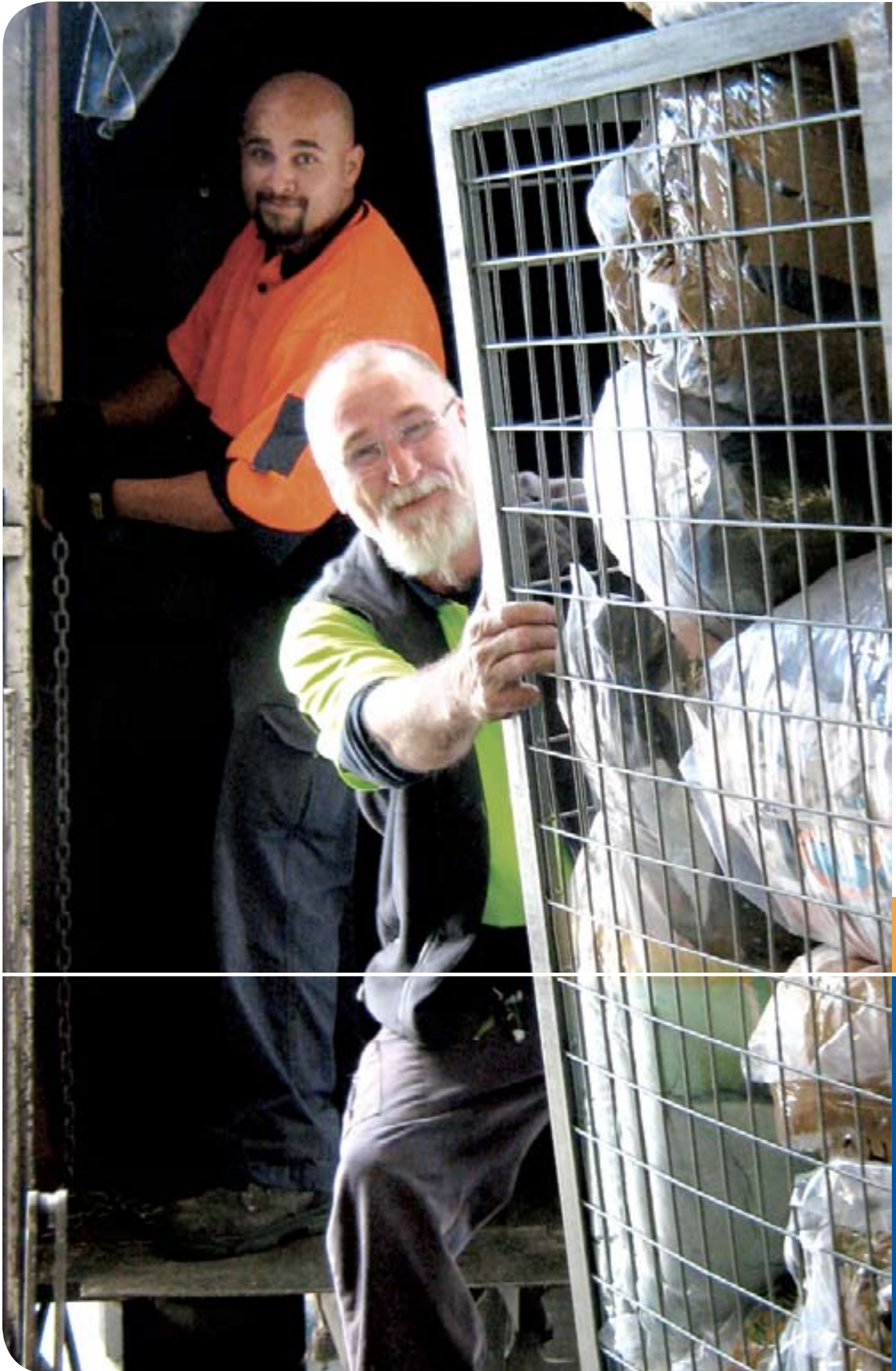
To our donors, individuals, families, small businesses and corporates who have again supported us over the last year, our sincere thanks are extended to them for recognising the plight of those struggling to survive. In recognising their disadvantage they have walked in their shoes and taken on their burden with compassion.



Alan Jennings ACIS PNA MAICD CD
Chief Executive Officer



“TO OUR DONORS, INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, SMALL BUSINESSES AND CORPORATES WHO HAVE AGAIN SUPPORTED US OVER THE LAST YEAR, OUR SINCERE THANKS ARE EXTENDED TO THEM FOR RECOGNISING THE PLIGHT OF THOSE STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE.”



“The strongest bond of true friendship is charity, and the exercise of good charity is the practice of good works”.

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

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation that lives the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society. The Society's logo 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.

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.

**Good Works –
Our Faith in Action**

Good Works

Conferences & Home Visitation

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.

“HOME VISITATIONS FOSTER AN ATMOSPHERE OF DIGNITY, TRUST AND RESPECT.”

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.

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.

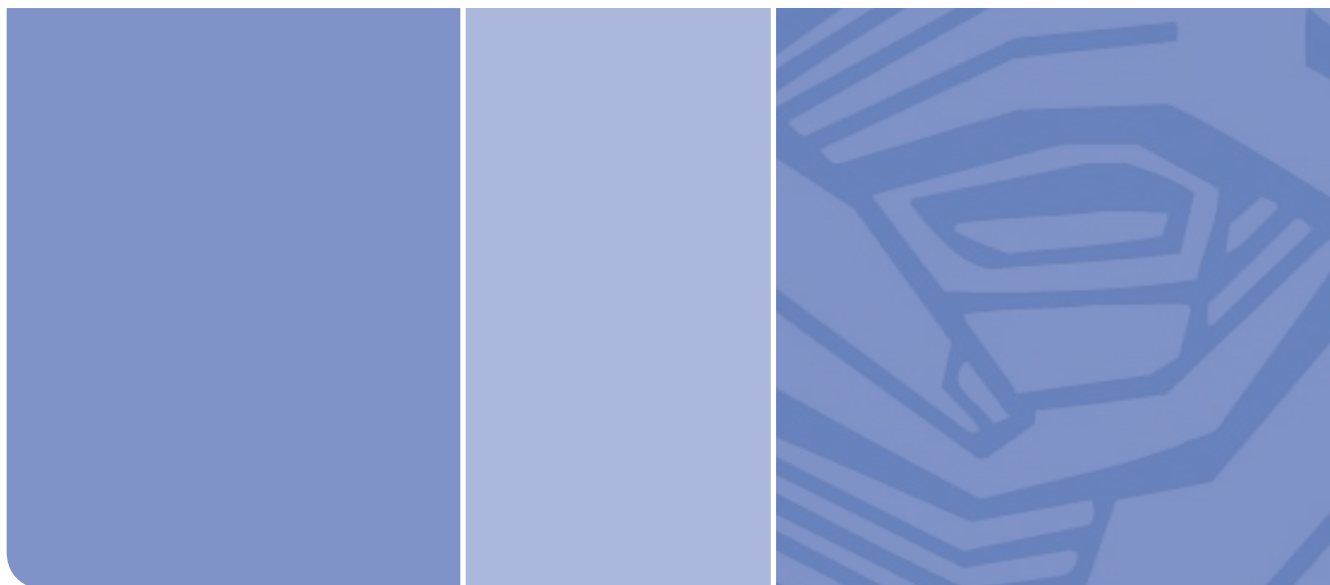
Conference members and volunteers provided assistance through:

- 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

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.

While the Vinnies 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
- Migrant and Refugee Support
- Overseas Partnerships & Development
- Passages Resource Centre
- School Support Program
- Social Justice
- Vincentcare
- Vinnies Retail Centres
- Vinnies Youth

2007/2008 Home Visitation Statistics

Home Visitation is the core work of the Society. 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 Australian's through its Special Works.

Regional Assistance -:

Region	Calls for Assistance	No of People Assisted
Fremantle	5,833	13,190
Isolated	3,642	8,742
Joondalup/Wanneroo	1,404	4,046
Osborne Park	3,615	8,984
Perth	2,453	7,359
Queens Park	5,722	16,442
South West	2,994	6,510
Swan	5,173	16,971
TOTAL	30,836	82,244

Type of Assistance Requested -:

Type of Assistance	Requests
Food	74%
Bills	17%
Furniture	11%
Bedding	11%
Clothing	7%
Other Assistance	8%

Demographics of People Assisted -:

Demographic	Assisted
Females	70%
Males	30%
Singles	75%
Couples	25%
Adults	36,888
Children	45,356

NB: People may request multiple forms of assistance per Home Visit.

