

Annual Report 2023-24



St Vincent de Paul Society
SA *good works*

Celebrating

140 1884 2024 Years

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The St Vincent de Paul Society has its own unique language conventions to describe some aspects of how we operate and how we assist.

Conference - this term refers to a local group or chapter that operates within a specific geographical area. Conferences are made up of volunteers (known as members) who come together to carry out the mission of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Companion - people who are assisted by the St Vincent de Paul Society are known as companions. This term was chosen to reflect the equal relationship between the person/service offering assistance and the person in receipt of assistance. Staff, volunteers and members walk 'alongside' companions on their journey.

Member - individuals who engage in activities such as assistance visits to determine needs, distribute material aid (such as food, clothing, or household items), offer financial assistance, and provide emotional support. The goal is to address the immediate needs of individuals and families and work towards longer-term solutions to alleviate poverty and disadvantage. Typically, members live their Catholic faith in action through the spirit of Christian charity, although non-Catholics are also welcome to become members if they are passionate about helping those in need in their local community.

Vincentian - someone who follows the values and mission of Saint Vincent de Paul by serving the poor and marginalised. This term emphasises the spiritual and charitable vocation of the individual, inspired by Saint Vincent's legacy of compassion and service.

WHO WE ARE

The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded in Paris in 1833 by a 20-year old student named Frederic Ozanam.

The Society was established by like-minded individuals who wished to put their faith into action to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged people. In South Australia, the Society was first established in 1884, with 2024 marking 140 years since we were founded. Since then, it has grown to comprise over 2,500 dedicated members and volunteers who assist more than 100,000 South Australians each year by providing a helping hand through food assistance, material aid, budget advice, shelter, advocacy, friendship, and support.

Our Mission

The St Vincent de Paul 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 together 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.

OUR VALUES



Commitment

Loyalty in service to our mission, vision and values.



Compassion

Welcoming and serving all with understanding and without judgment



Respect

Service to all regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender or political opinions.



Integrity

Promoting, maintaining and adhering to our mission, vision and values.



Empathy

Establishing relationships based on respect, trust, friendship and perception.



Advocacy

Working to transform the causes of poverty and challenging the causes of human injustice.



Courage

Encouraging spiritual growth, welcoming innovation and giving hope for the future.

WHAT WE DO

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a volunteer-based organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing practical support, advocacy and friendship to the most vulnerable within our community. Supported by dedicated staff, members and volunteers seek to alleviate the immediate requirements of people in need and also identify the causes that lead to spiritual, financial and social hardship; providing a voice for those experiencing disadvantage.

VINNIES ASSISTANCE VISITS

We are the only charity to run a home visit program in South Australia, through which volunteers provide compassionate support and material assistance, including food, clothing, household goods, access to qualified Vinnies financial counsellors, and emergency funds. This work is carried out by Society members who work together in groups known as Conferences.

CRISIS ACCOMMODATION SERVICES

The 20 room Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre and 40 bed Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre provide emergency accommodation, including for children and pets at the women's centre. These services include meals, laundry, access to other Vinnies services, government and agency services, and more.

FRED'S VAN MEAL SERVICES

Vinnies Fred's Van meal services operate from 10 sites across South Australia, providing hot, nutritious meals together with social support. Eight of these operate indoors, providing greater opportunities for guests to connect with each other. Blankets and scarves or beanies are given out in winter and food is often provided to take away. On average, more than 40,000 meals are served each year in South Australia.

REFUGEE & ASYLUM SEEKER SERVICE

This service provides a range of material assistance and advocacy services for refugees and asylum seekers who are struggling to make ends meet, many of whom receive no government support. In addition, support to participate more fully in community life is available through English speaking lessons and employment programs.

VINNIES OPEN DOOR PROGRAM

Provides a wrap-around service for people at serious risk of homelessness, with a dedicated liaison officer working with individuals to provide housing support and health/welfare referrals.

