

comfort
dignity

hope
dignity

HOPE
COMFORT





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FRAGILE





introduction *hope. comfort. dignity.*

Archbishop's Message



Blessed Frederic Ozanam established the St Vincent de Paul Society in 1833, it was established as an organisation in the service of the poor. Since then, the Society has spread throughout the world and those most in need have received comfort, compassion and practical assistance from Vincentian's when they have needed it most.

It is good to remind ourselves that many in our world live in darkness, not because they choose to, but more often because circumstances or situations have forced them to experience long periods or a life time of darkness. Poverty, injustice, abuse, domestic violence, mental illness, racial vilification and conflict, natural disasters and famine are examples of darkness that prevent millions of people from living in the light of a full and just life.

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a significant organisation that has been entrusted with the task and mission of bringing light into people's lives. Blessed Frederic Ozanam spent his life

enabling people in his time to experience light and a sense of hope in a world that for many was often marked with darkness and suffering.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam has given Vincentian's all over the world an example and they have a serious responsibility to continue his work of allowing the 'Light of Christ' to burn bright in our world.

I am delighted with the work accomplished by the Society in Western Australia this year and deeply thankful for the Christian outreach they provide.

It has embraced a broad range of charitable works in collaboration with others of good will to relieve need and address causes, including care and support to the homeless, dignity to those living with a mental health diagnosis, practical assistance to individuals and families struggling to meet living costs in our state, developmental and support programs to disadvantaged youth and a warm welcome and support to newly arrived refugees.

The Society has again made no distinction in those they serve and have brought love, compassion and light to anyone that has called on them for help.

I acknowledge and congratulate the Society on this work over the past twelve months and offer my support and prayers for their work ahead.

Yours in Christ

Handwritten signature of Barry James Hickey.

Barry James Hickey
Catholic Archbishop of Perth



State President's Message



"We do make a difference in the community and our relevance today is as great now as when the Society was first established in WA in 1865."

I can hardly believe another year has gone by so fast.

In this report you will read the significantly increased levels of support we have provided over the past year; with the impact of unaffordable housing and accommodation and increased living costs in WA hitting those that can least afford it hardest.

You will read the stories of hardship and despair the people who call on us have faced; these stories are real and a true indication of how tough many in our community are doing it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow State Council members for their work over the last year and acknowledge that at times we have faced moments in our leadership capacity that have challenged us. I would like to personally thank each one of them for their support over the past year.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all participants on Advisory Boards for donating their valuable time to providing specialised knowledge and support of our key Special Works. I would like to acknowledge and thank all members who held positions of Office within the Society over the past 12 months, for us to continue to meet the challenges placed before us we require dedicated and skilled men and women to step up and be leaders within in our own Vincentian community and represent not only our members but the people we assist.

We do make a difference in the community and our relevance today is as great now as when the Society was first established in WA in 1865.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank all members, volunteers and staff for their dedicated hard work, it has been a very busy year and the efforts of everyone have ensured we have effectively carried out our Mission.

I would especially like to take this moment to acknowledge the service of our recently retired Chief Executive Officer, Alan Jennings, and thank him for his loyal service of 16 years. Alan's contribution over that time has ensured the Society has developed into a respected and trusted organisation that fulfils its mission of serving others with hope, comfort and dignity. We wish Alan well for the future and welcome John Bouffler to the role of CEO.

I would like to thank all our donors, benefactors and corporate and community partners for their continued support of our work in the community, we simply couldn't do it without you and there are two particular partners I would like to personally highlight for their continued support -

Since 1999 the Society has partnered with the Rotary Club of Perth to provide support to young people living on the streets through the joint venture project the Passages Resource Centre in Northbridge. This work is critical, and this partnership is vital in ensuring this work can continue and in time expand to meet the demand for homeless youth support in other parts of our

State. I would like to acknowledge and thank all members of Perth Rotary for their support of this project and of our long term and rewarding partnership.

Lotterywest has provided support to the Society since it started as the Lotteries Commission in 1933 and today they continue to support the Society and the good work of our volunteers through programs such as our Emergency Relief welfare and special projects such as the upgrade of our Information Technology system that will allow us to better serve the people we assist. I would like to thank everyone at Lotterywest for their ongoing support of our people and our work.

In closing, I know that all in the Society will be as zealous in their work in the future as they have been in the past and that the vision of Blessed Frederic Ozanam our founder will continue to inspire every action. All the work the members, volunteers and staff complete aims to promote the dignity and integrity of a human person - we hope you will continue to support us in this work and join us in helping to shape a more just and compassionate society.

God Bless

A stylized signature of Clément Astruc in black ink.

Clément Astruc, State President

CEO's Message

"The past 12 months have again been an active year for the Society across Western Australia, with continued focus on several key strategic areas including Spirituality, Advocacy and growth of our Special works."



Since joining the Society in February this year, I have been deeply impressed by the commitment and dedication of our members, volunteers and staff in supporting those across Western Australia who call on our services. Demand for the Society's core work of home visitations, has continued to increase and our members and staff have risen to the challenge of providing support to those in need across the State.

Whilst it is often stated that we live in the 'lucky state' in the 'lucky country', there are many who do not benefit from the wealth that is created in Western Australia and unfortunately at times, many of us see this divide growing. As a leading charity in Western Australia, and with our Mission focus of Serving Christ in the Poor with love, respect, hope, justice and joy, our responsibilities and challenges continues to grow as we endeavour to support the vulnerable in our community.

The past 12 months have again been an active year for the Society across Western Australia, with continued focus on several key strategic areas including Spirituality, Advocacy and growth of our Special works.

The spiritual foundations of the Society remain our core strength and the visits of Father Richard Benson together with the festival masses, provided members with key opportunities to focus on their faith journey. Advocacy through our Migrant and Refugee work, through various activities in our Conferences and our Social Justice committee, demonstrates our commitment to the vision of our Founder, Frederic Ozanam.

Our Special Works are also integral to our Mission and I would like to thank our various teams in Vincentcare, Passages, Youth, Retail Centres and the Depot, for their commitment to the Society and those we serve. To all other areas of the Society, I extend my gratitude for the work you do - across the teams in Public Relations & Fundraising, Membership and Conference Development, IT, HR, Finance and Administration. Your professionalism and dedication in serving and supporting members, volunteers and clients is deeply appreciated. One key highlight for the year was the inaugural Vinnies CEO Sleepout, where 99 CEOs slept out overnight on a cold night in June to raise awareness and funds to help address the issue of homelessness. Many thanks to our PR & Fundraising team who worked tirelessly to make the event a great success.

I would like to thank our donors for their support of the Society. Our ability to provide services to people in need is reliant to a high degree on that support and we are truly grateful for your generosity.

Without doubt, the lifeblood of the Society is our members and volunteers, who go about their work throughout the community every day in a quiet and unassuming way, helping those less fortunate and making a difference in so many people's lives. Their commitment to the mission and to the Society is amazing and I thank them for all they do.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of State Council for their support. We have a very active and committed Council who share our Vision and dedicate many hours of their time and skill to supporting the Works of the Society.

I look forward to working with you all in the coming 12 months as we renew our strategic focus and continue to give a compassionate hand up to those in our community who are in need.

John Bouffler, Chief Executive Officer



about the society *hope. comfort. dignity.*

Our Mission



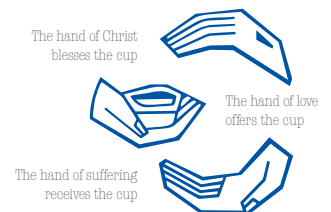
The Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

Our Vision

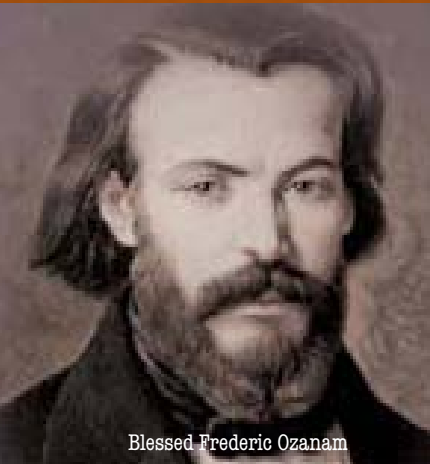
The St Vincent de Paul Society aspires to be recognised as a caring Catholic charity offering “a hand up” to people in need. We do this by respecting their dignity, sharing our hope, and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.

The Meaning of the Logo

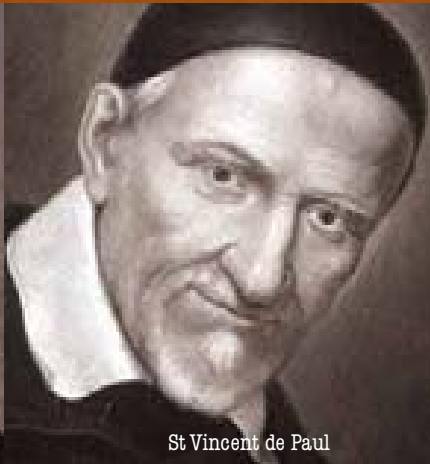
The logo is the symbol of the St Vincent de Paul Society in many countries and was designed by Australian sculptor, Tom Bass. It represents the hand of Christ that blesses the cup, the hand of love that offers the cup and the hand of suffering that receives the cup.



Our History



Blessed Frederic Ozanam



St Vincent de Paul



The St Vincent De Paul Society – Beginnings

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

Frederic Ozanam - Founder

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

At the time, Frederic was 20 years old and a student at Sorbonne University. 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.

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

The Society in WA



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 St Vincent de Paul Society operates in 142 countries and has over 750,000 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 145 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.

Our People

Members	1012
No of new members in 09/10	89
Young Vinnies Volunteers	177
Vinnies Centres & Depot Volunteers	1411
Call Centre Volunteers	47
Full Time Staff	46
Part Time Staff	61
Casual Staff	7

Good Works – Our Faith in Action

As one of the state's leading charities, the St Vincent de Paul Society provides a helping hand to West Australians in need through the provision of support and care when they need it most.

The Society's core work of Emergency Relief welfare is undertaken through Home Visitations by members of the Society.

The Society also has a number of Special Works that provide professional care and support to some of our communities most marginalised – the homeless, those living with mental illness, refugees and migrants, disadvantaged youth and teenagers.

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.

In the spirit of its founders, conferences deliver the core work of the Society by assisting people in their homes through Home Visitations, which foster an atmosphere of dignity, trust and respect. Conference members meet regularly to provide mutual support, spiritual reflection and to discuss how best to respond to the people they assist.

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

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

The Society provides Emergency Relief Assistance during these visits, which includes the distribution and provision of food, clothing, bedding, furniture, assistance with utilities and other emergency assistance.

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

The organisation of Emergency Relief support, Conferences and Home Visitations is done through the co-ordination of Regions across Western Australia.

Regions in Western Australia:

- Fremantle
- Isolated
- Joondalup/Wanneroo
- Osborne Park
- Peel
- Perth
- Queens Park
- South West
- Swan

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

State Council

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.

State Council consists of 18 members all of whom, except the CEO who acts in an ex-officio role, are volunteers. State Council also includes a number of appointed members who act as office bearers, including Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Youth Representatives and Spiritual Advisor. State Council meets monthly to review the strategic direction of the Society ensuring the ethos and mission of the Society is adhered to at all times.