Top Income Sources of People Assisted -:

Income Source	Assisted
Sole Parent Allowance	36%
Disability Allowance	33%
Newstart Allowance	20%
Aged Pension	3%
Other Allowances	8%

New Callers for Emergency Relief Assistance for 07/08 Financial Year -: 300 per month



“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*

There are currently eight geographical Regions of the St Vincent de Paul Society that cover the Metropolitan, South West and Isolated Regions of Western Australia. 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.

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. The implementation of the Metro Call Centre has allowed the Society to clearly identify trends in our changing community and in turn respond accordingly.

Regional Reports – The Work of the Society Across Western Australia

Regional Reports

Fremantle Region

Regional President: Terry Power

This year has been a big year for the Fremantle region. At the very end of the financial year we saw the Fremantle Region split into two regions with the creation of the new Peel Region, Mandurah, Rockingham and Kwinana agreed to set up a new regional council that would be able to meet the current and future needs of the disadvantaged. The Peel area is one of the fastest growth areas in Australia and accompanying this is the associated growing economic and social issues of the poor and needy and the Society remains committed to responded to areas of most need in the community.

The conferences have shown an enormous amount of talent and emergency relief knowledge to be able to have this Region up and running from day one. Thank you to all conferences involved, including current and past members for all the assistance they have given, and for the contributions that they have made to the Fremantle Region. We wish them well in their new region and look forward to their report at the end of the next financial year.

With the Fremantle Region refocused on a smaller number of conferences I am pleased to report that all remaining conferences have been able to make inroads into our key focus of recruiting new members during the 2008 year. It is pleasing to see so many new faces and the enthusiasm that they bring. We are delighted that the Yangebup Conference has been re-established from scratch with eight new members and already they have embarked on a recruitment drive and added more members. Sadly, Applecross Conference has gone into recess as father time has caught up with members as their minds are willing but

the bodies are unable to continue with visitations. The Special Works at Wray Avenue closed this year and we would like to thank all those members and volunteers who assisted in this Centre over the years.

The Fremantle Homework Centre consolidated its operations during the year and the vibrant team of volunteers have been able to provide one-on-one homework assistance for children from needy families, as well as allowing them to regain their self esteem, and to develop their interpersonal skills.

Thank you to all members and volunteers in the Fremantle Region for their commitment to those most in need by providing them with hope, comfort and a chance to regain their dignity.

The Region hopes to build on its current recruitment success and to continue reforming and rebuilding itself into an exciting and vibrant Region.

Conferences:

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

Members/Auxiliaries: 131

Vinnies Centres: 8

Calls for Assistance: 5,833

No of People Assisted: 13,190

Amount of Support Provided: \$419,218



Fremantle Regional President: Terry Power

Isolated Region

Regional President: Annette Ellis

During 2007/08 the Isolated Region consisted of 8 active conferences and together has 99 members and auxiliaries.

These conferences are Albany, Bullsbrook, Denmark, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Narrogin and South Hedland. While Katanning is no longer an active conference and is in recess, one lady continues to take donations for the Society. It is hoped that in the coming year Katanning will be re-established as a conference in the Isolated Region.

Over the last year the Albany Conference has found it difficult to maintain a roster of volunteers in the welfare office and support the needs of the community with the aging membership. The conference is very grateful to Auto Masters who support the Albany community by providing a 5% discount to customers who donate a non-perishable item to the Society. Thank you to John Kelly for his years of service as President for the Albany Conference.

The Geraldton Conference opened the local Vinnies Retail Centre on Saturdays mornings in 2007/08 with the help of Vinnies Youth volunteers. The conference would like to acknowledge Audrey O'Byrne who retired at age 90 but continues to support the work of the conference as the Prayer Lady.

The main areas of need within the Isolated Region were assistance with food and utility bills such as Synergy and Alinta Gas. In Karratha the mining boom has led to people arriving in town without accommodation as rental prices for an average house start from around \$1,000 per week.

The WA boom has also seen the South Hedland Centre busier than ever with the increased need for clothing and household goods in the Pilbara area. South Hedland would like to thank the Hedland Riders who donated \$2,000 and presents for families at Christmas.

Bullsbrook, Denmark, Kalgoorlie and Narrogin Conferences continue to provide much needed assistance in their local communities. The Kalgoorlie Conference also supports two twins in Southern India.

The biggest fear of the Isolated Region is the dwindling numbers of members and volunteers and the pressure it places on the conferences ability to provide ongoing support and assistance.

Thank you to all Regional Presidents and members for their dedication in enriching the lives of those less fortunate.

Conferences:

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 Patrick's
Narrogin	St Matthew's
South Hedland	St John the Baptist

Members/Auxiliaries: 92

Vinnies Centres: 7

Calls for Assistance: 3,642

No of People Assisted: 8,742

Amount of Support Provided: \$216,083



Isolated Regional President: Annette Ellis

Joondalup/Wanneroo Region

Regional Presidents: Clem Astruc & Pat Cunneen

It has been an extremely busy and satisfying year for the Joondalup/Wanneroo Region as our members and volunteers continue to demonstrate their generosity and compassion through their work in the local community.

On the list of priorities for the Region was training and recruitment, and we happily report there has been tremendous progress made in both of these areas, with quite a number of new members recruited in the Region and current members embracing training courses provided.

We welcome our new Presidents and look forward to working closely with them. We thank our outgoing Presidents for their commitment over their Presidential terms.

Through Home Visitations, our Vincentians have logged over 5,500 hours of volunteer work over the past twelve months, delivering assistance to men, women and children as part of our mission. Emergency Relief provided included food vouchers, clothing, furniture, financial aid, budget planning, Telstra vouchers, Alinta and Synergy subsidies and with rent assistance. Bread was supplied by Brumbies in Padbury and delivered to families by the Whitfords Conference.

50% of the calls received by the Region were from single parent families and 25% were from people on Disability Pensions. Almost everybody we call on is suffering from the effect of rising rents, as very few of our clients own their own home.

In addition to the Emergency Relief calls mentioned, the Joondalup/Wanneroo Region made 44 calls to

special needs families on our Family Friends Program. This Program is working towards helping single parent families in the Parish by providing them with long term friendship with at least two Parish members. We estimate that we have reached 15% of single parents in some level of distress. Through this Program, families and individuals were also assisted by Pregnancy Assist, Missioncare and the Legion of Mary.

Thanks to several generous donations of food from local businesses, and contributions from families and friends, members of the Ocean Reef Conference were able to host 80 people to Christmas lunch in the Parish. Guests were clients and elderly members of the community and were entertained with live music and Christmas carols.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the Region for their continuing support and dedication to the Society. Please continue to pray for our benefactors, members, volunteers, staff as well as the poor as we strive to be responsive to the gospel call of service to those in need.

Conferences:

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

Members/Auxiliaries: 79

Vinnies Centres: 3

Calls for Assistance: 1,404

No of People Assisted: 4,046

Amount of Support Provided: \$110,507



Osborne Park Region

Regional President: Vin Barry

The Osborne Park Region is made up of 10 conferences. Membership will always be a concern for the Region with many of our conferences struggling to find members, limiting their ability to assist people in need.

The Region also held a successful membership drive in the Mirrabooka Parish but sadly we did not gain any new members and so we continue our search for willing members.

The Family & Friends Program has now been taken up by the City Beach/Scarborough Conference which has proven to be a good project for all the parish to be involved in assisting people in need in our local community. The project has created a large amount of goodwill between the conference and the parish and we are sure it will bring comfort to many involved.

The current economic climate, owning or renting a house is becoming increasingly difficult and our conferences are being faced with an increasing number of calls from the community struggling to meet their housing costs there is little housing available under \$400 per week rent, impacting many who can least afford it.

Needless to say people on low incomes and pensioners are finding it difficult to survive and because of this, they are letting their bills go and getting into more trouble. Our conference members are assisting where they can with advocacy with utilities agencies and trying to assist people to get their lives back on track.