DISASTER RELIEF

We are the South Australian Government's preferred partner in the event of a major disaster, supporting communities impacted by disasters by managing donated goods and, in some cases, by raising funds or distributing funding on behalf of the Government.

VINNIES YOUTH

Vinnies Youth comprises young people aged between 16-35 who share their talents and skills volunteering in services and programs across South Australia, and advocating for relevant responses to poverty and disadvantage.

VINNIES SHOPS

Vinnies is one of the largest recycling organisations in Australia and is primarily staffed by volunteers. Sales from the 35 Vinnies shops across metropolitan and regional South Australia fund our services and are a valuable resource for people on low incomes, providing quality clothing, household goods and furniture, often free of charge.

OVERSEAS PARTNERSHIPS

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia partners with our neighbouring Societies in the Asia-Pacific region. Underpinning our partnership programs is a belief that people are at peace with themselves and their neighbours when they have the hope and faith that through their own efforts, they can live and grow in dignity.

STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – BRADLEY HOCKING

2024 marks 140 years since The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded in South Australia. This is a remarkable milestone made possible only by the people who have gone before us and walked alongside those in need.

2023/24 has been a challenging year on many fronts, but one in which I am pleased to say has seen the St Vincent de Paul Society (The Society) make significant inroads on projects and programs of work that have been quietly maturing.

One of these, which really underpins our work more broadly, has been our renewed focus on the Spirituality of Companionship. The Society places great emphasis on our relationship with those seeking assistance, whom we call 'companions' as we journey alongside them. Our interactions focus on forming relationships based on shared humanity, listening, empathy, and understanding. We endeavour to go beyond simple assistance to address the structural causes of poverty, following a "See, Choose, Act" reflection model which involves:

- Seeing today's reality through encounters with each other and our companions.
- Choosing transformative action to reduce injustices in our community.
- Acting to improve the lives of those who are marginalised, overlooked, and disempowered.

We also developed and commenced rolling out to our people our Conference Principles,

which guides the operations of conferences (local networks of volunteers, known as members) in South Australia. The principles are split into three areas: ensuring companions feel valued and dignified, fostering empathetic and humble encounters, and enhancing how conference members work with each other. Many of our conference members have been engaged with The Society for a long period of time, and it is important to constantly renew our appreciation for the complexity of our work and the way in which we interact with our companions and colleagues.

As we witness the relentless cost-of-living and housing crises put more people than ever at risk of poverty and homelessness, we have explored innovative opportunities to address these issues. We joined with Shelter SA, the peak body for housing and homelessness in South Australia, and community housing provider Westside Housing to establish a Homeshare Program. Homeshare involves matching people who have spare rooms with people who are seeking accommodation and have barriers to doing so. The initiative provides mutual benefits such as companionship and help with living costs. The program is still being developed and we look forward to its launch later in the year.

In late June we opened our new Noarlunga Centre, comprising a retail and conference facility at Colonnades Shopping Centre to provide a more contemporary shopping experience, material aid and a welcoming community area for companions. The fresh look of

the space will serve as a blueprint for future development, as well as renewal of current sites.

We continued our advocacy work, particularly with regards to Refugee and Asylum Seeker rights. This involved reimagining the Vinnies Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service Committee from one that was operationally focused, to advocating for the real needs of these companions to government.

We also presented at a Parliamentary inquiry to push for a Human Rights Act that respects human dignity, and which would hold the government accountable for addressing issues like access to stable housing, healthcare, and services, which are critical for preserving dignity and preventing people from 'falling through the cracks.'

As my four-year tenure as State President ends in October 2024, this will serve as my last report. It has been a privilege to serve The Society in this capacity, and in turn the people in our community who turn to The Society for assistance. I thank the members, volunteers and staff at The Society for their unrelenting drive to support the most vulnerable people in our community, as well as donors and other supporters whose contribution makes our work possible.