State Council of Western Australia for 09/10 Financial Year

 State President Clément Astruc	 Vice President Kevin Goff	 Vice President David Fitzgerald	 Vice President Terry Power	 CEO John Bouffler	 State Treasurer Robert Burns	 State Council Secretary Annette Ellis
 Spiritual Advisor Father Pat Cunningham	 President Fremantle Region Ian Digney	 President Isolated Region Frances Grey	 President Peel Region Vince Spargo	 President Queens Park Region Kevin Sealey	 President Joondalup/ Wanneroo Region Pat Cunneen	 President Osborne Park Region Jeff Trew
 President Swan Region Trevor Knuckey	 President South West Region Margaret Wheeler	 President Perth Region Kevin Quinn	 State Youth Representative Catherine Wheeler	 State Youth Representative Sarah Crute		

We also acknowledge and thank the following State Councillors whose terms ended during 09/10.



State Treasurer
Frank McMahon



President Swan Region
George Walls



President Osborne
Park Region
Vin Barry

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

Special Works Advisory Committee & Board Chairpersons for 09/10 Financial Year

State Council Board	Clément Astruc
Finance Committee	Frank McMahon/Bob Burns
Formation & Training Committee	Clément Astruc
Governance Committee	George Walls
Mental Health & Homelessness Advisory Committee	John Lazberger
Overseas Partnerships & Development	Annette Ellis
Passages Resource Centre Board	David Reed OAM
Refugee & Migrant Committee	Frank Pelusey
Risk Management Committee	Vin Barry
Social Justice Committee	Patrick Durack
State Archivist	Thomas Fisher OAM JP
State Centres Board	David Reed OAM
State Youth Committee	Sarah Crute
Strategic Planning Committee	Terry Power

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.

Current Management Team

Chief Executive Officer	John Bouffler
Chief Financial Officer	Brian Niedzwiecki
Clothing & Furniture Depot Manager	Frank Brown JP
Human Resources Manager	Tom Polich JP
Information Systems Manager	Ray Smith
Membership & Conference Development Manager	Kate White
Operations Manager	James Teo
Passages Resource Centre Manager	Danielle Tilbrook
Public Relations & Fundraising Manager	Lucinda Ardagh
Retail General Manager	Lisa Pappas
State Youth Manager	Rebecca Callaghan
Vincentcare Manager	Yvonne Pallier
Welfare Services Manager	Michael Dwyer



PEOPLE ASSISTED THROUGH HOME VISITATIONS:

No of Home Visits	27,613
No of People Assisted	40,362
No of Times People Assisted	85,746

DEMOGRAPHIC OF PEOPLE ASSISTED:

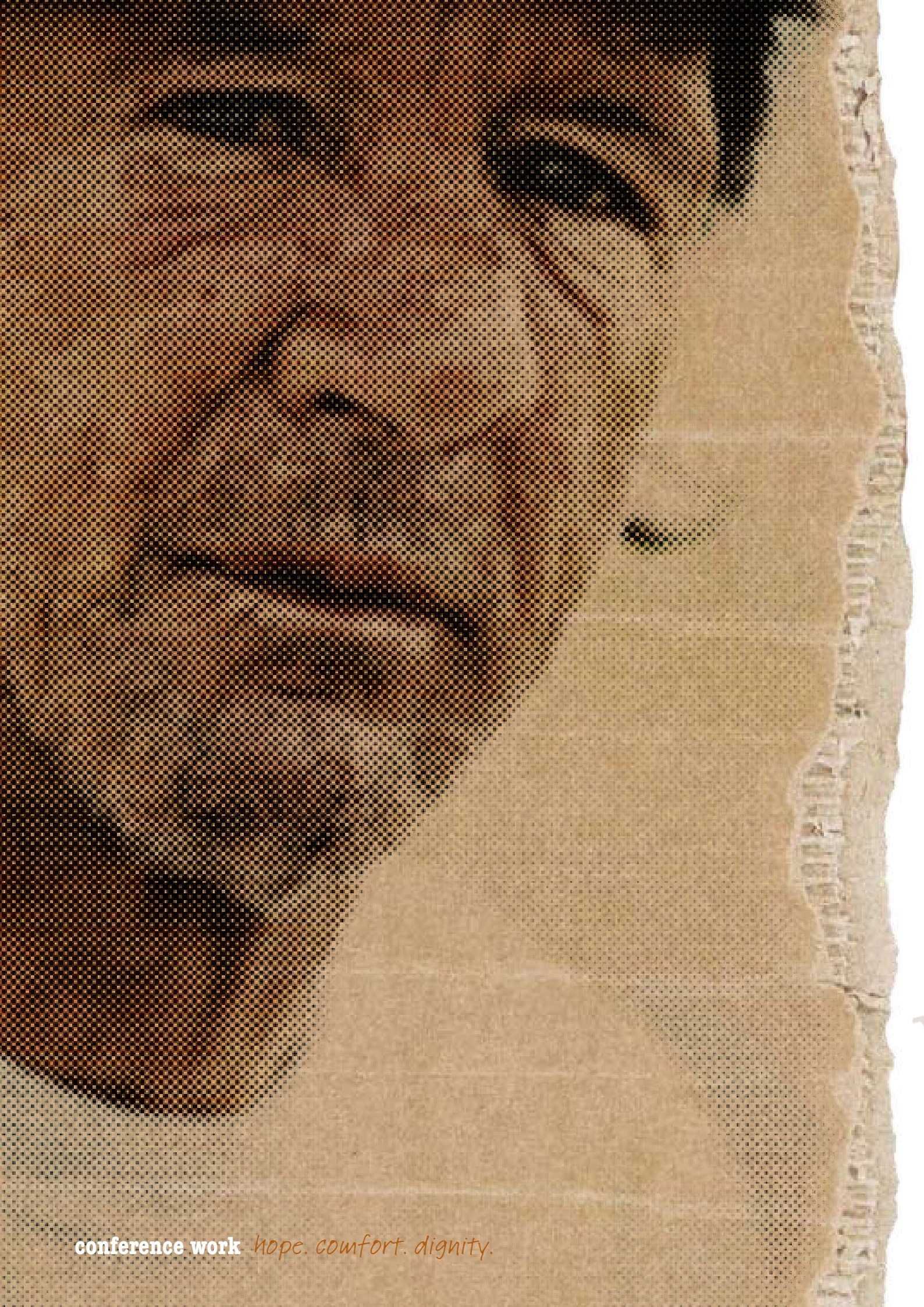
Couples with Children	21%
Couples without Children	6%
Singles with Children	43%
Singles without Children	30%
New Clients	28%
Repeat Clients	72%

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTED:

Bedding	5%
Clothing	5%
Food	62%
Furniture	8%
Other	9%
Utility Bills	11%

INCREASE IN WELFARE EXPENDITURE:

Accommodation	51%
Education	165%
Food Vouchers & Purchases	40%
Household Goods	100%
Medical Expenses	37%
Refugee & Migrant Support	26%
Utilities Assistance	49%
Youth Services	23%



conference work *hope. comfort. dignity.*

Fremantle Region

Rami and Lana's Story

Rami* and Lana* and their family migrated to Western Australia from Palestine 15 years ago in the search of a better life for their family. The family had settled into their new found home very well and were enjoying life in Perth. In 2008 Rami suffered a serious and debilitating back injury that was not work related, but left him unable to work and on a disability pension. This sudden and unexpected circumstance in their lives – changed their family forever. Rami and Lana, live in rental accommodation with their five children - three sons aged 17yrs, 15yrs and 3yrs and two daughters aged 16yrs and 11yrs, the family have been living on Rami's pension.

Over the course of the last financial year with increases in living costs the family has struggled to make ends meet. The unfortunate injury to Rami not only left the family with financial difficulties but also took its toll emotionally on Rami and the family, with Rami forced to let go of his pride and eventually ask for help from the St Vincent de Paul Society. Rami is a proud man who had to learn to cope with the pain and emotions from his injury and also realise that he could no longer support his family as he once had. The couple's eldest son also struggled emotionally with trying to understand why his life is so different to the lives of some of his friends and why the family could not afford to buy the things that others can.

The family were offered support when they needed it most and were treated with respect and dignity. Members from the Willetton Conference have visited the family providing food parcels and food vouchers as well as assistance with a utilities bill.

The members have also assisted Lana with completing forms to allow her to apply for carer's allowance. She was not aware that she was eligible for such additional financial support and the extra income would greatly help their financial situation.

The Willetton Conference continues to provide support to the family as it is needed.

Melinda and Luke's Story

Melinda* was a healthy, happy, working woman in a loving relationship with her partner Luke*, until seven years ago when Melinda developed a painful spinal condition. As a Chartered Accountant, Melinda was no longer able to work, however circumstances continued to worsen when in February 2010 Melinda was diagnosed with bowel cancer and the roller coaster of illness and treatment began for the couple with Luke spending as much time as he could caring for Melinda as she battles her illness.

The couple went from two incomes to living on Melinda's disability support allowance, and as Luke's modest 25 hour a week wage which he works so he is able to care for Melinda, but deems him ineligible for any carer's support. Luke also pay's child support for his child from a previous relationship. Their income struggles to cover their basic living expenses such as food, household necessities, utility bills, running a car to and from treatment and covering the cost of medication.

Members from the Spearwood Conference have visited Melinda over the year and have made phone calls to her on numerous occasions to check in on how she is going. The members have provided Melinda and Luke with food vouchers and information on how to receive assistance with utility bills.

Melinda has told the members of the Spearwood Conference that she is pleased to have met them because they treat her with dignity and are genuinely concerned and supportive. She considers the members her friends.

The Spearwood Conference has also assured Melinda they are happy to visit her when she requires some assistance around the home or just needs someone to talk to. The members realise that trying to cope with rising costs of living on a small income is extremely stressful, not to mention with the additional emotions of dealing with cancer. As Melinda continues to become more open and comfortable talking to the members they will be able to provide more avenues for assistance.

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients.

REGIONAL PRESIDENT:

Ian Digney

NUMBER OF CONFERENCES: 7

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

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 95

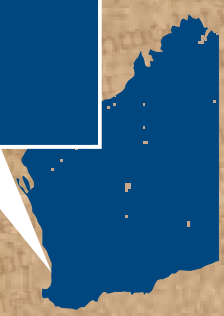
NUMBER OF CENTRES: 3

Fremantle High Street (Retro)
Hilton
Myaree – opened in April

NUMBER OF HOME VISITS: 2,119

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED: 2,926

AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED: \$152,474





REGIONAL PRESIDENT:

Frances Grey

NUMBER OF CONFERENCES: 8

- Albany – St Joseph’s
- Bullsbrook – St Matthew’s
- Denmark – St Mary’s
- Geraldton – St Francis Xavier
- Kalgoorlie – St Mary’s
- Karratha – St Patrick’s
- Narrogin – St Matthew’s
- South Hedland – St John the Baptist
- Roebourne – Welfare through Daughters of Charity Sisters

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 91

NUMBER OF CENTRES: 6

- Albany
- Kalgoorlie
- Karratha
- Geraldton
- South Hedland
- Toodyay

NUMBER OF HOME VISITS: 2,705

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED: 4,844

AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED: \$258,510



Isolated Region

Jill’s Story

Early in 2010 the Albany Conference met Jill* a recently widowed lady who was on the verge of eviction from her home. Jill’s husband had recently passed away and Jill was struggling with the funeral expenses, unemployment, depression and loss of her carers’ pension.