Conferences are now not only helping with food, which is always in demand, but also assisting with financial management of limited budgets. Many of our clients also require referrals to financial and mental health counselling. As the pressures of the current economy adversely affect all parts of their lives

We acknowledge many milestones of service including John Kelsall 55 years as a member and John Foley an incredible 61 years with the Society. Both gentlemen have been inspirational in their commitment to their vocation of caring for others in our community.

We will be inducting six new members at our next Regional Festival Mass at North Beach and celebrating North Beach Conference's 40 year anniversary. We reach out to new members to join us in our vocation of assisting people in need.

Conferences:

Balcatta	St Lawrence
Ballajura	Mary MacKillop
City Beach/ Scarborough	Holy Spirit
Joondanna	St Denis'
Karrinyup/ Innaloo	St Dominics
Mirrabooka	St Gerard
Nollamara	Our Lady of Lourdes
North Beach	Our Lady of Grace
Osborne Park	St Kieran's
Woodlands	Our Lady of The Rosary

Members/Auxiliaries: 107

Vinnies Centres: 4

Calls for Assistance: 3,615

No of People Assisted: 8,894

Amount of Support Provided: \$174,125



Osborne Park Regional President: Vin Barry

Perth Region

Regional Presidents: David Fitzgerald & Kevin Quinn

During 2007-8 Perth Region consisted of nine conferences. These Conferences between them have 81 full members and 31 Auxiliary Members. The majority of these members are in the North Perth, Wembley and Claremont conferences. Most of these members were also members at the start of the 2007-2008 period. There were only six new members during 2007-2008. As a result of this membership has aged significantly. The aging is particularly noticeable in Bedford, Maylands, Wembley, Perth and Subiaco. Some of these conferences will need an influx of new members in the next few years to ensure their survival.

In March 2008 Kevin Quinn replaced David Fitzgerald as the Regional President. David did a wonderful job in his three years at the helm. Many thanks to him for his contribution towards making this median level of organisation meaningful and effective. He continues to contribute as one of the State Vice-Presidents.

Five Conference Presidents –Frank Leahy (Perth), Bernie Poupard (Leederville), Moira Hudson-Smith (Claremont), David O’Grady (North Perth) and Dennis O’Sullivan (Wembley) continued to carry the load of regional networking. Thanks to them for all their work. Neville McGill has made a special contribution to the Region by once more standing in as president for the Maylands branch. There have been three new presidents on the Regional Council – John Shea (Nedlands), Alan Toohey (Bedford) and Laurie Watson (Subiaco).

John and Alan replaced two wonderful stalwarts of the Regional Council – Margaret Collopy and Doug

Lockwood. Many thanks to both Margaret and Doug for their contributions during their three years, perhaps longer, of service to the region. Margaret was the outgoing secretary for the region. They both continue as great contributors in their respective conferences.

The conferences of the Region provided emergency assistance to 4,182 people during 2007-2008. They did this by undertaking 2453 visits to households. Most of these visits (69%) were in response to requests for food. Other visits were involved with assisting with payments for utilities and medical costs (13%), provision of furniture (9%) and provision of bedding (8%). Most of the clients (78%) were single people. Significantly, the vast majority (84%) were repeat clients indicating that the Society’s goal of ‘giving a hand up rather than a hand out’ is not necessarily being achieved through the emergency assistance scheme as it stands. More than nine out of every ten clients were in receipt of a transfer payment. Most of these (46%) were in receipt of a disability support pension. Others were in receipt of Newstart Allowance (25%), Sole Parent Allowance (10%), Partnering Allowance (2%), Age Pension (3%) or Youth Allowance (2%). Only about one in twenty was a person earning an income, but suffering dislocation. The brunt of visitations has been borne by the North Perth, Maylands and Wembley Conferences.

The conferences have also raised considerable income from activities apart from the annual Winter and Christmas Appeals. Noteworthy amounts have been raised by Claremont Conference through catering and a dedicated “Olympics” quiz night, and by Subiaco through football parking and the



Perth Regional Presidents:
David Fitzgerald (left) & Kevin Quinn (right)

collections on the Street Appeal day. Many of the members of the Regional Council have been involved in various training and upskilling courses run by Ozanam House across the year. About a third of the members were involved in a refresher course on the core business of visitations held in association with the Fremantle Region at a wonderful occasion hosted by the Claremont conference at St Thomas' school.

The Claremont conference undertook the Region's only Special project for the year. They raised significant monies that were directed to assisting in building a dam in Cambodia which in turn benefited many communities. Most of the conferences also contributed to the Twinning and Assist a Student programs that help individuals in South and East Asia.

Discussion on the working environment of the conferences at Regional level has brought into focus a number of considerations. The housing situation has become critical. Towards the end of the 2007-8 it was found that rental payments were becoming a burdensome, sometimes impossible, proportion of transfer payments. These payments were falling behind many other incomes as prices at retail outlets pushed up the general level of prices. It has also been noted that the positive impact of high levels of employment over in the period 2005-7 is on the decline.

The Regional Council has been fortunate to have had the services of Father Brian Russell as its Spiritual Director for much of the year. In addition to this service, Father Russell has negotiated use of the facilities of the Redemptorist Monastery at North Perth for Regional Council meetings.

The Region expresses its thanks to Father for these wonderful services, and wishes him speedy recovery from Conferences:

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
Subiaco	St Joseph's
Wembley/Floreat	St Cecelia's

Members/Auxiliaries: 121

Vinnies Centres: 5

Calls for Assistance: 2,453

No of People Assisted: 7,359

Amount of Support Provided: \$93,277

Queens Park Region

Regional President: Pam Cherry

The Queens Park Region has seen an increase in low cost housing in some areas leading to an influx of welfare recipients. This has meant an increase in calls for assistance. Increase in rental, utilities and food costs have also led to additional welfare expenses for the Society. Aged and disabled pensioners are having great difficulties coping with the increasing cost of living. A large number of migrants and refugees have moved into our region. Communication problems often arise when they seek assistance.

Many of our conferences are having difficulty recruiting new members, but at the same time at least half have more than ten members. Manning Conference will soon celebrate fifty years of service to their local community. Notable service has been given by Wilma and Arthur Bruce and Richard Hennessey. Bruno Sereda and Kathy Kettle are also thanked for their work for their conferences of Rivervale and Manning. Some of our members will attend WYD festivities in Sydney and have helped with relief work following the cyclone in Burma.

Many conferences have received valuable support from local parishes and schools. This is especially important at Christmas time, with gifts of hampers and toys. The Emmaus Community has been supportive in Queens Park, notable in the area of assistance with mental health. Rivervale and Carlisle Conference members were successful in organising monthly parish luncheons to foster community support within their local areas. Although organised at the Parish level, these occasions have led to funds

being given to the Society. We receive on an ongoing basis encouragement from the large majority of our parishes, thank you to all Parishioners in the Queens Park Region for your support of our work in the community.

Our Festival mass was celebrated and joyously hosted by the East Victoria Park Conference and was an opportunity for the Region to come together and celebrate our Vincentian vocation.

Pam Cherry will complete her term as Regional President at the end of the financial year. She has been an inspiration in the way that she has dedicated herself to the task. Thank you from everyone in the Queens Park Region.

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	Our Lady Queen of Apostles
Rivervale	St Augustine's
Thornlie	Sacred Heart

Members/Auxiliaries: 1,132

Vinnies Centres: 5

Calls for Assistance: 5,722

No of People Assisted: 16,442

Amount of Support Provided: \$373,783



Queens Park Regional President: Pam Cherry

South West Region

Regional Presidents: Peg Matthiesson & Margaret Wheeler

During 2007/08 the South West Region has continued to assist those in need despite the vast area the conferences cover. The region is challenged with geography and members are often required to travel long distances to provide support and friendship to those less fortunate who deserve dignity and comfort.

The South West Region was largely called upon to provide assistance with food, utilities, accommodation and petrol in 2007/08 and has seen an increase in people suffering with mental health issues.

Margaret Wheeler became Regional President this year taking over from the very committed and caring Peg Matthiesson. Peg has been a dedicated President for many years ensuring people living in South West of Western Australia were not forgotten.

There are 10 conferences that make up the South West Region and towards the end of the financial year the Waroona Conference moved under the Peel Region banner. Thank you to the Waroona Conference for their support and contribution as part of the South West Region and we wish them the best as part of their new Region.