This report was written on the unceded land of the Kaurna People.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – EVELYN O'LOUGHLIN

As we reflect on the 2023/24 year, it is clear that our mission to support the most vulnerable members of our community has never been more urgent. The ongoing challenges posed by rising living costs, increasing rates of homelessness, and a housing crisis have significantly impacted the people we serve.

Yet, thanks to the unwavering dedication of our volunteers, staff, and generous supporters, Vinnies SA has been able to provide crucial assistance to thousands of individuals and families across the state.

Homelessness continues to be one of the most pressing issues in South Australia. The Vinnies CEO Sleepout is a key initiative, raising more than \$650,000 to fund our crisis accommodation services and support programs. These funds have been vital in providing emergency housing, meals, and the pathways to long-term stability for many of our companions.

Our local services, including the Vinnies Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service (VRASS), continue to make a meaningful difference at the grassroots level through supporting the most vulnerable, and strengthening ties with other organisations working in the advocacy space.

The unrelenting rise in the cost of living has seen an increased demand for emergency relief services to assist with utilities, rent, and other essentials. Our Fred's Van service, which delivers hot meals to people experiencing homelessness or financial hardship, continues to experience high demand, with an 8% increase in the number of meals served compared to last year.

This year, we have also focused on innovation and partnerships to extend our reach, with one example being the Homeshare pilot initiative aimed at matching female householders over 55 who have a spare room with other women of similar age seeking accommodation.

Looking ahead, we are determined to continue evolving to meet the growing challenges faced by our community. Our priorities for the coming year include expanding our housing initiatives, increasing our volunteer base, enhancing our advocacy efforts and further developing programs that empower individuals and families to regain control of their lives. With the ongoing support of our community, I am confident that Vinnies SA will continue to be there for those who need it most.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our volunteers, donors, staff, and supporters. It is through your generosity and dedication that Vinnies SA remains a vital source of support for so many. Together, we are making a lasting difference.



KEY STATISTICS



Vinnies Assistance Visits

741 conference members
57,928 people supported
21,031 visits



Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre

Accommodation provided to:
284 women
224 children
121 pets



Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre

Accommodation provided to:
264 men



Vinnies Open Door Program

Support provided to:
250 people



Fred's Van

10 locations
39,531 meals served
639 volunteers



Refugee & Asylum Seeker Service

30 volunteers
1,920 instances of assistance



Vinnies Shops

35 locations
1,235 volunteers

OUR SERVICES

Vinnies Assistance Visits

At the heart the St Vincent de Paul Society's (The Society's) mission is Vinnies Assistance Visits, the support we provide to the people we assist, whom we respectfully call companions. These visits address essential needs such as food, clothing, household items, and assistance with bills, including rent, during challenging financial times. While initial contact often occurs during moments of crisis, we strive to offer ongoing and holistic support whenever appropriate, embodying our commitment to social justice and compassion.

This vital work is carried out by our dedicated volunteer members who form local networks known as conferences. Members conduct visits to companions' homes or meet them at designated locations in areas with high demand – these are often co-located with a Vinnies shop. This approach ensures that the support we provide is both personalised and empathetic, tailored to the specific needs of those who seek assistance.

Our members come from diverse backgrounds and life experiences, bringing a wealth of perspectives and skills to The Society. They meet regularly to share experiences, reflect on their service, and discuss local needs. This collaborative environment not only enhances our ability to serve but also strengthens the bonds between members, ensuring that we are continually responsive to the changing needs of the communities we support.

In the past year we have sought to strengthen these bonds even further by developing and sharing a set of 'Conference Principles' which seek to shape and guide the life and mission of a conference. In following these principles, it is hoped that the dignity of all who seek assistance is enhanced, as is the collaborative way in which we work with one another.

A series of workshops were held throughout the year in various locations across the state to bring our people together to learn about the principles and their application.

