Vinnies Voice

St Vincent de Paul Society
TASMANIA
good works

Providing relief from the cold through the Vinnies Winter Appeal

Former disability support worker 'Irish' credits the St Vincent De Paul Society (Vinnies) with saving his life – twice.

After losing his job, dealing with the breakdown of his marriage, and suffering from a serious brain injury, Irish lived in his car for several months before walking straight up to the front door of Vinnies' Bethlehem House.

"Being here, I feel safe and cared for," Irish said.

"Bethlehem House took me in when I was at my darkest point and I am so grateful for the care and support that has been shown to me."

"My hope is that Tasmanians can get behind the Vinnies Winter Appeal this year so they can continue to assist people like me."

Funds raised through the 2024 Winter Appeal will address the rising cost-of-living pressures and affordable housing shortages affecting vulnerable Tasmanian communities.

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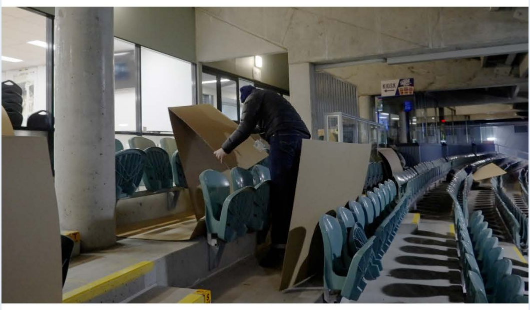
Ambitious target set for CEO Sleepout



On Thursday June 20, 2024, the St Vincent de Paul Society Tasmania (Vinnies) will host its annual CEO Sleepout, raising funds to provide critical support to those experiencing homelessness in Tasmania.

The goal is to raise $200,000 - more than ever before. We would love your help!

The CEO Sleepout is an annual fundraising event that brings together not only CEOs, but also business and community leaders from across the country to spend a night sleeping rough to raise awareness and funds for homelessness.

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Vinnies to take on former YMCA building

Vinnies and the City of Launceston have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the future use of the former Kings Meadows YMCA site as a community hub.

Vinnies has been providing shower and laundry services for people experiencing homelessness each weekday morning from the site since March 2023 and is excited to see this service grow.

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Rotary brings new life to Bethlehem House rooftop

A group of enthusiastic volunteers from the Rotary Club of North Hobart recently donated a collection of potted plants and outdoor furniture to brighten up Bethlehem House's rooftop garden.

Rotarian Brian Claridge said the collective effort was just one step in a long history of the club supporting the St Vincent De Paul Society of Tasmania's (Vinnies) work.

"We started donating leftover food from our Bunnings' sausage sizzles to Bethlehem House a few years ago and when additional funding was available, we knew we wanted to do more to help the residents," he said.

"Having previously donated plants to the former Bethlehem House in Warwick St and witnessing the positive impact this had on residents, we knew that providing the same thing for the new rooftop space would have a similar impact.

"We purchased several tables and, with the help of a few residents in the Bethlehem House workshop, made them suitable for outdoor use.

"As the collection of plants grow over time, they will provide a more welcoming atmosphere with vibrant colour and will also deliver some private spaces."

Mr Claridge said Rotary members now have plans to further assist and enrich the lives of Bethlehem House residents and staff.

"Our hope is to construct some portable vertical gardens to cover some of the blank concrete walls. We can also help refurbish one of the old Tasmanian oak tables and develop a nicer space near the downstairs carpark, working in collaboration with the Lions Club of Clarence," he said.

"We feel honoured to, in our own way, provide some additional support for the incredibly valuable and life-changing services provided by Vinnies and all of the dedicated Bethlehem House staff."

Local business food drive supports Vinnies emergency hub

Thanks to the generous support of Tas City Building and its business partners, $1,500 worth of groceries were recently donated to the St Vincent De Paul (Vinnies) Launceston Emergency Relief Hub.

The food drive resulted in an entire ute load of groceries which will go directly towards helping many northern Tasmanians struggling during the cold winter months.

Rising cost of living, soaring energy prices and skyrocketing rents mean many people in Tasmanian communities are struggling to make ends meet this winter.

This makes the need for fully-stocked Vinnies Emergency Relief pantries incredibly important as we respond by assisting those who are struggling in local communities.

Vinnies Tasmania is sincerely grateful to the kindness shown by Tas City Building and its associated business partners Concrete Plus, Flying Colours Group, Pro-Scaff, Summit Window Systems and Grant Chugg Plumbing.

The continued support of these generous business will go a long way in helping Vinnies assist vulnerable Tasmanians this winter.

Aurora steps up during National Volunteer Week

Aurora Energy has teamed up with the St Vincent De Paul Society (Vinnies) to assemble and distribute thousands of snack packs for children in need during National Volunteer Week.

The initiative has seen all 250-plus Aurora team members lend a hand to create the packs which will be distributed at Vinnies' emergency relief offices.

Vinnies Chief Executive Officer Heather Kent said Aurora was showcasing the power of volunteering and what could be achieved when organisations band together to support those less fortunate.

"It's great to see a Tassie retailer like Aurora embrace volunteering and recognise the enormous impact initiatives like this can have on Tasmanian communities," she said.

"These food packs will greatly assist school aged Tasmanian children who would often go without food and also have to face the social stigma of not having a decent meal.

"We recently had about 250 of these packs delivered to the Vinnies emergency relief hub and they were all gone within a week.

"At Vinnies, we could not operate without our volunteers and we owe everything to those members who play an integral role in helping us support Tasmanian communities."

Aurora Energy Chief Executive Officer Nigel Clark said the food packs were part of a 12-month effort to involve more staff in volunteer work.

"This year, we wanted everyone at Aurora to get involved in giving back and as a result we have seen a 600 per cent increase in our volunteering efforts," he said.

"Being able to volunteer and support great organisation such as Vinnies is an incredibly important part of our culture.

“Banding together for a worthy cause has helped us grow as a team and it’s been wonderful to witness firsthand the positive outcomes of our work.”

Vinnies celebrates volunteers during National Volunteer Week

Launceston Event

Hobart Event

“To Vinnies, our volunteers are everything” … these are the words St Vincent de Paul Society Tas, CEO, Heather Kent, used to sum up the importance of volunteers to the Society. During National Volunteering Week, Vinnies has celebrated the immense contribution made by volunteers to enabling Vinnies good works across the State.

Over 100 volunteers attended celebratory morning teas, held in Hobart and Launceston – each enjoying the opportunity to meet, chat and enjoy laughter and cake, while receiving genuine recognition of their crucial importance in achieving the Society’s mission.

This is a theme which is certain to be continued in the celebration planned for our North-West volunteers – a ‘Paint n Sip’ afternoon in early June! We can’t wait to see the masterpieces produced from the creative characters at that celebration – tune back into the next edition of Vinnies Voice for an exclusive viewing!

Join the Conversation: Contact us with your thoughts or ideas

We'd love to hear from you! If you have any thoughts or ideas that were sparked from Vinnies Voice, reach out to vinniesvoice@vinniestas.org.au to have your own voice heard.

CONTACT US

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