On a visit to the Albany Welfare Office, the conference members suggested to Jill that she would greatly benefit from having a job as it would assist her in paying the bills and also allow her to meet new people. Jill agreed and with the encouragement and support of the Conference, Jill managed to secure herself employment.

The members were also planning to advocate on Jill’s behalf with the real estate Property Manager to stop her from being evicted, when Jill was lucky enough to secure new accommodation closer to her work which allowed her to save money and time on travel.

A few months later Jill found herself needing the support of the Albany conference again when she fell behind in her rent payments. Jill explained that again due to unforeseen circumstances including her car being written off in an accident and additional expenses in helping her daughter move from the Eastern States so she could better support her with her mental health issues, Jill had been unable to pay her rent. Jill informed the conference members that things were going well at work and that she was sure she could catch up with her rent arrears.

The Albany Conference continued to support Jill during this difficult time and is currently in the process of referring Jill to an agency that can assist her with maintaining her tenancy.

Within a few weeks Jill happily reported that she had cleared her arrears on her rent ahead of time and was extremely grateful for the help support and friendship she had received from St Vincent de Paul Society in Albany.

Gary’s Story

Gary* is forty year old and profoundly deaf. Because of his disability Gary has found it difficult to secure and maintain employment. In early 2010 Gary came to the St Vincent de Paul Society through the Geraldton Conference seeking support, his Centerlink payments had been cut-off as he had been on extended unemployment benefits and Gary felt the agency did not understand his difficulty in securing a job.

Gary came to the Society in severe financial stress with the hope the Geraldton members could help advocate to Centrelink of his behalf.

“We cannot better secure our happiness than by living and dying in the services of the poor.”

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

The members contacted Centrelink and explained Gary’s situation and advocated that his payments be restored. They explained that the cancellation of his payments had placed Gary under severe financial and emotional stress and that he had nowhere to live and was unable to buy food and support himself without the payments. Gary’s case was reviewed and his payments were restored.

The Geraldton Conference also then went on to help Gary with some temporary emergency accommodation and provided him with food and some living essentials until he got his life back on track.

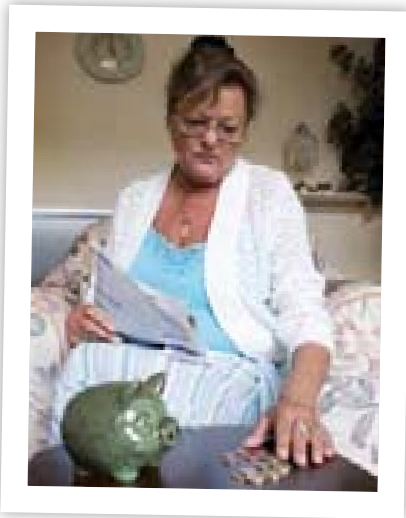
The support Gary received offered him comfort and dignity when he needed it most. Gary has since been back to the Geraldton conference to thank them for their support and to let them know he is doing much better and has his life on track.

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients.

Joondalup/Wanneroo Region

Doug and Natasha's Story

Doug* and Natasha* are in their 60's and should be enjoying their retirement. They were once successful business people but an unfortunate turn of events led to their business going under and the loss of their family home.



Doug and Natasha currently live in a rented Homewest house with little disposable income after they pay their rent, medications, basic living expenses and run the family car. They both receive an Aged Pension and suffer from ill health. Their son is in his mid twenties and lives with them while he is studying at university.

The Whitfords Conference first met the couple in early 2010 and has continued to visit them on a regular basis to provide assistance with day to day expenses but to also offer friendship and much need support. The conference members have assisted the family mostly with food which is one of the most commonly requested items by people calling on the Society for help. This is generally due to income being directed to pay rent and utility bills first and leaving no spare change to put food on the table.

The conference members also provided clothing vouchers to the local Vinnies Centre during winter time so the family could purchase warm and comfortable clothing. The conference members have also assisted with gardening and preparing the house for inspection.

The Whitfords Conference is committing to assisting this family in the future to help them get through these tough times.

Dave and his Children's Story

Dave* is a single father with three young children who he loves very dearly. He separated from his wife in 2009 following her battle with drug addiction.

Dave's children are aged seven, five and two and Dave is trying very hard to care for them. The family have moved into a new rental property and Dave has learnt to cook, receiving cooking advice and lessons from his eldest child.

Dave has very little surrounding support and has struggled with trying to raise a young family on his own, keep them all together and support them financially. The children are happy and adore their father.

The first time the Greenwood Conference came into contact with Dave and his children was following the move to the new house, where they lost one of his children's school shoes and with little available funds Dave called on Vinnies to help provide a replacement pair. The conference members visited Dave for the first time and it was soon apparent that this Dad needed far more support than just a pair of shoes.

They were quick to act and provided shoes and food but also identified that Dave needed ongoing emotional support. The Greenwood Conference decided to set up a Family Friends Program with Dave and his family and sought the help of Regional President Pat Cunneen who has developed the very successful program at the Whitfords Conference.

The Family Friends Program provides support to single parent families who are disadvantaged. The families benefit from regular visits and phone calls and children receive gifts on their birthdays.

The conference members were touched personally by Dave's plight and continue to support Dave and his children.

They children are looking forward to starting at their new school in 2011.

*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients.

REGIONAL PRESIDENT:

Pat Cunneen

NUMBER OF CONFERENCES: 7

Clarkson – St Andrew's
Greenwood – All Saints
Girrawheen – Our Lady of Mercy
Ocean Reef – St Simon Peter
Wanneroo – St Anthony's of Padua
Whitfords – Our Lady of the Missions
Woodvale – St Luke's

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 133

NUMBER OF CENTRES: 3

Clarkson/Ocean Keys
Heathridge
Wanneroo

NUMBER OF HOME VISITS: 1,371

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED: 2,474

AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED: \$158,765



REGIONAL PRESIDENT:

Vin Barry/Jeff Trew

NUMBER OF CONFERENCES: 12

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

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 152

NUMBER OF CENTRES: 5

- Girrawheen
- Innaloo
- Nollamara
- Osborne Park Depot
- Scarborough

NUMBER OF HOME VISITS: 2,656

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED: 3,881

AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED: \$206,061



Osborne Park Region

John's Story

John* is in his early 30's and suffers from schizophrenia and alcohol addiction. His illness has led to difficulties in managing his affairs and hospitalisation in mental health facilities, not to mention an impact on his family life. John is divorced with 3 children between the ages of 11yrs and 1 yr, the children visit John and their visits are something John looks forward to greatly.

John receives a disability pension and rents a Homeswest unit, his rental payments are automatically deducted from his pension he is left with a small amount of income to provide for himself and for when his children visit.

John called the Society for help and the Innaloo/Karrinyup Conference responded by visiting John in his home and offered him support including emergency relief assistance in the form of food parcels and food vouchers as well as assistance with utility bills. The conference members have also provided support to John by respectfully discussing his health problems to assess further mental health support opportunities available to him. The conference members have provided John with encouragement to continue to be positive and strong when times are tough and they have treated him with respect and dignity.

The Innaloo/Karrinyup conference has also been able to assist John by providing a table and chairs and a couch for when his children come to visit him at home. This was a great relief to John who desired to make his home environment comfortable and inviting for his children. He loves his children and their visits are a positive thing in his life, giving him encouragement to continue the effective treatment of his illness.

The Innaloo/Karrinyup Conference is aware that John will require continuous support and will remain a support network to him in the future.

Brian and Elizabeth's Story

Brian* and Elizabeth* like many people the Society assists have found themselves in an unexpected and life changing situation. Over the past year Brian and Elizabeth have become full time carers to two teenage grandchildren and Brian has been diagnosed with asbestosis and lung cancer which leaves him in hospital for long periods of time. They live in a modest house paying \$350 a week in rent and their combined income of the age and disability pension leaves them with only \$480 a fortnight to pay bills, buy food, pay for fuel and transport expenses and look after their grandsons who are growing boys at 14 and 16 years of age.

Brian and Elizabeth have taken their two grandsons in because their own parents "cannot care for them" and they are finding it increasingly difficult to provide the things they need on an ongoing basis with no extra support. Including school uniforms, books, school fees paid, clothes and food and the boys are also very keen football players and knowing what the boys have been through Brian and Elizabeth believe it is important to have them active in the community involved in things they love and so the couple make multiple trips to and from training and games supporting the boys.

Brain says he would love to work but he simply cannot, he finds it difficult to even walk up the driveway without needing a rest. Just recently he was rushed back to hospital and Jan did not have enough money to put fuel in the car to go and see him. Vinnies was able to provide the family with fuel vouchers and is providing ongoing support with utility bills and food supplies.

Volunteers from the Society will continue to care for and support Brian and Elizabeth and their grandsons.

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients.

Calls for help risin

A LOCAL charity is preparing for an increase in those needing support due to rising costs of living. St Vincent de Paul Society

the call centre has already had the total number of calls in the 2008-09 financial year. As winter approaches the charity is calling for s

Peel Region

Elle and her Family's Story

Elle* is an aboriginal lady with six children aged between 15 years and 18 months who receives parenting allowance. Her partner has a permanent disability and receives a disability pension. The family currently live with Elle's mother to enable the two older children to access high school however they are also paying rent for a house in another town, the family are on the Homeswest waiting list. Elle is a loving mother who encourages all her children to have ambition in life, she values education and desires to give her children the best opportunities possible.



Four years ago the Mandurah Conference came into contact with Elle and her family as they were struggling to make ends meet. During each visit the conference members have sat down with Elle over a cup of tea giving her the opportunity to talk, sharing her fears, needs and also personal and family achievements. The conference members have been able to assist Elle and her family by providing food and clothing. They have also provided her with information on how to access camps run by the St Vincent de Paul Society Vinnies Youth program that will offer her children the opportunity to have fun, participate in programs and be with other young children.

With encouragement Elle has recently completed a Teachers Aid certificate and hopes to further her studies when her youngest child is a little older. The Mandurah Conference has continued to keep in contact with the family and will offer assistance when required.

Joanne's Story

Joanne* is in her mid thirties and suffers from bi-polar and ADHD. She is a single mother to three children - two sons aged 9yrs and 7yrs and a 2 yr old daughter. Joanne has experienced domestic violence in the past and as a result was forced to leave her home to escape her abusive relationship and to protect her children from any trauma caused from witnessing the violence.

Joanne receives parenting payment but is left with very little to pay the bills after she pays for costs associated with running the family car, rent and school expenses. The Mandurah Conference was able to relieve some of the pressure Joanne was experiencing by providing her with food and petrol vouchers, toiletries and nappies for her youngest child.

With Joanne's permission the conference members were able to contact a psychologist to assist with her with her mental health conditions. The conference members were also able to put Joanne in contact with a supportive local GP and referred her to a family support network.