In the metropolitan area, staff and volunteers at the Call Centre within our Adelaide Support Office take calls from those requesting assistance and connect them with conference members in their local area. These pressures are bringing more people to Vinnies for the first time, individuals who never imagined they would need our services. The sharp rise in basic living costs, combined with a housing shortage, has led to increased financial stress, driving many to seek help with rent, food, and utilities. For many, this is their first encounter with Vinnies, and our aim is to ensure that this moment of vulnerability is met with compassion and support.

In regional South Australia, support is typically accessed through our network of Vinnies shops, where conference members are also present. This ensures that assistance is available locally, further extending our reach to those in need.

Overseas Partnerships continued, with support being offered via Twinning (a partnership between a local conference and one in an overseas partnership country) to 115 conferences in India, Thailand and the Philippines. In addition, a project to support the building of a facility to milk buffalo for the benefit of local villagers in India was completed. Such a facility assists to create a sustainable alternative income, helping to lift locals out of poverty. Two students, one in Indonesia and one in Thailand, were sponsored by way of the Assist A Student program that seeks to help families become self-sufficient through education.

Like many volunteer-driven organisations, we face challenges in recruiting new members, especially as demand for assistance rises and existing members retire. To address this, we continue to explore new ways of operating conferences to provide a more flexible volunteering experience while continuing to deliver effective services to companions. This effort ensures that we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve, particularly during this time of unprecedented financial hardship.

OUR SERVICES

Refugee & Asylum Seeker Service

The Vinnies Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service (VRASS) continues to provide targeted support to individuals on temporary visas, helping them navigate the challenges of life while awaiting decisions on their visa status.

As many of the individuals the service previously supported have now transitioned to permanent visas, VRASS is concentrating support for companions who remain on Bridging Visas. In particular, VRASS is intensively supporting those Asylum seekers who cannot work due to illness, injury or poor mental health and do not qualify for any Government benefits as a safety net.

This financial support is coupled with legal support from our partner organisations such as Refugee Legal, BR Legal and Northern Community Legal Service who provide pro bono assistance with Visa renewals and family reunion applications.

The need for pop-up health and dental clinics is thankfully less frequent due to many companions becoming permanent residents and having access to Medicare, dental and optical services. The clinics have largely been replaced with direct referrals.

VRASS is also involved in high level advocacy, working together with other agencies and charities to lobby for a pathway to permanency, access to State Concessions and Medicare cover.

Volunteers continue their tireless support for companions in many ways, including intensive employment support writing resumes, calling employers and sourcing sponsorship for training courses. In addition, volunteers assist companions to problem solve and give patient support when situations are hard.

VRASS continues to partner with a range of orgs such as Circle of Friends Australia, Rural Australians for Refugees, Red Cross, Welcoming Australia, Australian Migrant Resource Centre, Australian Refugee Association.

The volunteer led English classes continued to be well attended at Kilburn community centre providing a warm and inclusive learning environment.

Access to housing still remains difficult in the modern-day rental market and VRASS offers a housing advocacy and support service to assist with applications and obtaining properties.

OUR SERVICES

Fred's Van Meal Service

The Fred's Van meal service—named for The Society's founder, Frederic Ozanam—goes beyond simply providing food, offering comfort and warmth to individuals facing disadvantage, homelessness, or the risk of homelessness.

With operations across eight locations in Adelaide and two regionally in Port Lincoln and Port Pirie, this vital service is made possible by the commitment of just one employee and more than 600 volunteers. In 2023/24, these volunteers served nearly 40,000 meals—an increase of almost 8% from the previous year. The rising numbers include more women and children, highlighting the growing challenge for families to put nutritious meals on the table.

Beyond serving hot meals, Fred's Van provides blankets, scarves, beanies, and social connections to those who need an extra helping hand. It also supports people who may not be homeless but are struggling to make ends meet. The increasing attendance of families underscores the importance of this service in addressing food insecurity.

Our volunteers are the heart of Fred's Van, making a real difference not only through the meals they serve but also with their compassionate and respectful assistance. They come from all walks of life, united by a shared

desire to provide respite from the harsh realities of poverty and homelessness, even if just for one night. Apart from those who are directly involved in preparing and serving food, we also enjoy the support of other volunteers who shop for ingredients or collecting food from partner organisations.