Bunbury, Busselton and Dunsborough Conferences shared exiting times over the past year with new and improved Retail Centres opening in their respective areas and an inclusive Depot for the Bunbury area and a Depot/Welfare for the Busselton community.

The Manjimup Conference undertook a School Scholarship program in cooperation with Keenan

College, focusing on 'Good Works' with the staff and students.

The regional conferences of the South West continued to develop strong relationships with local schools, government, businesses and other welfare agencies. The conferences have formed constructive partnerships and respectful networks, with the aim of making a positive impact to the lives of disadvantaged people living in their local communities.

Thank you to all members in the South West Region, your devotion to the Society and the people we assist is inspiring.

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/Auxiliaries: 122

Vinnies Centres: 8

Calls for Assistance: 2,994

No of People Assisted: 6,510

Amount of Support Provided: \$175,586



South West Regional Presidents:
Peg Matthiesson (left)
& Margaret Wheeler (right)

Swan Region

Regional President: George Walls

There are 9 conferences working in the Swan Region with 96 members and auxiliary . We answered 5,173 calls for assistance helping over 10,000 people in our local community. We also visit people in retirement communities as part of our social visitation program.

Unfortunately the Swan Region has been struggling to cope with the increased number of welfare calls and as a result our members have been experiencing immense pressure to respond to all genuine calls for assistance.

“I STILL GET THE WEEKLY INCOME BUT MY RENT WENT UP ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS A WEEK, WHICH MEANS I DON’T HAVE ENOUGH TO PAY MY BILLS.”

Everyday our members visit the victims of our boom State providing friendship, support and assistance to people who need our help with necessities of life such as food, clothing and a roof over their head.

Many of the calls we get for assistance are from fixed low income families living in private rental accommodation requiring help to pay the bills. When we visit and talk to the individuals and families in need the answer in many forms is the same message.

Our annual Festival Mass held on a Saturday this year and was very well attended. A number of members made the effort to attend the mass and this was a great compliment to the host conference.

Our Festival Mass is the one time we come together to kneel and pray as a spiritual Vincentian family under

one roof. It has nothing to do with the business side of the Society (who should be doing what or who is not doing what). The Festival Mass is a spiritual renewal of our personal commitment to charity.

Taking a working active part in the life of our parish community can mean a well supported conference. This gives the work of the Society a strong visible presence.

We welcome new members and hope that they may join us in offering comfort and dignity to the many people that call on us in our Region.

Conferences:

Bassendean	St Joseph’s
Belmont/Redcliffe/Coverdale	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

Members/Auxiliaries: 96

Vinnies Centres: 3

Calls for Assistance: 5,173

No of People Assisted: 16,971

Amount of Support Provided: \$320,601



Membership & Conference Development

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.

Portfolio includes:

- Formation of Conferences
- Membership Training and Development;
- Development of Training Manuals and Conference Materials
- 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 2008:

- 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, 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-judgemental 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 provided:

- 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

One of the most important roles 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.

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.

Call Centre

Another new initiative for the Membership & Development Department to assist in supporting our members in their work 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. 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 to 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 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.







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

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

Through the identification of needs in the community, the Society has responded by developing a number specialised programs and services called Special Works that offer extended support and care to the West Australian community.

There are 10 Special Works currently in Western Australia that directly assist some of our communities most marginalised, including – community support through our Vinnies Centres, the homeless and mentally ill, refugees and migrants, youth and young adults experiencing disadvantage and overseas communities living in poverty.

Special Works – Extending Support and Care to Western Australians’ in Need

Special Works

Vinnies Centres

The Vinnies Retail Centres throughout WA provide a visible presence for the St Vincent de Paul Society and are often the first point of call for many people the Society assists. They are a distribution point for items donated by the community to enable the Society to give to those in need. The Centres enable many people to shop with dignity for articles they need at a price they can afford while at the same time providing much needed welfare assistance to people in need directed to the Centres by the conferences.

“ALL THE VINNIES CENTRES PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO GIVE THEIR TALENTS AND TIME TO HELP THOSE LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY BY VOLUNTEERING TO WORK IN THE CENTRES”.

The Centres operate in an environment of change and being the most visible window to the community need to be continually evolving to be relevant to the changing circumstances in which we find ourselves.

2007/2008 has been another busy but productive year for the Vinnies Retail Centres. The Retail Management Team, under the direction of the State Centres Board, chaired by David Reed, has worked tirelessly over the last 12 months to ensure that they continue to provide a fresh, clean and positive face for the Society under their new name Vinnies. At this stage all the metropolitan Centres have been rebranded and now we are concentrating on the rebranding of the country Centres.

The Retail Management team as in other years has been facilitating various special projects throughout the year. This is in addition to the daily management and operational aspects of the Centres.

One of the large projects which began in mid 2007 and was completed at the end of 2007 was the relocation of the Bunbury Depot to new premises and the upgrade of the Bunbury Vinnies Centre.

A similar project was undertaken in Busselton with new premises being built for the Society. This was a custom designed building which houses retail, welfare and the Depot and was completed in January 2008.

Vinnies Armadale also received a facelift which was completed in June 2008. This entailed bringing two shops into one, in order for the Society to save some much needed funds. The new Centre is spacious and professionally laid out and the manager Maryanne Webb was instrumental in ensuring the smooth transition to just one shop and the entire team is to be congratulated on a job well done.

In early February State Council took the difficult, but very necessary step, of closing the Vinnies Centre in Wray Avenue in Fremantle. After over 27 years in the Fremantle area, the Centre had become a real icon in the area and volunteers, customers and locals alike were sad and emotional to see the Centre close its doors for the last time. The shop had become run down to the point of becoming an occupational health and safety concern for the Society and the funds to upgrade the shop to current standards far out-weighed the financial benefits.

The Retail Management Team has continued to focus on the health, safety and general well-being of all volunteers, staff, clients and customers by ensuring



each Centre has been visited by a specialist in OHS and an OHS Audit completed. To this end, we are currently working on the completion and final draft of a Retail and Depot Operations manual that will be implemented in all Centres in early 2009.

The Good Work carried out in all the Centres throughout WA would not be feasible without the incredible and dedicated team of volunteers who work tirelessly in the Vinnies Centres. We appreciate the time these people give to supporting our Centres and we are committed to continuing to provide a safe, friendly and rewarding environment for all of our volunteers.

We would also like to acknowledge the wonderful dedicated team of Managers and Area Managers all with their own talents and skills in retail, operations, management, merchandising and design who manage the Centres day to day.

We look forward to the next 12 months as we hope to continue to grow both in volunteer and Centre numbers. Lisa Pappas is currently on 12 months maternity leave awaiting the arrival of the birth of her second child.

In the 12 months to June 2008, Vinnies had:

42 Centres
1,480 Volunteers
13,700 Volunteer hours worked each week
3,600 Customers shopped in Vinnies each day
1,499 Families assisted with clothing
\$117,888 Worth of clothing was provided to families

VINNIES Metro Retail Centres:

Armadale	13/47 William Street
Bassendean	11 Old Perth Road
Belmont	3A/ 171 Abernethy Road
Cannington	Shop 10/1490 Albany Highway
Claremont	26 Ashton Avenue
Clarkson	Shop 7/30 Ainsbury Parade
East Fremantle	Shop 20/155 Canning Highway
Fremantle	Shop 2/142 High Street
Girrawheen	Shop 39, Newpark Shopping Centre
Gosnells	Shop 2/2316 Albany Highway
Heathridge	5/89 Caridean Street
Hilton	Shop 5/352 South Street, O'Connor
Innaloo	12 Morris Place
Kwinana	3 Calista Avenue, Medina
Maylands	46 Eighth Avenue
Midland	285 Great Eastern Highway
Nollamara	Shop 61A, Nollamara Shopping Centre
Northbridge	267B William Street
North Perth	215 Bulwer Street
Osborne Park	59 Edward Street
Rivervale	110 Kooyong Road
Rockingham	Unit 15 Rockingham City Commercial Centre, Livingstone Road
Scarborough	3/160 Scarborough Beach Road
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 Avenue
Albany Depot	17 Chevalier Street
Bunbury	10 Arthur Street
Bunbury Depot	Unit 1/ 26 Denning Road
Busselton	20 Peel Terrace
Collie	120 Princep Street
Dunsborough	Unit 4/10 Clark Street
Geraldton	114 Durlacher Street
Kalgoorlie	165 Boulder Road
Karratha	Welcome Road
Mandurah	Unit 1/275 Pinjarra Road
Manjimup	84 Giblett Street
Margaret River	2/Lot 226 Minchin Way
Pinjarra	9 James Street
South Hedland	Lovell Place
Toodyay	86 Stirling Terrace

Osborne Park Depot

During the year the Osborne Park Depot continues to operate as the major receiveal, sorting and distribution facility for the Society's materials goods.

