

AUTUMN 2026

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY VICTORIA

DONOR IMPACT REPORT

Feature

HELPING
CHILDREN
THRIVE THROUGH
EDUCATION

STORIES OF HOW YOUR SUPPORT IMPACTS LIVES



St Vincent de Paul Society
VICTORIA
good works

TO SUPPORT ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY VICTORIA
DONATE TODAY VISIT [VINNIES.ORG.AU/VIC](https://vinnies.org.au/vic)

THANK YOU FROM OUR CEO

As children across Victoria settle into the new school term, many families are struggling more than ever to afford even the most basic education essentials.

Together, for more than 170 years, we have supported Victorians in times of need and our commitment to creating a positive impact remains unwavering. Our determination to empower more children like Zora*, whose story you will read in this issue, remains strong.

St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria is unwavering in its dedication to empowering children, recognising education as a pivotal step in lifting young people out of crisis. Providing extra support where it's needed most can make a world of difference, transforming the course of young lives.

Last year, your generosity enabled us to dedicate \$609,202 to education assistance**. Our dedicated volunteer groups collaborate with communities and schools across Victoria to identify local families in need of support for essentials: school uniforms and shoes, books, laptops, food, travel, academic fees and scholarships.

But rising costs are pushing parents to breaking point, and the cost of school essentials is higher than ever. Demand for our educational services continues to grow and, without generous help from supporters like you, children risk falling further behind each day.

Your support remains vital in our mission to provide a brighter future for the families who need it most, ensuring children can return to school fully equipped for a successful academic year.

I'd like to thank members of our community who have included a Gift in their Will enabling the Society to continue to support our most vulnerable Victorians. Your generous legacy is truly inspirational and reflects the way you have chosen to live your life in service of others and ensures that the Society's good work continues long into the future.

With 800,000 Victorians now living below the poverty line[^], the mission of the Society has never been more essential. Together, let's make a lasting impact on the lives of people in Victoria who need our help.

Warm regards,

Charlie Spendlove

Charlie Spendlove

Interim Group Chief Executive Officer
St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria

* Names and images have been changed to protect privacy.
The Society serves those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions.

** St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria 2024–2025 Impact Report.

[^] <https://vcoss.org.au/projects/2024/06/poverty-mapping/>



THE POWER OF YOUR COMPASSION

IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR:



\$609,202

Your kindness empowered \$609,202 in education assistance



8,230 HOURS

Your support enabled 8,230 student contact hours through our education programs



5,006 HOURS

Your generosity meant education program volunteers provided 5,006 hours of support



\$5.8 MILLION

Your gifts enabled \$5.8m cost of living assistance to the families doing tough

INCLUDE A LEGACY FOR GOOD

A Gift in your Will can change lives for generations

By including St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria in your Will, you can help ensure that vulnerable Victorians continue to receive the care and support they need.

Your generosity can make a lasting impact – long into the future, by providing food, shelter and education to those doing it tough.

To learn more about leaving a legacy of compassion, contact our Bequest Coordinator on **03 9895 5917** or email bequest@svdp-vic.org.au



**CLICK HERE
TO CREATE A
LEGACY FOR
GOOD**



HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE THROUGH EDUCATION



YOUR GIFT TODAY CAN CHANGE A CHILD'S TOMORROW.

"Your kindness is making a huge difference in my life... it makes me happy in a way I won't forget," says Zora*.

Zora came to Australia with her family hoping for a better future. But life has been incredibly hard. Zora's younger sister, Ada*, has serious medical needs that require ongoing and expensive treatment. Her dad worked long hours, doing everything he could to provide, but after rent, food and medication, there was very little left.

Zora is a bright twelve-year-old student, but the rising costs of school supplies, uniforms and required technology meant she lacked the education essentials to help her learn.

"I didn't have the right uniform or books... I felt embarrassed and worried I would fall behind," says Zora.

With support from caring people like you, volunteer members were able to provide Zora with new school uniforms, textbooks, stationery, food relief and ongoing encouragement. This practical help eased the pressure at home and allowed Zora to focus again on her learning.

Zora's confidence grew. Her teachers noticed she was more relaxed and engaged. And at the end of the school year, she proudly received two academic awards.

In the past year alone, through the generosity of supporters like you, St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria was able to provide vital education assistance to thousands of Victorian students[^]. But with the cost of living on the rise, the need is greater than ever.

With your compassion and generosity, we can make a difference in the lives of children who, like Zora, dream of a better future, but face overwhelming obstacles. Your donation isn't just a gift; it's an opportunity for a child to succeed and for a family to feel hopeful again.

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[^] St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria 2024–2025 Impact Report.

EDUCATION = OPPORTUNITY

In addition to providing essential support for education costs like books, uniforms and laptops, your support has enabled us to run free award-winning education programs across Victoria.

With your help, our amazing volunteers can give each child after school support designed to build students' confidence as well as literacy and numeracy skills. It is incredible to see young students who attend these programs begin schooling in a new country with confidence and thrive throughout the year.

The top five positive outcomes we found from the students participating in the Education programs are:

- ✓ They had fun
- ✓ They learnt something new
- ✓ They developed their reading ability
- ✓ They developed confidence
- ✓ They developed feelings of success

"Every child deserves the same opportunities to obtain quality education. Our programs are instrumental in removing social, emotional and academic barriers to unlock the educational potential of hundreds of students."

Charlie Spendlove, Interim Group Chief Executive Officer

 **DONATE TODAY**



THANK YOU FOR GIVING IMMEDIATE AND LONG- TERM SUPPORT TO SARAH

Because of you, Christmas was brighter for people in need!

Your compassion is helping families like Sarah's* and many other vulnerable people in Victoria who are struggling to make ends meet during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Sarah found the support she received from the St Vincent de Paul Society and a wonderful volunteer member named Claire* has been lifechanging.

"Having Claire and Vinnies is almost like having another family," she said. "When everything feels too overwhelming, I know I can go and have a chat with her, and I'll feel better."

She found it challenging to share her story but wanted supporters to know the real difference that Vinnies can make.

"My family is still together, and we're not living in a tent or sleeping in a car. We have Vinnies to thank for that."

Sarah still receives ongoing support from Vinnies and supporters, like you. Recently, we were able to share the many cards of support she received from complete strangers after her story became the focus for the 2025 Christmas Appeal. Sarah was touched by the compassion and generosity of supports like you – thank you!

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING FOOD AND HOPE FLOWING ACROSS VICTORIA

A qualified and hardworking electrician in his 50s, Rick* used to live a comfortable and happy life, but after a difficult divorce and a string of health-related issues, his world fell apart. Now, Rick sleeps in his car near his worksite during the week and on weekends he drives back to an old caravan on the outskirts of town – unable to afford the petrol to drive back to the caravan each night.

Thanks to the generosity of the people like yourself, who help provide the Vinnies Soup Van and Mobile Pantry services in Rick's area, he was able to get nutritious meals as well as hope and dignity as the Vinnies volunteers welcomed him without judgement. The volunteers also gave him new pillows and blankets; fuel vouchers and ongoing support to help Rick get by.

"I don't need much but knowing they're there has made all the difference. They gave me hope and didn't make me feel ashamed. I'm just so grateful," said Rick.



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YOUR GIFT HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Donate today to assist our members and volunteers to continue supporting vulnerable Victorians.

 **CLICK HERE
TO DONATE NOW**



**DONATE TODAY
VISIT [VINNIES.ORG.AU/VIC](https://vinnies.org.au/vic)
OR PHONE 13 18 12**



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