The conference members identified that Joanne's two sons would greatly benefit from a Vinnies Youth Camp and provided her with information to get them involved in this valuable support program. The camps provide opportunities for children to access activities they would not normally be able to experience and gain confidence and communication skills as well as giving parents like Joanne some much needed respite.

Joanne and her family are currently managing life well and getting back on their feet after suffering trauma and financial struggles. However, the Mandurah Conference remains aware of her issues and will provide support and friendship with compassion to Joanne and her family if the need arises in the future.

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients.

REGIONAL PRESIDENT:

Vince Spargo

NUMBER OF CONFERENCES: 5

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

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 74

NUMBER OF CENTRES: 5

Kwinana
Mandurah
Pinjarra
Rockingham
Rockingham (Depot)

NUMBER OF HOME VISITS: 4,215

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED: 4,844

AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED: \$376,493



REGIONAL PRESIDENT:

Kevin Quinn

NUMBER OF CONFERENCES: 9

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

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 121

NUMBER OF CENTRES: 5

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

NUMBER OF HOME VISITS: 1,681

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED: 1,738

AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED: \$132,737

Perth Region

Support When Needed Most

Over the past 12 months the Nedlands and Claremont conferences have provided support to a family in need living within the Perth Region. The family of two parents, aged in their 30’s and four children, aged from 4 yrs to 8 yrs, situation was serious and there was severe financial and emotional stress upon the family.

The family’s situation came to the conferences attention when a local Parish priest received a letter asking for assistance from the Palliative Care Social Worker who had been supporting the family as a result of the father being diagnosed with terminal lung cancer.

The family were living in Australia on a Student Visa and following the father’s diagnosis both parents had to cease work and in turn their financial situation spiralled out of control.

By the time the Society came to know of them the family had fallen behind in their rent, for their two bedroom, one bathroom townhouse, medical bills were increasing and the children were no longer attending school. Both the Nedlands and Claremont Conferences stepped in and paid amounts owing on rent, provided food, clothing and books for the children to address their immediate needs.

Members of the two conferences made public Appeals within their respective Parishes. The money donated by the community, paid for the rent for the family for a few months, also helped with medication costs, petrol and household living items, as well as school books, uniforms and fees so the children could return to school. Food was also donated to support the family.

Due to Visa restrictions, the family were not entitled to any assistance for medical or utilities bill and are also not entitled to receive family or carers support. The mum is now working at the weekend to earn some money to help pay bills however due to her husband being hospitalised at times at length and with no family support to look after her children she cannot work more hours which has left the family with little money for essentials such as rent, medicines and utilities.

Each week two conference members from the Nedlands and Claremont conferences visit the family to offer them moral support, friendship and material and financial assistance as they need it.

James’ Story

James* and his wife made a decision to move to Australia from Auckland after James had been out of work for close on two years. They chose Western Australia, even though they knew no one there and were furthest from home, because they had heard of the boom conditions that existed in the state.

James came in advance to seek out work. He took up residence in a backpackers lodge and came into contact with the Leederville Conference a week after his arrival in Perth. The conference members visited him and provided him with food vouchers to enable him to use his scarce remaining funds for transport and other costs while he looked for work.

James contacted the Society a week later, he had obtained a job and had rented a three bedroom house near to his work. His wife and three children had also arrived.

When the conference members visited the family the family of five were living in a house without furniture. While some of their household goods were en-route from Auckland they had very little and, not being able to pay the costs of transfer, had disposed of whatever else they had.

The conference members placed an order for basic furniture from the Society’s Osborne Park Depot and the conference members spent the evening assembling a household of necessities for the interim week.

When the conference members returned ten days later, the household was in operation. Furniture had arrived from the Osborne Park Depot and goods had arrived from Auckland. The children were in school and the family had used the information given to them and applied for an interest free loan to get a fridge and a used car.

James and his family have not needed any further support from the Society since their initial call for help and they are on track with their new life in Western Australia.

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients.



Queens Park Region

Scott's Story

Scott* is in his early 50's and a loving single father to two young sons aged 4yrs and 5yrs. The family live in a rental home and both boys suffer from disabilities which has resulted in Scott being unable to work while he cares for his sons at home. Scott is a qualified journalist and at times has been able to carry out freelance work however this work is infrequent with Scott finding his time limited after caring for his children.

The financial and emotional pressure on Scott has been enormous, he survives on a carers pension and has struggled with the rising cost of living to provide for himself and his boys – his pension barely covers the cost of essential living costs, such as rent, food, clothing and utilities and there is not enough money in the family budget to make ends meet each week.

Scott has minimal help with caring for his boys and the many and constant doctors and hospital bills he has to pay leave the family constantly in financial stress. In addition to this financial stress the emotional stress Scott is under is evident as he battles to cope solely with two young sons with disabilities on a constant 24 hours basis.

After seeking support from the St Vincent de Paul Society nearly 12 months ago members of the Thornlie Conference have continued to visit Scott and his sons on a fortnightly basis after establishing a genuine need for ongoing emotional support and friendship. Over the year the Thornlie conference has also offered financial relief in the form of food vouchers that has allowed Scott some relief from his financial pressure and enabled him to pay necessary bills including utilities and medical expenses.

Scott has been extremely appreciative of the friendship and support he has received through the Thornlie conference, the conference will continue to support Scott and his boys as long as they need.

Student Help Is Available

During early 2010, a Curtin University student was in dire straits; she had just moved over from Tasmania and was without accommodation in her new found home of Perth. One her teachers knew that another Curtin staff member was also a St Vincent de Paul Society volunteer and contacted them. It was then that the idea to start an on-campus conference was born as a way to provide emergency relief assistance to any other students in need.

After initial discussions with various University representatives, it was suggested that a partnership be formed between the Curtin Student Guild and the St Vincent de Paul Society, in the formation of the partnership the Guild provided a wealth of experience and resources to see the idea come to fruition. Membership comprises of Student Assist staff (employed by the Guild), Guild executive, Catholic Students Association members and other students and university staff, all of who have received comprehensive 'New Members' and 'Emergency Relief' training to aid them in delivering welfare assistance to clients. Initial training was well received and members were impressed "in their capacity and sense of purpose."

Fourteen members operate a roster that service clients who present through the Society's Metropolitan Call Centre. Appointments are made for the following day, within a two hour time slot across five days of the week. As student's needs are often different to those of others, the type of assistance available was tailored to their more specific needs. For example students can access (as well as food, clothing and furniture) transport and photocopying costs, smart rider cards, recycled computers and bookshop grants.

The local Conference continues to work closely with the Curtin Student Guild to help respond to any of the 28,000 students that may be in need.

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients.

REGIONAL PRESIDENT:

Kevin Sealey

NUMBER OF CONFERENCES: 13

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

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 166

NUMBER OF CENTRES: 5

- Armadale
- Cannington
- Gosnells
- Victoria Park
- Rivervale

NUMBER OF HOME VISITS: 5,025

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED: 6,750

AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED: \$490,890



Many roles in tackling needs

...LENTHER Kevin Sealey's...
...to help people has led to him...
...using his own skills and talents...
...years, most recently working...
...role of the newly formed...
...conference based at Curtin Uni...

...with some initial ac...
...counts...
...Mr Sealey, a PhD student at...
...the Curtin University of Techno...
...logy in Bentley, said he was...
...the St Vincent de Paul Society's...
...volunteer coordinator.

...with their...
...needs...
...The...
...the...
...ways...
...they...
...They...

REGIONAL PRESIDENT:

Margaret Wheeler

NUMBER OF CONFERENCES: 9

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

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 107

NUMBER OF CENTRES: 7

- Bunbury
- Bunbury Depot
- Busselton
- Collie
- Dunsborough
- Manjimup
- Margaret River

NUMBER OF HOME VISITS: 3,886

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED: 6,419

AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED: \$204,863



South West Region

Lara’s Story

In Western Australia the National Dental Foundation is a program where dental professionals volunteer their time to provide dental care to people experiencing disadvantage. The program is a wonderful way to lift individuals self esteem and improve their health and wellbeing.

The Manjimup Conference was able to refer a number of clients to the program with many positive comments received that they were treated with the utmost dignity and professionalism during their visit.

One particular client, Lara* had been suffering greatly and was often ill from infections as a result of poor dental health. While Lara’s partner had work, with three young children the family was in a constant battle to make ends meet meaning dental care was a luxury the family simply could not afford.



The program was able to attend to Lara’s immediate problems on the day but generously offered to make and fit a full denture at no cost. This is a life changing experience for Lara and her family.

Overwhelmed by the news with such a generous offer Lara dropped into the Vinnies Manjimup Retail Centre after her consultation to thank the conference members who had facilitated her getting to the clinic. The entire Centre was aware of her joy and you could not wipe the smile from her face.

Helping families stay together

Stacey* was only 22 years old when she travelled to Australia from the UK on a working holiday visa, when she soon found herself struggling for money and a place to live, with no family or friends around to come to her aid. Stacey’s situation worsened, after she met her partner and realised she was pregnant with his child and at the Immigration Department advised her that she would need to return home to England at the same time her baby was due to be born.

Stacey was distraught and turned to Vinnies volunteers for help and support. The volunteers understanding the difficult situation Stacey was in did all they could within their normal capacity to help Stacey - they put her in contact with Pregnancy Assist in the local area for baby supplies and information and provided food and household goods, however Stacey’s biggest issue was liaising with immigration officials to extend her stay in Australia for the birth of her child. The Society’s volunteers advocated on her behalf, attended meetings and provided some financial support to pay for the bridging visa that was needed for her to stay in the country. In December 2009, the couple’s beautiful little baby girl Chloe was born.

Following this, the couple contacted Vinnies again and asked for financial assistance and advocacy for Stacey to begin her formal procedure to become a permanent Australian resident. Stacey was unable to work and her partner was only working casual hours, volunteers assisted them financially in accessing this visa. They are now paying back various loans due to this process, renting their own house and continue to be assisted by Vinnies in the hard times where basic necessities like food and clothing are needed. Local volunteers are happy they were able to keep this family together and get to see Chloe’s beautiful smile when Stacey brings her to the Welfare Centre for a visit.

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients.

Swan Region

Swan shows its support for the Moorditj Noongar Community

Trevor Knuckey was elected as Regional President for the Swan Region in 2010; he is part of the Society's State Council, oversees nine conferences in his area and is an active conference member in his local area of Greenmount. At the start of Trevor's term as Regional President he made a point of visiting key services in his local area to better understand how he can assist.

As a result Trevor met with the Moorditj Noongar Community College Principal and saw great need within the school that could be assisted with his help. The "Breakfast Club" that provides a healthy breakfast for students needed urgent help to keep it running. Through Trevor the Swan Region responded to this need by setting about to secure volunteers and food donations and as result the program is now flourishing again giving children the opportunity to learn with full stomachs.

In consultation with the school Principal, the Region also developed an incentive program that strongly encouraged the students to attend school more regularly as well as improve behaviour and academic achievements. Based on a points system, students in levels 3-7 with the most points by the end of semester one in 2010 were rewarded with a pair of football boots for boys or a pair of netball shoes for girls. Trevor attended the assembly where the winning students were presented with the boots and the winners were overjoyed with the new sports shoes as well as pride in their achievement.