A total of approximately \$565,000.00 of donated second hand furniture was delivered to 1,852 households during the year, together with approximately \$60,000.00 of new mattresses and blankets.

Donated furniture was collected from a total of 9,014 households. Approximately 740,000kgs of donated clothing was sorted with 210,000kgs deemed suitable for wear which was distributed to the Society's Centres.

Volunteer Workers at the Depot contributed a total of 18,264 hours, performing tasks as diverse as sewing bed sheets, emptying clothing bins, sorting Bric-a-Brac and books.

Unfortunately there is still a growing decline in the number of volunteers, particularly in staffing the Retail Centre attached to the Depot.

During the year the Vinnies Centre at Rockingham was re-located from the light industrial area in Hurrell Way to a mainstream retail precinct. The vacated premises in Hurrell Way have now been transformed into a sub-Depot under the management of the Osborne Park Manager and are now responsible for collection of donated goods and distribution of welfare needs along the southern coastal strip from Coogee to Golden Bay. It is anticipated that in coming years this site will be ideally situated to cope with an anticipated growing demand for services in the Rockingham area.

In addition to its core Welfare role, the Depot is also responsible for operating the IHSS Program which is a Refugee Settlement Programme funded by the Commonwealth Government. Under this Programme the Society receives funding from the Commonwealth Government to assist in the provision of Household Goods for Refugee Households – a total of 1,588 Refugees received this assistance from the Society during the year. The Programme is currently hampered by the chronic housing shortage in the Perth metropolitan area which results in an adhoc, very short notice, approach to delivering services instead of a planned approach.



Despite all best efforts to reduce the volume of unusable donations which are collected, the Depot still incurred a cost of \$28,000.00 for Tipping Fees charged by the City of Stirling. In this area the Depot is a member of a very active inter-agency Committee which works closely with the Department of the Environment in an attempt to educate and reduce the volume of rubbish which is dumped on Charities due to a lack of other disposal avenues. Meetings have been held with the Minister for Environment in an attempt to enlist his support and an approach is being formulated to seek funding for an ongoing education campaign which will be addressed to the general public.

Depot Regional welfare to June 2008:

Fremantle	\$108,530
Joondalup/Wanneroo	\$47,596
Osborne Park	\$112,080
Perth	\$45,345
Queens Park	\$162,203
South West	\$592
Swan	\$131,392
TOTAL:	\$607,738

Vincentcare

Vincentcare offers three types of medium to long term accommodation options to individuals who are experiencing homelessness and/or mental illness. Each accommodation option provides different levels of service support and psychosocial support allowing clients to be placed in appropriate accommodation that meets their current needs. As a client needs

change they are able to move throughout the accommodation options with the eventual aim of transitioning back into the community.

Accommodation options throughout the metropolitan area include 13 self contained independent units, 6 shared houses catering for up to 25 clients and the new Vincentian Village which opened in February 2008.

Vincentian Village has been a long awaited project for the Society and we would like to acknowledge and thank Lotterywest, the Department of Housing and Works and the many individual benefactors for their support of this project. Vincentian Village is a nationally unique model of care that provides support with dignity to men who are homeless and/or have a mental illness.

100% of Vincentcare clients in all the accommodation options have private rooms. 56% of clients have their own self contained unit which includes a bedroom, living area and bathroom and 42% of clients share a bathroom with a ratio not exceeding 2 clients per bathroom. The new village is a state of the art facility providing 28 self contained fully furnished, air conditioned units, a commercial kitchen, dining room, laundry and large games area. It is accompanied onsite by a caretaker’s residence and the Vincentcare administration consisting of offices, training and counselling rooms. All accommodation options are close to public transport with easy access to the wider community.

Vincentcare prides itself on the quality and high standard of service it delivers. Support to all our clients is based on a “recovery” model which encompasses the belief that all clients have the capacity to strive to be the best they can possibly be and reach a level of independence that allows them to integrate within the community.



59% of our clients in 2008 participated in meaningful and regular community activities between 2-5 times per week which included employment, volunteering and the Vincentcare Community Integration Program (VIP). 16% of clients within the last 12 months have successfully moved back into the community having progressed through Vincentcare supported accommodation and VIP which assisted them to become "community ready". Vincentcare support has reduced acute hospital admissions as evidenced by only 7 clients having been hospitalized within the last 12 months as a result of their mental illness which equates to less than 10% of our client base.

VIP continues to be an integral part of the Vincentcare support model and was reviewed in January 2008 to include a more holistic framework of therapy. It continues to offer a variety of recreational and socialisation activities as well as incorporating new physical therapy programs, drug and alcohol counselling, art therapy and general wellness groups which incorporate healthy living guidelines. Vincentcare has introduced both individual and group drug and alcohol counselling which is available both internally and externally. The need to introduce these programs was based on statistical evidence that 38% of Vincentcare clients have a current or recent (last 12 months) drug and/ or alcohol problem.

During this year Vincentcare was honoured to be an Appealathon beneficiary and was the elected St John of God Health Care Group Services (Subiaco) charity of choice for 2007; St John of God Health Care Murdoch continues to support Vincentcare accommodation in their catchment area with special projects and with Christmas gifts for clients. La Salle College, Iona Presentation College and the Christian

Brothers College made Christmas extra special with the provision of personalised gifts for all clients. Multiplex provided a garden makeover at one of the accommodation sites whilst VIP continues to receive ongoing support from City of Swan Grants, assisting in their rehabilitation and recreation program.

And finally it was with great sadness that we farewelled Sr. Gemma Foran who was the last of the four Presentation Sisters in Vincentcare's employ. The Presentation Sisters were involved in the initial set up of Vincentcare and have given many years to clients through their onsite support.

Passages Resource Centre

Passages Resource Centre is a joint venture between the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Rotary Club of Perth, and comes under the Vincentcare Special Work. Opened in 1999 Passages has grown significantly to be the much needed and respected service it is today. It is currently open five days a week and employs five fulltime Youth Workers, including a Coordinator. It provides services to street present and homeless people in Perth between the ages of 12 -25 years. The service is located on Palmerston Street in Northbridge which is a convenient location for the clients accessing the service. Passages provides a variety of services, facilities and resources to the homeless young people of Perth.

Passages services include informal counselling and access to a variety of other agencies through referrals. Several other organisations provide onsite services through their outreach programs. These include mental health services – through Youthlink,



employment and training – through the Anglicare JPET program, legal advice - from Lawyers at Allens Arthur Robinson, the Step 1 mobile bus, medical assistance through the Street Doctor program, Blood Borne virus screening through the Western Australian Substance Users Association, as well as Centrelink and hairdressing services.

Passages also provides bathroom and laundry facilities, toiletries - kindly donated by a variety of services including corporate groups, churches, volunteer groups and schools, kitchen facilities, mail collection and computers with internet connection, these were upgraded this year thanks to a grant from the City of Perth.

Passages also offers educational workshops, recreation, arts and crafts workshops, some of which are provided with the assistance of the Jaycees Community Foundation and the City of Perth, healthy cooking workshops with the assistance of a grant from the Town of Vincent, and a weekly BBQ with assistance from Torres Butchers in Northbridge.

The Passages Accommodation project currently operates with five units. This program is made possible by the assistance of Lotterywest and the Department of Housing and Works. The past twelve months has seen a variety of clients enter and exit the program. The life skills program is designed to teach clients the skills to obtain, maintain and keep a tenancy. The Youth Accommodation Officer also teaches the clients a range of life skills including budgeting, cooking, cleaning, washing and facilitates engagement in employment, education and social pursuits.

Passages participated in two photo projects; One to assist with the St Vincent de Paul's Winter Appeal which displayed photos taken by clients of what homelessness meant to them. The theme for this year was "this time it's personal..." The other photo project is an annual event for Passages. The clients use disposable cameras and go out on the streets to take photos that follow the theme of "What Perth means to me." Of these photos 10 are chosen each year to be displayed in the halls of the Passages Centre in Northbridge.