In addition to individual volunteers, Fred's Van offers a 'Night Out with Fred' corporate opportunity. Organisations can pay a fee to participate in delivering the service, enhancing team building while making a positive impact in the community. This initiative allows corporate teams to engage directly with those in need, fostering empathy and social responsibility among staff members. Funds raised via this opportunity are invested back into the service.

Partnerships are essential to all of The Society's work, and Fred's Van is no exception. Collaborating with food rescue agencies like OzHarvest and SecondBite allows us to serve hot, cooked meals and distribute take-home produce, benefiting diners while reducing landfill and supporting the environment.

We are deeply grateful to the generous supporters of Fred's Van, whose contributions are integral to the continuation of this critical service.



OUR SERVICES

Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre

The Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre welcomes not just women and children, but also their pets. This inclusive approach is vital, as many women fleeing domestic violence—the majority of the Centre's guests—refuse to leave a dangerous situation without their pets. Pets provide emotional support and security, and accommodating them helps remove a barrier to seeking safety, ensuring women can access the support they need without being separated from their animals.

Since its opening, the Centre has supported approximately 5,700 women, children, and pets. Discreetly located in Adelaide's northern suburbs, it offers emergency accommodation to guests who often arrive with nothing, deeply traumatised. Their complex needs often include mental health challenges, and the Centre's holistic model goes far beyond just providing a place to stay.

Guests are given essentials like meals, clothing, toiletries, and toys for their children, but they also receive emotional support from dedicated staff and volunteers. This nurturing environment ensures that service partners can refer clients with confidence, knowing they will receive the care and safety needed to rebuild their lives.

Initially, the Centre provided short-term accommodation for two to three weeks. However, the ongoing housing crisis means that many guests now stay for two to three months. The Centre has also seen a demographic shift, with more women over 50 arriving after escaping long-term abusive relationships, often with little or no financial resources.

Thanks to dedicated staff and volunteers, the Centre continues to enhance its offerings. Recent initiatives include regular hairdresser visits and art classes, which help bring a sense of normalcy and provide an outlet for creativity and self-expression.

These services create a more enriching environment for the women and children staying at the Centre.

Although the Centre receives partial state government funding, the breadth of support it offers relies heavily on donations. We are immensely grateful to schools, sporting clubs, food rescue organisations like Foodbank and OzHarvest, and our generous donors and businesses. Their contributions make it possible for us to provide the comprehensive care that helps our guests take steps towards a brighter, more stable future.



*Fairy painting by staff member
Jean with help from guests.*

OUR SERVICES

Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre

The Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre (VMCC), located in the Adelaide CBD, remains a critical lifeline for men experiencing homelessness.

With an occupancy rate consistently exceeding 90 percent, the Centre continues to face high demand, driven in part by the lack of affordable housing, which is leading to longer stays, similar to trends at the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre.

At VMCC, we focus on supporting men to break the cycle of homelessness and reduce the need for repeat crisis accommodation. A dedicated team of support and case workers is available, providing guidance and information to help secure long-term housing solutions. The Vinnies Open Door Program liaison officers also work closely with guests, acting as vital connectors to other agencies that address the underlying issues contributing to their homelessness.

In addition to essential accommodation, VMCC offers a variety of new activities aimed at boosting guests' self-esteem and motivation. Programs such as guitar lessons, personal training sessions, cooking classes and art classes provide men with opportunities to develop new skills, build confidence, and find inspiration while staying at the Centre.

The Centre has also launched a program of works to refurbish the rooms, which is well underway. Guests have expressed their appreciation for the fresh new look, which enhances their sense of comfort and helps them feel more at home during their stay.

Generous contributions from local businesses and community groups, including food donations, continue to augment the breakfast and evening meal services provided at VMCC, ensuring that guests are well-nourished and cared for.