Following the success of the incentive program in the Moorditj Noongar Community College and with the support of the community the Swan Region is planning further incentive programs for the future.

Janet's Story

Janet* is a single disability pensioner living in Homeswest accommodation with her young adult son who is studying at university. Her son receives Youth Allowance and at present is living away from home undertaking practical experience as a requirement for his profession.

Janet has a chronic heart complaint and the costs of medication left her struggling to provide food, purchase clothing and afford bills. Members from the Belmont Conference visited Janet and were able to talk through her situation and offer support, food, clothing vouchers to the local Vinnies Centre and assist with utility bills. Janet appreciated the visits from the conference members who were friendly, compassionate and gave her time to share her story with them.

Janet's illness caused her to be hospitalised for a short period of time in 2010. On return from hospital Janet was forced to stay with relatives who could care for her while she recovered, this meant leaving her house vacant for a short period of time. During that time Janet was horrified to find her home had been broken into and furniture, a computer, a television, clothes and kitchen utensils had been stolen – she was left with almost nothing and little financial resources to replace the stolen goods.

The Belmont Conference was able to support her during this difficult time and assisted by providing some of the necessary household items which had been stolen; they offered her comfort and compassion and supported her as she got her feet back on the ground and re-established herself in her home.

Janet has currently applied for accommodation closer to medical facilities and is hopeful that a new opportunity will open for her in the near future.

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients.

REGIONAL PRESIDENT:

George Walls/Trevor Knuckey

NUMBER OF CONFERENCES:

9

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

NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

99

NUMBER OF CENTRES:

3

Belmont
Midland
Bassendean

NUMBER OF HOME VISITS:

3,955

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED:

5,501

AMOUNT OF WELFARE DISTRIBUTED:

\$357,764



Not everyone is enjoying boom

By ROBYN TURNOR
Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan declared on March 3 that Australia was the envy of the world during the last three months of last year because its solid economic growth of 0.9 per cent – the highest since the March quarter in 2007.

quiring assistance continues to increase and be over and above our means to assist," she said. "Unfortunately we only have enough food and funding to be able to help six people on a Tuesday and six people on a Thursday. "It's not that we

said. "This is often due to redundancy or a change in job site or a major issue such as sickness or disability." "The rate of unemployment is pending increase and the im-



special works *hope. comfort. dignity.*

Vinnies Youth

Overview

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

David and Michael's Story

David* aged 9yrs and his brother Michael* 12yrs, attended their first ever Vinnies Youth Camp this year and had an amazing time. They made plenty of new friends and enjoyed all of the wonderful activities on offer to them, as well as the meaningful interaction they had with the Vinnies Youth volunteers.

David and Michael live with their grandmother Nancy, who has sole custody of the boys and is a single 'parent'. Their grandmother lives on the age pension and they live together in a Department of Housing home. The boys' parents have conditional visitation rights, but neither parent has made any contact with them for more than two years.

The boys' grandmother was struggling as their full-time carer and had very little time to herself when she found out that the Vinnies Youth camps were available. After she was contacted about their place on camp, she was extremely happy that the boys would get a chance to enjoy themselves and forget about their worries for a while. The time off would also give Nancy some much needed respite.

After the boys came back from camp, their grandmother wrote this letter to the Youth team:

"Dear Friends, I would like to thank you and your team for taking care of my two grandsons on camp, they had a wonderful time, and I had a few days of quiet-time.

I read all the comments (warm fuzzies) the boys got from their new friends and leaders. They both seemed to be liked and well-behaved on camp. I know they are good boys, considering what they have both gone through. It's hard on them that neither of their parents have even bothered phoning or anything for the last couple of years.

I'll look forward to hearing from you again, when perhaps 'my boys' are eligible for another camp. Once again thank you all."

Matthew and Susanna's Story

Susanna* is a single mother to Matthew, her eight year old son who is currently in year three at an open learning school. Susanna first came in contact with the Society after she requested emergency relief assistance in the form of food, clothing and help with utility bills.

Matthew* has experienced some learning difficulty in the past and has changed schools three times in the last year. He has some behavioural issues and his mother can't seem to find a school that fits his learning style. Susanna feels very vulnerable and does not know what to do, as she doesn't want Matthew to fall behind. Susanna cannot afford private tutoring and was feeling very helpless until she found out about the St Vincent de Paul Society's Homework Centre.

Held on one afternoon every week during term, disadvantaged children who are struggling with school studies attend the Homework Centre where they receive one-on-one tuition and assistance with their homework from dedicated volunteers. They also receive a nutritious afternoon snack and lots of positive reinforcement to encourage them to develop life skills.

Matthew has been attending Homework Centre for one term and is already benefiting from the one-on-one tuition. His mother Susanna is also pleased to have an afternoon off where she knows Matthew is being cared for and well looked after. She is very pleased with the program and is now feeling more able to provide him with homework support at home as well. Susanna hopes that with the help of the Homework centre, Matthew will catch up with other students his age and grow up to be a well educated individual.

The Vinnies Youth Homework Centre is proudly supported by Ernst & Young.

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients.



VINNIES YOUTH VOLUNTEERS:	177
TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS:	5,992
YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCES:	2
YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE MEMBERS:	19
HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCES:	12
HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE MEMBERS:	230
MINI VINNIES GROUPS:	6
MINI VINNIES MEMBERS:	170
CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED CAMP (8-15 YEARS OLD):	144
CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED BUDDY DAY (8-15 YEARS OLD):	54
CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED HOMEWORK CENTRE:	10
SCHOOLS VISITED OVER THE YEAR:	75
NUMBER OF SCHOOL VISITS:	130



School Support Program

Overview

The School Support Program began in 2002 and since then has assisted many children with the necessary tools to learn. The Program directly assists young people with school and education related expenses including uniforms, books, stationery, learning resources and excursion and school fees. The program's mission is to assist young people in improving their learning skills and self esteem by providing them with the necessary tools to learn.

The Society's conference members work closely with families in need in carrying out this work, members often identify young people needing assistance with school necessities also. For many of the children assisted by the program, it is the first time they have had the right school uniform, books and equipment required to learn. At times help from the Society also allows these young people the opportunity to attend their first school excursion or outing.

Bill and Jan's Story

Bill* and Jan* are parents to five children who came to realise they couldn't afford the school supplies necessary to send all of their children back to primary school at the start of the year. Bill receives a very modest Disability Support Pension and has found it very difficult to support his growing family on such a limited budget. As well as his health problems, two of his five children have serious and complex health issues that require the whole family to travel from their southern suburbs home to Princess Margaret Hospital for Children regularly to receive treatment and care. Their travel costs a great deal in fuel and transport expenses, along with expensive medical treatment for their two children, who without the treatment would be extremely ill.

The Christmas and New Year period was an expensive one for the family and although they did not do anything extravagant, the bills started to add up along with the expenses that are associated with buying gifts and long summer school holidays. When January came and school lists needed to be bought, Jan realised she didn't have enough money to pay for all five children's school needs for the

year. Desperate, she contacted the volunteers at the Society who were able to provide some assistance. Through the School Support Program the family were assisted with book and uniform costs. Knowing how important their children's education is, this was a huge relief for Bill and Jan who were grateful for the help and support they received in their tough time. Jan expressed to the Society's volunteers how eternally grateful they were for the support and the relief she felt knowing that her children would be able to start the school year with the right books and uniforms and that their education would not be hindered by their financial stress.

Jacqui's Story

It was an extremely dark day when Jacqui's* daughter Sandra* passed away from cancer. Her daughter had been battling with the illness for many months and after a long battle it had finally taken her life. She left behind her son Travis*, a typical 14 year old teenager who had his own way of dealing with his mum's death by being a tad difficult for his grandmother and now guardian Jacqui.

Jacqui is in her 60's and thought she was passed her years of bringing up children and having expensive school related expenses to worry about, but following her daughter's passing she realised Travis needed school supplies to give him the education he needed. Jacqui receives the age pension which barely covers the cost of rent and utility bills; so when Travis' high school books needed to be bought, Jacqui realised she didn't have enough money to cover the cost. Worried that Travis would further rebel if Jacqui couldn't afford his school supplies, she immediately called on the help of the St Vincent de Paul Society to assist with Travis' school supplies, she explained to the volunteers that although she budgeted wisely, there simply wasn't enough money to cover everything, coupled with the fact that her rent had recently increased. The Society was able to cover the cost of Travis' books and Jacqui was extremely appreciative. She later told the volunteers that Travis had settled in to his school work and things were improving for them both.

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients.

AMOUNT RECEIVED IN FUNDING: \$17,440

TOTAL AMOUNT SPENT DURING 2009/2010 FOR THE SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM: \$55,000

This amount includes:

- School books
- Stationery
- School uniforms
- School fees

Passages Resource Centre

Overview

Passages Resource Centre is a drop in centre for homeless and street present youth that is situated in Perth's inner city suburb of Northbridge. It is a joint venture between the Rotary Club of Perth and the St Vincent de Paul Society that provides disadvantaged youth between the ages of 12 and 25 with referrals, kitchen, bathroom and laundry facilities, information workshops and advocacy. A number of programs are run at the Centre and many agencies are in attendance to provide additional support to those that access it. Passages has been operating for over ten years, and continues to be a vital service in the Perth Metropolitan area for some of the state's most marginalised individuals.

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

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

Nicholas' Story

Passages Resource Centre is not only a welcome retreat for Perth's street present youth to obtain vital everyday necessities like bathroom, laundry and kitchen facilities, it is also an opportunity for some disadvantaged young people to participate in a programs such as E3, taking the first steps towards changing their lives for the better.

E3 is a practical three phase program that aims to empower, engage and encounter youth by providing them with skills and qualifications which will help raise their employability, increase their life skills and provide an awareness of how volunteering impacts the world in a positive way.

In November 2009, three Passages clients qualified to participate in phase two of the Program which involved a national week long project working alongside Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA). On this particular occasion, phase two consisted of a 10 day remote project at 80 Mile Beach in Broome where participants were involved in nest and track counts of Flat Back Turtles, feral animal track identification and marine debris surveys. On the completion of this particular phase, participants qualify for a Certificate I in Active Volunteering.

Nicholas* was part of the project and says that when he found out he was accepted to go to Broome he was ecstatic and could not have been happier. "When I first accessed Passages about eight months ago, I was living in my car, drug dependent and depressed. Passages helped me out with heaps of stuff and it is a good place for support, they even helped me find a place. The E3 Project to Broome gave me a Cert I in Active Volunteering and I made some great friends from the team. I was given an experience of a lifetime and an opportunity to do something I would never have thought I could do before. In the future, I hope to be able to get a job and have stability for myself. Passages and the E3 Program have given me opportunities and support to make me believe that I can make it happen. Being able to accomplish something like the trip to Broome, has given me self esteem to continue to move forward."

The E3 Program continues to give street present youth hope for a brighter future and will continue to offer clients various projects working alongside CVA, with the aim to empower, engage and encounter the youth they come in contact with.

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients.



INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS:	1,088
ACCESS VISITS:	3,360
NEW CLIENTS:	68
SUCCESSFUL REFERRALS:	898
RESOURCES USED:	10,488
AGE BREAKDOWN:	
12 – 15 years	5%
16 – 18 years	14.5%
19 – 21 years	49.5%
22 – 25 years	31%
VOLUNTEER HOURS:	
Gardening	106.4hrs
PROGRAMS:	
Anglicare's - Step 1 Street-Work Program	
Perth Primary Care Network - Street Doctor Program	
Perth Primary Care Network - Mobile Mind Care Van	
Western Australian Substance Users Association	
Mission Australia - Drug and Alcohol Youth Service	
Joondalup Youth Support Service	
Centrelink	
Youthlink	
Allens Arthur Robinson - Pro Bono Legal Services	

10 million sleeping on city streets

MOST 10 people are sleeping on streets of Perth every night according to Shelter WA, and latest figures show young people used a youth centre helping the homeless are taking too long to get built. Chief executive, Bronwyn...



22,995 Bed-nights in the last financial year

53,655 Meals were provided in the last financial year

Volunteers dedicated the equivalent of 4 full time employee hours to Vincentcare

2880 hours of 'Care Coordination' activities were provided with an average of 8 attendees per activity.

Vincentcare

Overview

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

Bob's Story

19 year old Bob* entered Vincentcare's Vincentian Village – a supported accommodation service that assists people experiencing mental illness and homelessness – showing clear signs of psychotic illness. His symptoms included the inability to focus his attention or eye contact on any one thing for more than 30-60 seconds and extremely poor communication skills. He was very limited in his speech and would only respond to comments or questions with a “yes” answer, leaving him unable to carry out a conversation. Bob's physical state was also quite poor as he was not showering or changing his clothes, also choosing to sleep in his clothes in his bed. Bob suffered from anxiety and was very withdrawn from society.

His situation started to change though, after he started attending the Vincentcare Group Work Program that was set up by Vincentcare's Occupational Therapist and is run by two staff Psychologists. The Group Work Program is a therapy based approach to help Vincentcare residents rebuild their own lives and features everything from basic life skills, problem solving activities, current affairs, recreational activities plus much more. Furthermore, being involved in the group allowed staff to professionally measure the extent that his mental illness had impacted his ability to function.

Bob attended the Group Program for three months, following this there was a three month review of his progress. Bob was almost unrecognisable, could hold a long detailed conversation and was looking after himself; cleaning his clothes and even washing them by hand!

Bob is now enrolled at TAFE, just to see how he handles study because he plans to go to University mid next year. The future is looking much brighter for Bob and he is working with the Vincentcare staff to be in his own flat by March 2011.

Richard's Story

Richard's* life has been far from easy. He was diagnosed with Schizophrenia as a young teenager, and has spent the majority of his life dealing with mental illness. Now in his 50s, Richard came to Vincentcare after spending 10 years living in a psychiatric hostel where he had not spoken a word to anyone, had kept to himself and did not interact with fellow residents. Richard had trouble looking after himself, didn't shave or shower every day, barely combed his hair and looked permanently dishevelled.

Richard then moved to Vincentcare and has been living in their care for five years. He sometimes experiences strong symptoms of his Schizophrenia, where he hears voices that can sometimes tell him terrible things. When he is experiencing these symptoms he requires specialised management which he receives from Vincentcare staff.

Most days though, Richard is up early, shaved, showered and dressed in clean clothes ready for breakfast. He loves the company of others and catches the train to visit friends in Subiaco approximately twice a week.

Best of all – Richard talks. And although he is not the best conversationalist, he lights up when the conversation turns to animals, especially when talking about the resident pet dog and the cat at Vincentcare. Richard's progress is slow and he will need support for some time to come, maybe for the rest of his life, but at the moment Richard's life is fulfilled and he is happy.

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients.

Clothing & Furniture Depot

Overview

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

Lorraine's Story

Monday March 15, 2010 turned out to be a not so normal day for Lorraine for it is not every day that someone finds over \$20,000 in a donated, old sock. Lorraine went about her day like any other, catching a couple of different forms of public transport, which sometimes includes walking in the rain to her train station, to get to her job as Sorter at the Osborne Park Depot, where she has been a dedicated employee for over 12 months. Each day Lorraine sorts an average of 10-12 bags of clothing but on that Monday in March she found a sock that contained a great deal of money and immediately handed it in to the Depot Manager, Frank Brown.

She recalls having feelings of "shock" and was "dumbfounded and shaking" when she went to tell Frank. He asked her to see if she could find the other sock that went with the one she had already handed in, and although she could not find it, Lorraine came back to Frank with another 12 envelopes containing more money found in the same bag of clothing.

The total amount of money found on that day was \$20,250 and Depot Manager Frank Brown went to the Scarborough Police Station to hand it in. Months went by and very unexpectedly on June 2, 2010 a cheque for \$20,250 was sent to the St Vincent de Paul Society Depot as the money had been unclaimed.

Frank then asked his staff and volunteers how they would like to donate the money and they all agreed to donate it to the fundraising efforts of the Vinnies CEO Sleepout, which will directly assist the homeless and disadvantaged of WA.

Lorraine continues her work at the Depot and was rewarded with a certificate for her honesty.

Damien's Story



Damien Plummer knows the Depot like the back of his hand, after all – he's been working there for over 15 years.

Damien started working at the Osborne Park Depot in January 1997 as a Junior Casual Storeman, a year later he was rewarded for his dedication and hard work with full time employment in August 1998. Since then Damien has gone from strength to strength and proved himself as a loyal, dedicated and very reliable member of the Depot Team.

Damien has enjoyed working in a variety of positions at the Depot and is now currently second in charge to the Depot Manager, Frank Brown. In his quest to become a better manager, Damien is studying Business Management and Project Management and his role as ZIC has led him to take on new challenges including getting used to training and directing other staff to do tasks he used to do himself. Damien also has a truck and forklift licence as well as a first aid certificate which proves invaluable in day to day Depot operations.

The Depot heavily relies on dedicated volunteers and staff to perform the many tasks in getting pre-loved clothing and household goods distributed to people in need or to any of the Vinnies Retail Centres around the state. The Depot sorted through 875,535kgs of clothing in the financial year and made over 2,000 welfare deliveries. It is employees who are loyal and well respected, like Damien, who make it possible.

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients.

WELFARE DISTRIBUTED FROM DEPOT:	\$691,039
NUMBER OF WELFARE DELIVERIES:	2,162
CLOTHING SORTED:	875,535kgs
DONATION COLLECTIONS:	8,876
RUBBISH TIP FEES:	\$55,689
NUMBER OF REFUGEES ASSISTED:	590

The Clothing & Furniture Depot has also provided direct support to the following communities through the provision of clothing, toys, linen and towels, household goods and bush blankets:

- Ashburton Aboriginal Community
- Balgo Community
- Bidyadanga Community – Broome
- Bindi Bindi – Onslow
- Burringurrah Women's Centre – Meekatharra
- Djuderari Community – Fitzroy Crossing
- Halls Creek Community
- Irrunggidi Community
- Jarimadangah Community – Derby
- Jigalong Community
- Karlarra House Nursing Home
- Karravill Community – Fitzroy Crossing
- Kulkarriya School – Fitzroy Crossing
- Looma Community - Derby
- Marninwarntikura Women's Shelter – Fitzroy Crossing
- Muludja Community – Fitzroy Crossing
- Ngunga Womens Group – Derby
- Nookenbah Community
- Nullagine Community
- Parndajina Community
- Pilbarra Community Aged Care
- Pilbarra Kimberley Care
- Pipunya Community – Marble Bar
- Roebourne Aboriginal Church
- Wangkatjungka – Fitzroy Crossing
- Warralong Community
- Women's Resource Centre – Fitzroy Crossing
- Yahning Aboriginal Community
- Yakanarra Aboriginal Community
- Yandeyarra Community
- Yungngora Community – Fitzroy Crossing

Vinnies Retail Centres

Overview

Vinnies Retail Centres provide a well priced quality shopping alternative and rely solely on donated goods from the community with some stores also selling furniture. Revenue from the Vinnies Centres support the Society's Special Works. The Centres also provide goods that assist with welfare support where a person can access clothing and bedding for themselves and their family in times of need. The "Vinnies" shops are a great place to volunteer and learn new skills.

Clare's Story

Clare Greenwood has been an integral part of Vinnies Mandurah for 22 years. Clare started volunteering at Vinnies in 1989 after retiring from the workforce, feeling she would like to give some of her time to charity. Clare has managed 50 volunteers in her role as Volunteer Retail Manager and says the benefits of volunteering include "feeling good that you are helping those less fortunate and improving someone's quality of life".

Clare believes the Vinnies Retail Centres offer a friendly, supportive and helpful environment for customers and the volunteers are often complimented on their friendliness. Vinnies also supports the local community in Mandurah through the local conference.

Clare recalls a time when the conference assisted a lady in need. When they arrived at her house she had no food in her pantry or fridge. The conference members provided the help needed and remained in contact with the lady until she was back on her feet. Not long after this visit the same woman came and offered her services at the Vinnies Retail Centre and has been a loyal volunteer ever since. She has now been volunteering at Vinnies for 19 years and Clare says "she's one of my top volunteers and I'd be lost without her."

When asked how volunteering makes her feel, Clare replies, "I feel blessed to be a volunteer with the St Vincent de Paul Society. There is never a day when I haven't looked forward to going 'to work' and meeting with my lovely ladies and mixing with the customers."

Clare recently retired from her role at Vinnies. We would like to thank Clare for her dedicated

22 years of service to the Society and the people it assists.

Anna's Story

After twenty years of volunteering for the St Vincent de Paul Society in South Hedland – Anna says that helping people in need "makes them happy and makes us happy". After arriving in Hedland from Malaysia some thirty years ago, Anna was pleased to join the Society and appreciated the support she received from her fellow volunteers. Anna says the harsh climatic conditions and remoteness of the Pilbara region are tough and there are a lot of people in need of the Society's assistance. She says that the remote Pilbara region does not fit into the general mould of the Society's work and that the cultural differences between the volunteers and clients can get complicated in the predominately indigenous community. Thankfully four indigenous volunteers in the Vinnies Retail Centre, one of whom has vast community experience have aided in the development of positive relationships with many groups in the community, allowing them to offer assistance where needed.

Anna recalls a community suffered a double tragedy with a father and his baby son killed in a car accident. Following this tragedy, due to cultural reasons, the community became a closed camp meaning a dire lack of food was available especially for some of the older members in the camp. Through the knowledge of one of Anna's fellow volunteers they were able to get in touch with a worker from the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA). The DIA worker advised them what food and other items were appropriate to provide and along with the supply of blankets the worker delivered the goods to the community.

A collaborative approach in this remote region allows for stronger relationships between people in need, welfare agencies in the area and government departments. Anna concludes by saying "It is a great reward to see their appreciation and smiling faces". Amongst South Hedland's major achievements for the year are a total refurbishment of the Vinnies Centre and the recruitment of some exceptional young volunteers with loads of enthusiasm!