Passages provides a wide range of services for a large number of people. On average, approximately 30 young people come through the service each day.

In the 12 months to June 2008:

Individual Clients:	1,215
Access Visits:	4,106
New Clients:	209
Successful referrals:	1,478
Resource Used:	7,935
Age Breakdown:	11% 12-15 yrs
	37.5% 16-18 yrs
	31% 19-21 yrs
	21.5% 22-25 yrs



Vinnies Youth & Youth Support

Toby's Story

Toby is 11 years old and lives with his Grandpa. His brother Shaun lives with his Mum. Shaun is 7 and has lived 4 years longer than doctors ever said he would. Shaun has cerebral palsy, osteoporosis, and arthritis. 6 months ago Shaun was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Shaun is currently on Cancer treatment and has been given 4 months to live. Toby tells his Mum and Grandpa not to listen to the doctors because they don't know how strong Shaun is. Toby says that when he gets his license he'll have a special seat in his car, just for Shaun so they can go out without Mum and Grandpa. Toby's Mum is a full time around the clock carer for Shaun. Toby visits them on the weekend with his Grandpa, who is 77 years of age and has a few health problems of his own.

Toby's Grandad rang Ozanam House after receiving a camp form in the mail. He said the form was the best mail he had received in weeks as it wasn't a bill. Shaun's medical costs have been astronomical and the pension Shaun's mum gets as a full time carer isn't enough. After sharing the family's story with Vinnies Youth, Toby's Grandad broke down in tears – it was the first time he didn't have to be strong. The chat gave him a chance to talk about how he was feeling. Toby's grandad begged for Toby to have a place on the upcoming kids' camp so he could rest, he stated he needs rest so he can stay strong for his daughter and grandsons.

Savannah's Story

Savannah is 10 years old and lives in a refuge with her Mum and two sisters aged 4 and 7. The family have

been at the refuge for a month. Savannah and her family are escaping domestic violence. They have been running for three months and only now feel safe.

Savannah has witnessed violence first hand and has always protected her sisters. Savannah is 10, but has not had a childhood. She has not been carefree, she has not laughed and played like other kids because she has always been ready to run, ready to hide her sisters and try to protect her Mum. It's now Savannah's turn. Savannah's turn to laugh and play games in a safe and supportive environment.

Savannah's turn to have a childhood.

Vinnies Youth

Vinnies Youth are dedicated young people who coordinate programs and activities for kids like Savannah and Toby adding happiness, laughter and joy to their lives. The opportunities for these children to be carefree kids are few and far between. They have burdens and responsibilities in life that far outweigh their young age on Vinnies Youth Camps and Buddy Days they can run amuck, laugh and leave the burdens of family life at home for a few days or even a few hours. The Camp and Buddy Day programs include outdoor sports, games, arts and crafts and the development of basic life skills, while encouraging kids self confidence to realise their potential to achieve anything.

Throughout the last financial year Vinnies Youth have also coordinated two Homework Centres that provide one-on-one tuition free of charge to disadvantaged children struggling with their school work. For many Homework Centre participants this is the only time they receive one on one support with their school work.



Every fortnight Vinnies Youth volunteers have visited the most disadvantaged, forgotten youth in the State, the youth in detention. A group of dedicated volunteers have visited Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre to hang out with detainees, share a meal, shoot hoops and chat.

Vinnies Youth programs would not operate without the dedication and commitment of Vinnies Youth volunteers, who generously give of their time and energy to ensure disadvantaged children's needs are met. The passion and dedication these young people demonstrate in their work is an outstanding example to all members of the West Australian Community.

Camps

Vinnies Youth Camps for disadvantaged children (8-12 years old) and teens (13-16 years old) are held over school holidays. Participants attending camp are provided with a positive and encouraging environment and the opportunity to take part in activities such as 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 aim to provide young people with recreational activities they may otherwise not have access to due to a range of family constraints.

Juvenile Detention Centre Visits

A team of dedicated young adults visit Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre every Saturday to provide encouragement and support to Juvenile detainees. Volunteers run a cooking program and also spend time with detainees playing basketball and table tennis.

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 assists students in years three to seven who were struggling to complete their homework. The Centre continues to promote healthy eating, self esteem and interpersonal skills.

Fremantle Homework Centre

Vinnies Youth in conjunction with Notre Dame University run a second Homework Centre in the Fremantle Region. 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 continues 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. The program provides much needed respite for parents and carers, while encouraging youth to participate.

School Involvement

Over 300 students participate from 13 high school conferences. An additional 50 schools give invaluable support to the Society's Winter and Christmas Appeals, as well as supporting and volunteering in programs Vinnies Youth runs for disadvantaged youth. School members are 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.



In the 12 months to June 2008:

Vinnies Youth Volunteers - 319
Secondary School Conferences - 9
Mini Vinnies Groups - 2
Children who attended Homework Centre per week -15
Children who attended Camp - 109
Children who attended Buddy Days - 113
Detention Centre Visits - 126
Schools visited over the year - 89

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 2007/2008 financial year the School Support Program under the guidance of the conferences distributed \$16,700 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 continue to support this essential Special Work.

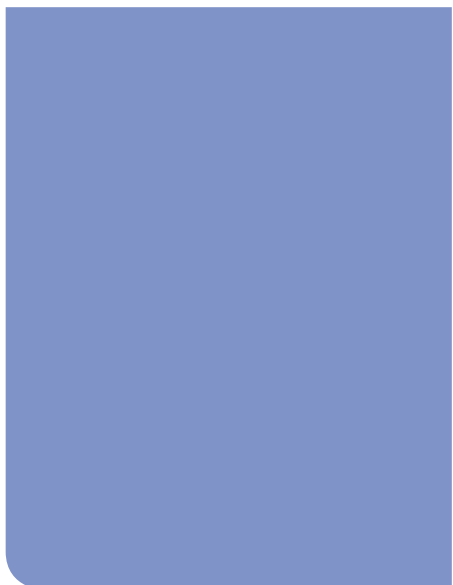
Refugee & Migrant Support

This year saw a change of Chairmanship from Br Geoff Seaman to Frank Pelusey, although it may better be described as a joint leadership. I think it will be a long apprenticeship, given Br Geoff's very extensive knowledge of refugee issues and significant task which previously he undertook alone. We are very fortunate to have a loyal band of committee persons.

Br Geoff is a most remarkable man, who has dedicated a huge amount of time and effort to the welfare of refugees coming to Western Australia. The new arrivals could not be better served by anyone. He knows everyone by their often difficult to pronounce names, their family structure and whereabouts together with little idiosyncrasies of various families. Memory, which is trying to desert some of us, is one of his great strengths!

Vinnies members, government instrumentalities, other support groups and the refugee families hold Br Geoff in the highest regard. He knows everyone and everyone knows him and they have only praise for his dedication and effort.

The expression, "Do you know Br Geoff"? carries a lot of weight. I have heard "ahhh Br Geoff" from the speakers of many languages and even more



challenging accents. When, in the distant future, I am asked for an account of my stewardship, my first comment will be “do you know Br Geoff?” and hope the answer will be “ahhh Br. Geoff”, come right in.

Br Geoff is a most spiritual man, someone imbued with a level of Faith, to aspire to, which underpins his every action and everyone is delighted that he will continue to provide his special care to refugees who will continue to arrive in Perth.

A situation of importance to refugees arose from the change of legislation by the present Commonwealth Minister for Immigration and Citizenship. Temporary Protection Visas have been abolished along with the “Pacific Solution” some increases in funding and numbers accepted and a generally more humane approach to those coming to Australia as refugees. The Citizenship Test is another thorny issue.

St Vincent de Paul had a voice in the review committee, who agreed with the opinions put forward.

Spiritual Support: This remains a problem, primarily due to the difficulty of determining who is Catholic. The documentation describes the arrivals as Christian with no more detail. We have arranged to have a poster included with their information pack asking them to call Br Geoff if they would like to be introduced to a parish. Br Geoff takes a bus load to mass in Girrawheen on Sundays and there have been a number who have received Baptism, First Communion or Confirmation recently.