Volunteers from Hair Aid offer free haircuts from time to time, which many guests find uplifting during periods of extreme stress. Students from various schools have also cooked barbecues at the Centre, creating opportunities for social interaction and breaking down misconceptions about homelessness through meaningful conversations.

With ongoing efforts to improve amenities and strengthen support services, VMCC remains a place of refuge and care, dedicated to helping vulnerable men regain control of their lives.



OUR SERVICES

Vinnies Open Door Program

The Vinnies Open Door program provides comprehensive support to individuals at high risk of homelessness. This includes people with limited or no support networks, such as those exiting the corrections system, being discharged from hospital after extended stays, and guests of the Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre.

A key feature of the Vinnies Open Door program is the presence of dedicated liaison workers who provide ongoing support. They act as intermediaries between individuals and various agencies, reducing the burden of navigating multiple services during times of significant emotional distress.

By helping people address barriers to stable housing, the program aims to prevent repeat cycles of homelessness.

Supports the Vinnies Open Door program offers included:

- Referrals to Local Homelessness Alliances for housing support.
- Liaising with the South Australian Housing Authority to assist individuals in being placed or prioritised on the public housing list.
- Referrals to transitional and medium-term housing providers.
- Referrals to health, mental health, and welfare services.
- Assistance to attain Construction White Card and Responsible Service of Alcohol certification.
- Advocacy in legal matters.

Vinnies Open Door also helped individuals access household furniture, mobile phones and utility set-up, and enabled access to wellbeing and lifestyle activities including cooking lessons, guitar lessons, health services including psychology, physiotherapy and podiatry. Workshops with Marra Dreaming Aboriginal Art gave participants an opportunity to engage in positive and culturally sensitive ways with the artists, while producing some meaningful art works.

These art works will eventually be hung in the Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre for all to enjoy.

Vinnies Open Door hosted several community service placement students throughout the year, providing them with practical experience in the homelessness sector. Some have since secured employment with the program or similar agencies.

A focus for the program is continuing to build relationships with sector stakeholders, supporting all Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre guests, and delivering both group and individual programs that address barriers to achieving stable housing and overall wellbeing.

YOUTH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At just 20 years old, Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society, observed the struggles of those in need and took decisive action, setting in motion a global movement now present in over 140 countries.

His legacy demonstrates that age is no barrier to creating lasting change, underscoring the influence one individual can have in shaping a better world.

Inspired by these beginnings, the Vinnies Youth & Community Engagement program seeks to empower young people with the knowledge that their actions can make a profound difference in both their own lives and the lives of others.

The program engages with the youth of South Australia, forging partnerships with childcare centres, schools, universities, and the wider St Vincent de Paul Society network.

Our mission is to encourage young people to take meaningful steps toward making a difference. Hundreds of young people have connected with The Society, eager to learn about our work addressing justice and poverty issues in the community. Schools, in particular, serve as an important avenue for this engagement, offering students opportunities to support our mission.



Fundraising events, donation drives, supplying Fred's Van with food, and collecting toys for Christmas distribution provide practical ways for young people to understand the challenges faced by others.

The support from school students, especially those involved in Sleepouts, has been exceptional once again. These events offer participants a glimpse into the experience of homelessness, even for just one night, while also raising vital funds to sustain our work. In the past year Sleepouts raised an impressive \$54,084.

Beyond school engagement, our re-established Vinnies Youth Conference, led by President Kylan Beech, has supported the Adelaide Conference in outreach efforts, learning from more experienced members.

They have also led presentations at universities, attended national youth events and presented a workshop at World Youth Day which was held in Adelaide in August 2023.

We look forward to the continued growth of the Youth Conference, with plans to develop a pathway for school leavers to continue their association with Vinnies.



▲ Salisbury Scout Group members with their generous donation of goods.