NUMBER OF RETAIL CENTRES: 44

RETAIL SALES: \$6.5million

NUMBER OF CENTRES UPGRADED: 4

WELFARE VALUE: \$206 397

Metropolitan: \$127,773

Regional: \$78,623

NUMBER OF FAMILIES ASSISTED: 2290

Metropolitan: 1,930

Regional: 630

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS: 1,411

VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Hours per week: 15,530

Hours per year: 807,560

Refugee & Migrant Committee

Overview

The Refugee and Migrant Committee is the driving force behind providing support to newly arrived people in Western Australia through the provision of household goods, emergency clothing and advocacy. They also organise a bi-annual picnic for newly arrived families to encourage social activity and support and provide festive Christmas hampers in the lead up to the season of goodwill as a taste of what an Australian Christmas consists of.

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

Brother Geoff Seaman, Migrant and Refugee Committee

Stories of Hope

Settling in to a new country is never easy, especially when you barely speak the language, have spent most of your life in a refugee camp, have accumulated a hefty travel debt and have seen your family and friends brutally treated in front of your very eyes. This is the story for the many refugees that settle in Western Australia every year and thanks to the Refugee and Migrant Committee, their transition into Australian life will be that little bit easier.

This was the case for a recently arrived family from Sierra Leone. After being forced out by war and immense violence the family took shelter in a refugee camp outside Conakry in Guinea. Their first visa (202) application for refugee status was made by their son in 2005, who was already living in Australia. Communication to and from the camp is extremely slow, which brought about years of delays in the processing of applications. During that time, another family member gave birth to a child meaning that he too had to be included in the application process which delayed the process even more.

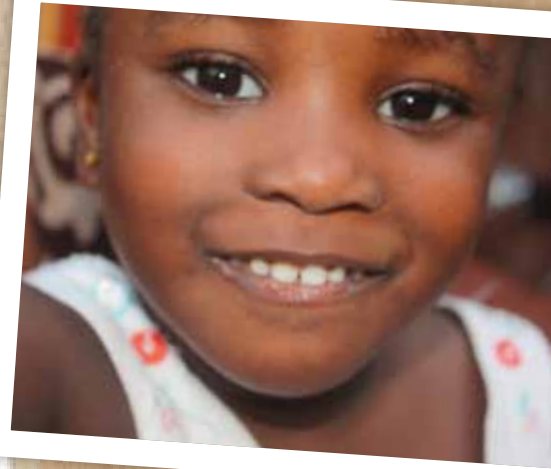
The visas were finally approved and the whole family was granted refugee status and allowed to travel to Australia to live. Their total travel costs to Australia were \$11,000, all of which were short term loans borrowed from entities that required prompt repayment. To get to Australia they travelled from Conakry to Abidjan to Accra to Dubai and finally to Perth. The family of eight consisting of a mother plus four children and three grandchildren now reside in Balga and are enjoying being a close knit family.

Another family who also went through many extremely difficult and traumatic experiences to gain access to live in Australia were a Sudanese mother of a son aged 12 and two daughters aged nine and seven. After fleeing their home town in Sudan, they were displaced in a camp in Ethiopia which proved to be dangerous in itself.

Their original application for refugee status dates back to 2004 and the family faced a terrifying wait for their application to be accepted. The mother's estranged husband constantly tried to find her and her children threatening them with physical and psychological harm.

He finally caught up with them in March 2009 where he violently assaulted the mother leaving her hospitalised and having to go into hiding. She was repeatedly assaulted over the period of time in the refugee camp and her conditions were extremely unsafe. After countless medical tests for many years, finally in February of 2010 the family's medical tests were cleared and they were allowed to come to Perth.

Their application was sponsored by one of the "Lost Boys of Sudan" – a term given to more than 27,000 boys who were displaced and/or orphaned during the Second Sudanese Civil War. The family originally settled with friends in Clarkson and later found their own rental property in Ballajura. They have been praised for maintaining their home and family life very well and have received strong friendship from a Society volunteer.



COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Burma
- Afghanistan
- Sudan
- Burundi
- Iraq
- Ethiopia
- Liberia
- Somalia
- Iran
- Congo
- Eritrea
- Sierra Leone
- Guinea
- Tanzania
- Togo

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE INTEGRATED HUMANITARIAN SETTLEMENT STRATEGY (IHSS)

Adults:	1,410
Children:	634

TOTAL ASSISTED WITH EMERGENCY CLOTHING:	520
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TOTAL ASSISTED WITH PICNICS AND HAMPERS:	645
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TOTAL ASSISTED WITH PASTORAL CARE:	50
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TOTAL ASSISTED WITH TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA:	540
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Overseas Development

Overview

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Western Australia provides strong commitment and support to people in developing countries through an active Overseas Development Committee. These links are intended to foster and enrich cultural exchange and give hope to many people living in poverty throughout the world. The committee runs a variety of programs designed to provide educational support to youth through Assist-A-Student, facilities to generate income for families and townships through the self-help projects and funds for vital survival supplies through Twinning.

Twinning is a partnership between an Australian conference and an overseas conference and the Society in Western Australia broadly covers Asia and Oceania. Our twinned conferences are supported in three ways – spiritually, by correspondence and financially with the aim to give hope, comfort and dignity to the lives of those affected by crippling poverty and third world conditions.

5 Fruit & 2 Vege Go a Long Way

Greenmount in Western Australia is miles away from St China Teresamma in India but when the members of the Greenmount Conference heard about the fruit and vegetable vending program, they knew it was something they had to support.

An amount of \$1,115.00 AUD was raised and donated to Greenmount's 'Twinned Conference' in this village which has enabled ten people from this small village to purchase the equipment and goods needed to become fruit and vegetable vendors. This opportunity has provided ongoing benefits to the new vendors as they are now able to earn a living and feed and educate their children, which will have ongoing benefits to their community. The vendors themselves in paying forward their opportunity have begun to deposit a small amount of their daily takings into a pool of funds which is then used to finance more fruit and vegetable vendors in the village in the future.

The report outlining the project included a brief message from the Twin Conference in India stating their gratitude and the various benefits attained from the generous donation and support by the Greenmount Conference

"These families are agricultural labourers and very poor, belonging to the weaker sections of the community. These agricultural labourers will benefit and their children will be educated. We know your grant will help these people in making their lives better and thank you for the grant which you have generously sanctioned. We will be praying for all the members of the Society. Be sure that this will improve the economic conditions of these people."

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

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

Latrine Project Proves Successful

For most people, a functioning toilet is a basic human right, a necessity – but for people living in an impoverished country like India, a safe form of waste disposal isn't so easily accessible. The Mount Lawley, St Paul's Conference in WA generously donated \$1,215 to support the completion of a 'latrine project' for the Valiavila region in India. The conference's donation contributed to a number of beneficiaries in the area being able to buy materials for the latrines and pay for the labour needed to erect them. A total of five people from the area were assisted with the funding in the construction of the latrines and the report from the area wrote:

"The latrine project inauguration was held at St Mary's Church in Veliyvila after the Holy Mass. All the church members attended the function and the meeting was presided over by the Central Council President. In his speech, the President congratulated the beneficiaries and thanked the members of the St Paul's, Mount Lawley Conference in Western Australia for raising the funding for the project and sending the benevolent assistance to St Mary's Conference Church."

ASSIST A STUDENT FOR THE YEAR 2009/2010: **\$23,505**

CAMBODIAN CHILD CARE CENTRE: **\$440**

PAKISTAN LITERACY PROJECT **\$1,200**

To support a Teacher in Pakistan for a year

Number of Twins: **124**

2 NEW TWINNING PROJECTS:

Help Friends & Support Friends: **\$1,850**

House Repair: **\$990**

NUMBER OF COMPLETED PROJECTS: **2**

Social Justice Committee

Overview

The Society, through the work of the Social Justice Committee, is committed to enriching the lives of those experiencing hardship and advocates for a fair, equal and compassionate community through a range of innovative programs, activities and initiatives. The Committee members work hard to raise awareness, lobby groups/agencies and tackle new projects of great need within local communities to find solutions for escalating issues. Their voice speaks on behalf of the many disadvantaged of our state.

Working Together for Families in Need

The Family Friends Program is a Conference based Special Work that was initiated following observations by the Social Justice Committee in regard to the high number of single parent families requesting assistance from the Society. The program is about adopting single parent families and providing them with ongoing support and friendship, just as normal family friends would act.

Single parent families make up approximately 30% of all emergency response visits by conference members, with some conferences reporting 80% of theirs being single mothers. The Family Friends Program has brought volunteers more in contact with the hurt, the anger and the fear of parents whose children have been, or are in danger of being taken into care by the State.

The Social Justice Committee has closely studied the Children and Community Services Act 2004 under which the Department of Child Protection (DCP) is obliged to remove children from their parents when they are deemed to be at risk. On reading the Act, it leads to the opinion that it obligates consultation with the "community" before precipitate action is taken.

A task this large is very overwhelming and almost impossible for the DCP to judge as to 'good' versus 'bad' parents and so the Society undertook measures to engage with members of the DCP to provide assistance on this area.

The Committee believes that volunteers, who form close family relationship developed through the Family Friends Program, can be reasonably

defined as a "Community" for the purposes of the Act. Initial approaches to the DCP were unsuccessful, however further meetings have proved more positive and proactive.

The Committee believes that the atmosphere between the Society and the DCP with regards to the matter of single parents and their children, is cordial and conducive to meaningful dialogue when future advocacy on behalf of families is thought necessary. The Committee continues to closely monitor this extremely sensitive situation, with special regard to families within the Society's Family Friends Program.

Travel Loans Weigh Families Down

A key issue for many arriving in Western Australia as refugees continues to be financial stress deriving mainly from a sharp rise in the cost of living and the required repayment of Travel Loans taken out to pay for their airfares to Australia.

The recent rapid rises in rental costs and charges for electricity, gas and water cause more than usual stress for refugees, who often have had little experience of household management. The difficulty of meeting the cost of living is exacerbated for those burdened with the repayment of substantial Travel Loans.

In the most difficult cases there can be not one, but a number of loans to be repaid in much the same time frame. At times, the overall demands on the fortnightly benefits received by refugee families from Centrelink border on the impossible.

The particular case of a refugee mother with four young children to support illustrates how grave the situation can be. In this case the fortnightly rent of \$800.00 was added to a fortnightly loan repayment of \$156.00 (the loan in question is \$6979.00). Just these two expenses accounted for 70% or more of her fortnightly income. Trying to survive on the rest of her income was almost impossible.

The St Vincent de Paul Society advocated on her behalf and, mercifully, the fortnightly loan repayment was reduced to \$100.00. The repayments will, however, go on for about two years.

Efforts to have the relevant authorities take action to reduce the burden of the Travel Loans on many refugee households have been largely to no avail.

PROJECTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR INCLUDE:

Advocating for refugees who have large travel loans

Liaising with the Department of Children Protection

Engaging with universities to conduct a feasibility study on homeless men who do not qualify to enter Perth refuges





financials *hope. comfort. dignity.*

Financials



Statement by State Council

In the opinion of the State Council of St Vincent de Paul Society (WA) Inc, the financial report as set out in the fully audited Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the position of St Vincent de Paul Society (WA) Inc as at 30 June 2010 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that St Vincent de Paul Society (WA) Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

In the 2009-10 financial year there were two significant items that lead to the level of surplus being recorded these being:

1. The receipt by a benefactor of a property that has been valued at \$250,000. This property will be used as part of the good works provided by the Society.
2. The receipt of a total of \$474,185 from the Vinnies CEO Sleepout that took place in June 2010. These funds will be used in the 2010-11 financial year to provide additional assistance and support to homeless and at risk of being homeless people in need.