Welcome to Australia Picnics: These have become well known and receive a lot of very favourable media attention. We cater for about 100 newly arrived refugee families with a BBQ lunch. The volunteers,

mainly Christian Brothers, Vinnies and parishioners do a wonderful job catering and chatting with the visitors. Great accolades go to the staff and students of Sacred Heart College who entertain the youngsters with fun and games. The college also take a significant number of refugees on their annual “Fun Day”, which caters for underprivileged youngsters.

Christmas Hampers: There are about 120 hampers distributed in December. They are universally accepted with thanks and often a welcome into their home. Chisholm College play a large role in this project, by taking responsibility for 50 hampers, which they put together with great care and also deliver. A major food drive is also conducted. This helps with the preparation of the remaining hampers. Several other schools provide very valuable assistance as well. All this keeps the volunteers, who range from mid teens to something way above that, very busy packing and distributing. We have to confess to a certain amount of frivolity on these days.

Emergency Clothing: We take new arrivals to a Vinnies Centre to provide them with extra clothing as most arrive with very little. Whenever the opportunity is there, we prefer to have committee persons involved in order to make an early face to face contact to show our care and friendship. This in no way is meant to reflect unfavourably on the case workers, who do an excellent job.

Travel Loans: This loan system is essentially a Christian Brothers initiative; however the St Vincent de Paul Society is closely involved and has contributed to it. The funds are used by refugees to provide for travel costs of family members. There is a system in place where a proposer nominates an



individual or family to come to Australia under the Visa 202 rules. The funds are repayable and responsibility for the debt is taken up by the new arrivals. This method allows family members to be reunited, however they begin their new life with significant debt.

In the coming year we look forward to extending these programs, especially by making them available to refugees living south of the River. Secondly to achieve more interaction with parishioners and other volunteers who may be able to give some of their time to the spiritual and temporal needs of these new Australians.

In the 12 months to June 2008:

1273 refugees entered Western Australia, including 636 children.

The number of ethnic groups represented was 18, with the highest individual number being 372 Burmese followed by the Sudanese with 194.

Clothing Vouchers issued 684.

Leviticus Loans approved 123.

Rental prices in Perth are a significant problem, as with most Society clients, together with difficulty in obtaining a property due to poor English and perhaps discrimination. The rent level of not greater than 30% of income is difficult to achieve especially for singles. Food parcels are provided where necessary.

Overseas Partnerships & Development

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.

The OPDC in WA

This year has seen a vital and active committee, largely thanks to the hard work of Sr. Annette Ellis, in her capacity as secretary to the committee. The Committee met four times during the year; in July, October, February and April, and covered a wide range of matters.

In addition, I attended the meeting of the National Overseas Partnership and Development Committee in Canberra in February. The NOPDC is a valuable forum for sharing ideas, ensuring efficient delivery of help and consistency in the way different States operate. The NOPDC also coordinates assistance, such as disaster relief, that needs to be organised as a national effort.

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.

Twinning has always been a fundamental part of what we do as Vincentians. It is the main, but not the only, way of supporting our fellow Vincentians in



developing countries, in their efforts to assist the poor in their own countries.

Our twins are frequently also financially poor, but they are a rich source of spiritual nourishment to us as well as to those they assist – a wonderful example to us.

The number of twins supported has remained relatively steady for some years. We supported 130 to 131 twinned conferences over the year. Most (114) are from India, with 7 in Cambodia, 4 in Pakistan, 2 each in Indonesia and the Philippines and one each in PNG and Thailand. Due principally to closure of some of our own conferences, we had to return 10 twins to the National Council. This is, obviously, a matter of some concern. In addition to twinned conferences we supported two Councils.

Each quarter we remitted \$60 to each twin. This will increase to \$80 in August 2008, the first increase in many years. Additional grants, at the option of the Australian twin, can be sent at Christmas and Easter. During the year regular twinning grants totalled \$31,260, with a further \$480 to Councils. Christmas grants totalled \$13,870 and Easter grants totalled \$11,770.

Projects

Most projects are initiated by our overseas twins and typically cost around \$1200. Typical projects are cow or goat banks, and self-help projects, such as providing sewing machines to a group of women to enable them to produce an income. Three new projects, costing a total of \$3,529, were funded during the year.

A more-than-usually-substantial project – an agricultural dam in Cambodia costing \$4800 – was also funded, the funding having been raised by the efforts of a single conference.

All projects are aimed at increasing the degree of self-sufficiency of the twinned conferences and the families they support.

In addition a child care centre in Cambodia received ongoing support, to the extent of \$600, and special donations, totalling \$1,520, were remitted to assist Cambodian conferences.

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 \$29,040 to assist 414 students – slightly less than last year. However, a later than usual campaign into schools should see this figure substantially bettered.

Pakistan Literacy Project

Pakistan has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world. 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 basic literacy for children who otherwise would never have schooling, in a country with one of the highest rates of illiteracy in the world. Regrettably, WA gave no support to this project during the year. In the previous year we had supported two teachers. Regional Councils have undertaken to support the project in the following year.



Social Justice

The St Vincent de Paul Society is committed to enriching the lives of those in the community experiencing hardship by advocating for a fair, equal and compassionate community. The Social Justice Committee in Western Australia is dedicated to raising awareness and encouraging an understanding of social justice issues by developing programs and initiatives on a local and national level.

“THE DISTINCTIVE APPROACH OF VINCENTIANS TO ISSUES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IS TO SEE THEM FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THOSE WE VISIT WHO SUFFER FROM INJUSTICE” (SOCIETY RULE 1:7.4)

The St Vincent de Paul Society Social Justice Committee provides a voice for the Society to speak on behalf of people faced with social injustice within the community.

The Social Justice Committee completed their first year of formation and have been active on a number of fronts. Our committee consists of eight (8) Vincentians from a wide range of conferences plus two Ozanam House staff members. Meetings are held once a month and our meetings are open to interested Vincentians should they wish to attend.

Our self imposed charter calls for us to be involved in no more than four (4) projects locally, at one time and we agreed that we would at all times have two further projects in line.

Nationally we are a support mechanism locally for national social justice initiatives and in particular the drive to reduce homelessness plus the high cost and lack of affordable accommodation.

Local issues -:

1. A formal plan to take the social justice message down to conferences. The first step will be to present the package to a meeting of Conference Presidents in February 2009.
2. The Committee is concerned about the poor conditions and the high rentals in boarding houses for single men in the Perth City area. We have joined other concerned agencies in preparing a document for the incoming Housing Minister on the issue.
3. We believe young Aboriginals are not being given the opportunity to learn a trade that would ultimately give them a higher level of financial stability. As a response we are working with the Shire of Dalwallinu, a prominent kitset home builder, government agencies, and the Jamitji people to create the Jamitji Building Company. Young Jamitji people will develop skills in erecting kitset homes, which will ultimately be sold for profit. As the project grows, more and more young aboriginals will receive training from qualified building supervisors.
4. Our main project has been termed “Single Parent Family Friends Program”. The program has been trialled in five conferences throughout Perth and will hopefully be rolled out into all conferences following the release of our Social Justice package in February 2009. The program extends the existing role our members take during Home Visits.



Family Friends Program -:

1. Regular visiting and phone calls to ask after their welfare.
2. Giving members' phone numbers with an invitation to call directly if in any need.
3. Getting to know each of the children and their birth dates.
4. Sending presents on their birthdays.
5. Other support as deemed necessary.

Ongoing Projects -:

1. Our work on the "Single Parent Family Friends Program" has highlighted the need for "foster grandparents" and the Committee, whilst focussing on our top four issues will continue to work on this project as time allows.
2. We are developing a package to provide low cost rental accommodation by harnessing the support of a wide range of stakeholders involved in land ownership, building and investment.

Earlier in the year the Committee prepared a submission on the proposed WA Human Rights Act. The Attorney General referred the issue to the Federal Government and our submission was part of that package.





“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

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 2008 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



Frank McMahon
State Treasurer

2007 – 2008 Financials

Fully audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2008 are available upon request.

2007 – 2008 Financials

Auditor: Robert Burns
Burns Sieber Chartered Accountants.

St Vincent de Paul Society (WA) Inc.