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

Clement Astruc
State President

Robert Burns
State Treasurer

Dated 30 September 2010

Income Statement

For the Year Ended 30 June 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
REVENUE		
Government funding	963,759	627,824
Sale of goods	6,498,615	5,829,359
Client contributions	730,754	740,605
Fundraising	3,283,151	2,931,484
Other Income	3,994,662	2,775,189
Total revenue from operating activities	15,470,941	12,904,461
OTHER INCOME		
Net Gain on Sale of Property plant and equipment	74,557	264,402
	74,557	264,402
Total Revenue and Other Income	15,545,498	13,168,863
EXPENDITURE		
Centres of charity	5,344,648	4,524,373
Management and administration	850,003	761,681
Fundraising costs	594,730	527,163
Public Relations and Communication	428,831	366,825
People in need services	4,879,798	3,885,797
Homeless and mental health services	2,232,591	1,582,092
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	1,214,897	1,722,932

Balance Sheet

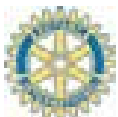
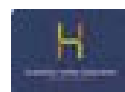
For the Year Ended 30 June 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	7,505,775	6,952,840
Trade and other receivables	925,655	490,979
Inventories	111,893	125,490
Total current assets	8,543,303	7,569,309
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	10,529,652	9,541,809
Financial assets	898,650	809,077
Total non-current assets	11,428,302	10,350,886
Total assets	19,771,605	17,920,195
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,427,656	941,211
Borrowings	109,938	-
Provisions	671,449	705,552
Total current liabilities	2,209,023	1,646,563
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	252,770	178,717
Total non-current liabilities	252,770	178,717
Total liabilities	2,461,793	1,825,280
Net Assets	17,309,812	16,094,915
Capital Funds		
Capital Fundraising Reserve	2,380,707	2,380,707
Reserves	2,744,548	2,768,548
Accumulated Funds	12,184,557	10,945,660
Total Capital Funds	17,309,812	16,094,915



wa community *hope. comfort. dignity.*

Partners and Supporters

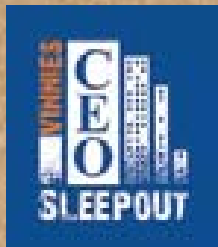


Vinnies CEO Sleepout

On June 17th 2010, 99 Western Australian business and community leaders braved the cold to sleep rough for one night to help raise awareness about homelessness in our state and also raise vital funds to support existing and the development of new responses to this issue.

The following business and community leaders participated in the Vinnies CEO Sleepout:

Adam Barnard	ADAMS Coachlines	Kevin Gaitskill	Western Power
Andrew Forrest	Fortescue Metals Group Ltd	Larry Davies	Directions
Andrew Hogan	InvoCare Australia Ltd	Len Luxford	IE - Innovative
Andrew Hammond	City of Rockingham		Environments
Andy Crane	CBH Group	Lex Barnett	Taylor Burrell Barnett
Anne Fry	John XXIII College	Liam Valiukenas	Suburban Split Systems
Anne Arnold	RBTWA	Lisa Pappas	St Vincent de Paul Society
Ashley Myatt	Southern Cross Media	Mara Basanovic	Volunteering WA
Barry Felstead	Burswood Entertainment Complex	Marie Donato	Motor Trade Association
		Mark de Laeter	Western Power
Belinda Bailey	Rural Health West	Mark Carlon	Southern Cross Media
Bernadette Sheehan	Royal Perth Hospital	Michelle Doepel	Silhouette Dance Studio
Bob Bollen	Benz Industries Pty Ltd	Nicole Doepel	Silhouette Dance Studio
Brenton Smith	CA (Pacific) Pty Ltd	Patrick Cullen	Australian Institute of Management
Bryan Hughes	Pitcher Partners WA		Community First
Catherine Spini	Simplicity Funerals	Pauline Burns	International Ltd
Charlie Gunningham	aussiehome.com		Channel Seven
Clement Astruc	St Vincent de Paul Society	Ray Wardrop	Tan and Tan Lawyers
Colin Waddell	Sonshine FM	Raymond Tan	Racing & Wagering WA
D'Arcy Holman	The University of Western Australia	Richard Burt	Left Right Think-Tank
		Richard Newnham	Finance Company Australia
Darryl Winsor	Holy Rosary School	Rob Rooke	Compu-Stor
David Forsey	Nauti Clean	Robert Manford	Member of Mining Pastoral
David Thomas	CA (Pacific) Pty Ltd	Robin Chapple	Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA)
David Leyton	Leyton Technologies	Robin McClellan	Realestate WA
David Hobbs	Professionals Real Estate Group		Gel Group
		Ross Bulman	Taylor Burrell Barnett
Debra Goostrey	Urban Development Institute of Australia (WA)	Samantha Cotgrave	Aspire Academy
	robertsday	Samantha Thompson	Oxygen Corporate Group
Deon White	Gametradars Carillon City	Sandra Woods	Swan Office Interiors
Dharmesh Patel	The Inside Solution	Sean Johnstone	Community First
Dianne Doherty	TSS Westaff	Shane Ball	International Ltd
Dion Smith	South Metropolitan Area	Sheena-lee Sutherland	The CEO Institute
Elizabeth Moore			Yamatji Maripa Aboriginal Corporation
Health Service		Simon Dawkins	Motor Trade Association
Elizabeth Bain	EmbroidMe Claremont	Simon Hawkins	Stuart Giequel Consulting
Elton Swartz	WA Business News		The ORS Group
Faith Nichols	Comestibles	Stephen Moir	Australian Institute of Company Directors
Fiona Steddy	Minkz Furniture & Homewares	Stuart Giequel	St Thomas School
		Stuart Reidy-Crofts	ALP
Frank Alban	Member of Parliament	Suzanne Ardagh	ANREPS
Gary Roberts	Nova 93.7		Member of Parliament
Geoff Stevens	Lavan Legal	Tamara McGougan	The Birehman Group
Graeme Sinden	Motor Trade Association	Tim Hammond	Asia Pac
Graham Griffiths	ipernica ltd	Tony Wiles	The Body Shop
Grant O'Connell	CGR	Tony Simpson	BDO
Greg Davidson	TSA Corporation	Tony Adcock	inedehits.com
Greg Watkinson	Economic Regulation Authority		LunchBox List
		Vanessa Chapman	
James Pearson	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of WA	Vin Brown	
		Warren Duff	
Jan Stewart	Lotterywest	Wiggy Saunders	
Jane Seeber	Catholic Homes Incorporated		
Jason Kunkler	PACT Construction		
Jeffery Leach	JJ Leach Group		
John McLean	Jackson McDonald		
John Skinner	Public Trustee		
John Poulsen	Minter Ellison		
John Cleland	WestNet Infrastructure Group		
John Bouffler	St Vincent de Paul Society (WA) Inc		
Julia Reany	Royal Perth Hospital		
Justine Colyer	Samaritans Crisis Line		



Nicole's Story

On the night of the Vinnies CEO Sleepout a Passages Resource Centre client, Nicole, shared her story of homelessness.

For Nicole, like many of the young people the Passages Resource Centre assists, life has not been easy. Nicole came from a single parent family where a history of mental health existed, from the very early age of nine years old Nicole was responsible for much of the day to day care of her younger siblings, at 14 she became homeless and started self harming, she spent the next 16 years living on and off the streets, living in squats, bushes and couch surfing. Nicole has struggled to gain employment, often securing jobs, but then losing them due to circumstances out of her control and her homelessness.

Through the support of Passages, Nicole has secured permanent accommodation, is no longer harming, studies and is ready for work. The opportunity to share her story with the business and community leaders at the Vinnies CEO Sleepout has also provided her with opportunities to continue in the right direction provided by the team at Passages.

Nicole wrote the following after speaking at the Vinnies CEO Sleepout.

"Since the Sleepout I have had the opportunity to be blessed by some of the CEOs and have met some amazing people. These miracles that would appear to others as being small have made a large impact on me. For example, the Manager of The Body Shop blessed me with a facial and some products to take care of myself and I also got some work experience at Minter Ellison. I have also made some amazing friends through this experience and am grateful for having it. I am happier and am moving forward again. Thank you all for your support and kindness."

Nicole's story touched many in the room and her story helped participants better understand some of the reasons young people become homeless, how their lives spiral out of control and of the importance of services such as the Passages Resource Centre in getting the lives back on track.

Other guest speakers from the night, Anton and Jonathon are still accessing the Passages Resource Centre and St Vincent de Paul Society services.

The Passages Resource Centre is a joint venture between the Rotary Club of Perth and the St Vincent de Paul Society



FUNDS RAISED IN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

\$474,185

The Society is in the process of implementing various strategies in the allocation of the funds raised from the Vinnies CEO Sleepout which initially includes:

- Establishment of an education and training fund to be made available to Passages Resource Centre clients in assisting them to gain the necessary skills to attain employment.
- Allocation of funds for the acquisition of smart-riders for Passages Resource Centre clients
- Rental of three (3) properties within the Swan Region to be used to provide short term accommodation (up to six months) for homeless and/or at risk of becoming homeless people
- Funding of a study into homeless services and gaps in the provision of these across the metropolitan area
- Allocation of funds to be used for accommodation to support homeless and/or at risk of becoming homeless through the provision of accommodation and support.
- Purchase of a townhouse in Mandurah to be used for short term homeless accommodation in conjunction with the expansion of our Youth at Risk and homeless services into the Region.



TOP FUNDRAISER: Barry Felstead
CEO, Burswood Entertainment Complex
RAISED: \$34,472

"I was proud to be part of the Vinnies CEO Sleep Out, my objective was not only to raise vital funds but to also help raise awareness of homelessness and the effect this has on people's lives. I strongly encourage business leaders to participate in 2011".



State Partners

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ROCKIT

STAGING CONNECTIONS
TECHNICAL SITTING DESIGN

VISY
FOR A BETTER WORLD

**SAVE
THE DATE**

VINNIES CEO SLEEPOUT 2011

DATE: 16 June 2011

LOCATION: The WACA

REGISTRATION

W: www.ceosleepout.org.au

T: (08) 9475 5400

Acknowledgements and Thank You



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

The Society is committed to supporting West 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.

Donors & Benefactors

The St Vincent de Paul Society relies greatly on the generosity of the community to support vital programs and services for people in need in 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 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

Advisory Boards

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

Call Centre Volunteers

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

Media

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

Schools

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

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.

Vinnies thanks public for gen

St Vincent de Paul Soci- help families in need through food clothing

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 commonality is their mission to support and care for those who lack the resources to lead a healthy and full life. To find out how you can become a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society please phone the Society on (08) 9475 5400.

Volunteer Your Time

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

Make a Financial Donation

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

Leave a Bequest

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

Helping Hands Regular Giving Program

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

Donate Pre-loved Goods

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

Become a Corporate Partner

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

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HOPE

COMFORT

DIGNITY



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