INCOME STATEMENT

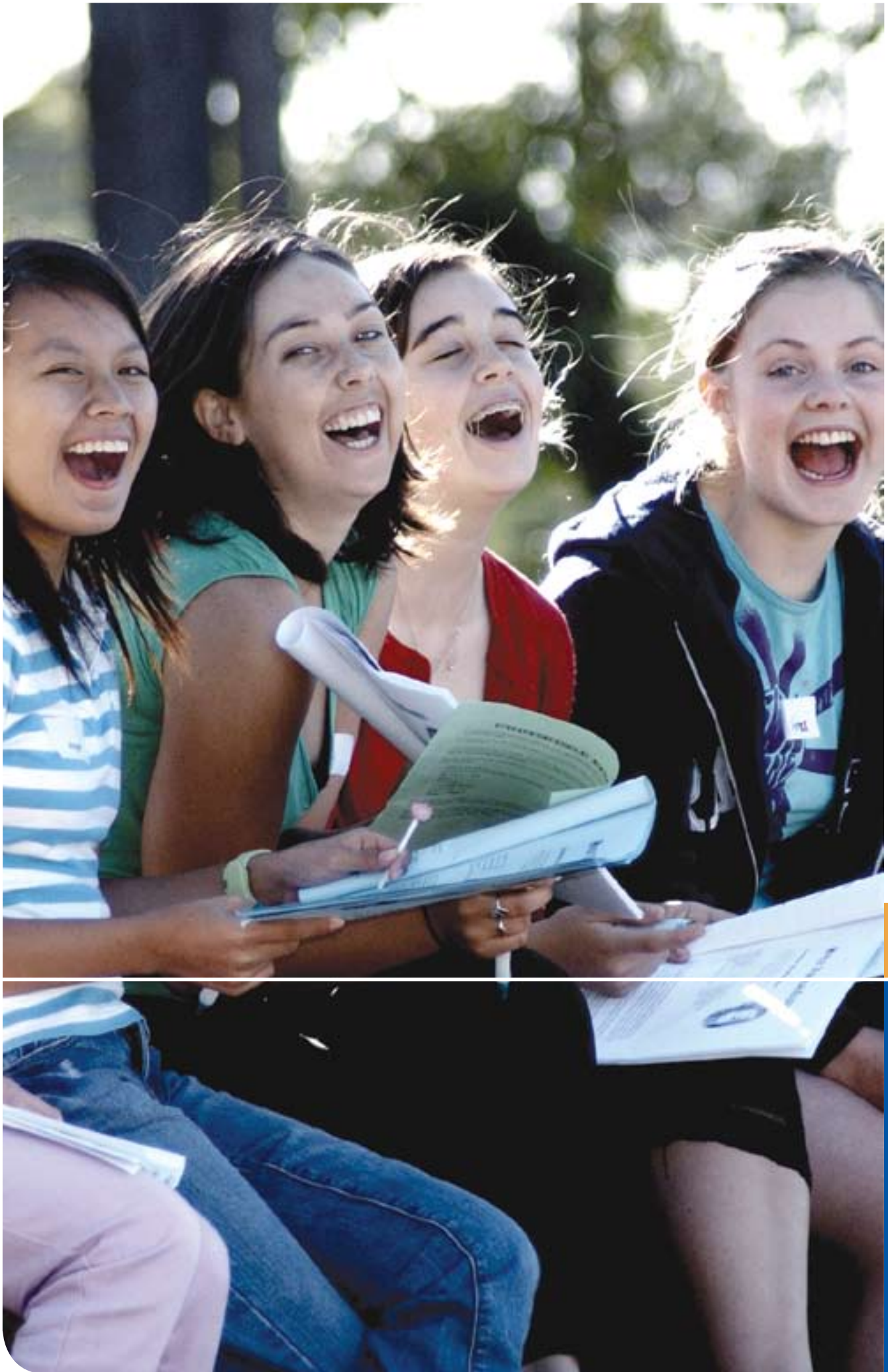
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$	2007 \$
REVENUE		
Government grants	335,499	314,743
Sale of goods	5,060,299	5,180,570
Client contributions	526,301	413,143
Fundraising	2,576,664	2,440,796
Other Revenue	2,639,429	2,965,232
TOTAL REVENUE FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	11,138,192	11,314,484
Other Income		
Net Gain on Sale of Property Plant & Equipment	41,770	249,468
TOTAL REVENUE AND INCOME	11,179,962	11,563,952
EXPENSES		
Operating Expenses		
Sale of goods	4,300,992	4,310,074
Administration	484,955	470,846
Fundraising	842,473	626,851
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	5,628,420	5,407,771
Total funds available for client services	5,551,542	6,156,181
Client Services Expenses		
People in Need Services	3,502,229	3,396,456
Homeless and Mental Health Services	1,579,903	1,179,785
TOTAL CLIENT SERVICES EXPENDITURE	5,082,132	4,576,241
TOTAL EXPENSES	10,710,552	9,984,012
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD	469,410	1,579,940

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$	2007 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,051,727	5,362,243
Trade and other receivables	355,884	461,243
Inventories	157,609	110,259
Other assets	57,721	40,772
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	4,622,941	5,974,517
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	10,041,101	9,529,137
Financial Assets	1,000,000	
Intangibles	920	1,804
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	11,042,021	9,530,941
TOTAL ASSETS	15,664,962	15,505,458
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	512,684	489,830
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	-	498,193
Provisions	561,038	435,232
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,073,722	1,423,255
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	109,256	69,629
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	109,256	69,629
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,182,978	1,492,884
NET ASSETS	14,481,984	14,012,574
EQUITY		
Reserves	5,379,255	5,379,255
Accumulated funds	9,102,729	8,633,319
TOTAL EQUITY	14,481,984	14,012,574



“I would like to embrace the whole world in a network of charity”.

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

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 Australian's in need and through the communities 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.

Acknowledgements and How You Can Help

Acknowledgements

Donors & Benefactors

The St Vincent de Paul Society relies on the generosity of the community to support vital programs and services for people in need in the West Australian community. 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 listed below 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.

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.

Advisory Boards

We would like to thank and acknowledge all those who voluntarily served on 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.

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.



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 Society's 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 at our Clothing and Furniture Depot in Osborne Park or by calling **(08) 9444 5622**.

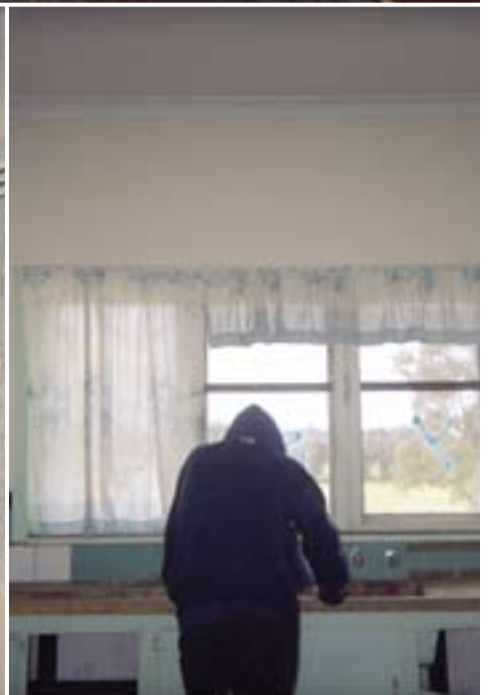
Make a Bequest

Please consider remembering the St Vincent de Paul Society in your Will. The Society's 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**.

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**.





This time it's personal.

Winter Appeal 2008 – Photographic Exhibition

No actors were used, no film crews, producers or professional photographers involved. The 2008 Winter Appeal stories were told by none other than the people the Society assists - these are their stories and their images.

The photography project involved giving disposable cameras to people assisted through the Society's Special Works – Passages Resource Centre, Vincentcare and the Refugee & Migrant Support Program. Participants were asked to document their lives and share their own very personal stories.

What evolved was a collection of powerful and at times shocking and emotive images, all of which expressed the same theme. Homelessness in its rawest form.

These photographs helped to put a face to the homeless and allowed them to tell their own story by inviting the public into their lives.

The generosity received throughout the 2008 Winter Appeal was astounding. Over \$890,000 was raised ensuring the people in these photographs and the many thousands the Society helps will receive the assistance they need.

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2008 Winter Appeal.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

76 Abernethy Road Belmont
PO Box 473
Belmont WA 6984

P: 08 9475 5400
F: 08 9475 5425
E: info@svdpwa.org.au
W: vinnies.org.au