◀ Youth reps at World Youth Day

VINNIES SHOPS

Vinnies continues to stand strong as one of Australia's foremost recycling organisations, thanks to the efforts of over 1,000 volunteers across 35 shops in South Australia. Our stores, located in both metropolitan and regional areas, offer essential support to those experiencing financial hardship, providing quality clothing, household goods, and furniture.

In addition to offering affordable options for those who might be struggling, our shops feature high-quality items for sale, creating a distinctive shopping experience. Revenue generated supports our mission of assisting the vulnerable in our community, and we are grateful for the generosity of donors and shoppers alike.

Customers continue to display incredible loyalty to Vinnies shops in what is a highly competitive market. We remain focused on highlighting our unique value, ensuring that customers understand how their purchases or donations directly contribute to supporting those in need. This educational approach reinforces our mission and strengthens the community's connection to our cause.

This year has been one of growth and improvement. We opened a new shop at Colonnades Shopping Centre in Noarlunga, expanding our reach in the southern suburbs.

The shop has a distinctive look and feel which will inform future shop development and refurbishments. At the same time, we've strengthened our social media presence to better engage with supporters and potential customers online. To further appeal to a younger demographic, we partnered with community radio station Fresh FM, using this collaboration to enhance our connection with youth audiences.

Throughout the year, we held various themed sales to clear stock, attract new shoppers, and reward our regulars. Looking ahead, we aim to continue improving shop amenities and enhancing the overall customer experience.

Donation station at the new Vinnies shop in Noarlunga



OUR SUPPORTERS

St Vincent de Paul Society was founded on one individual's idea to take action to make life better for people in Paris who were living in poverty. However, Frederic Ozanam quickly got his friends involved, with the knowledge that to have a real and lasting impact, he couldn't act alone.

Centuries later, meaningful partnerships are more important than ever, and we are very grateful for the support we receive from the community, whether it be from individual supporters, parishes, schools, businesses and community groups.

Fundraising

Once again, the response to our fundraising appeals, even in these challenging economic times, has been incredibly heartening.

As a result of the community's support countless individuals have been uplifted by the invaluable support of a 'hand up' across South Australia.

We are deeply grateful to our donors and supporters, whose generosity provides The Society with the vital funds needed to assist people in need. A special thank you goes to our conference members, whose tireless efforts significantly contribute to our fundraising success.

Without the dedication of individuals, groups, schools, workplaces, and businesses, the work we've accomplished would not have been possible.

Support has come in many forms, from regular monthly donations and bequests to organising community fundraising events, responding to appeals, and participating in workplace giving.

The spirit of giving also carried into the festive season, with individuals, businesses, and community groups coming together to collect children's Christmas gifts and create food hampers for those doing it tough during a time that should be joyful.

We are deeply grateful to our supporters as it is their generosity and belief in our mission that enables us to continue serving the South Australian community.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Vinnies CEO Sleepout

Now in its 15th year, the Vinnies CEO Sleepout was held at the iconic Adelaide Oval on 20 June, where 108 business and community leaders gathered to learn more about the causes and effects of homelessness, and how the funds they had worked so hard to raise would make a difference.

SA Premier Peter Malinauskas, participating in his seventh Vinnies CEO Sleepout, was a welcome addition to the group, and we were pleased to have him in attendance to hear firsthand the challenges people facing homelessness are experiencing.

We were privileged to hear from a guest at the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre about the complex circumstances leading to her spending time sleeping rough, and how the centre offered her refuge, along with her gorgeous dogs.

Vinnies team members John and Steve shared the story of a father and son who had been rough sleeping for several years, when a chance encounter with John led them to being assisted into the Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre, from where Vinnies supported them into long term accommodation.

These are just two of the tens of thousands of examples of personal hardship that Vinnies helps to alleviate each year through compassionate practical support and advocacy, and much of it is made possible through funds raised at the Vinnies CEO Sleepout, plus ongoing partnerships that are born from it.

Congratulations to all participants for raising an incredible \$657,793, and well done to our award winners:

- Highest fundraiser: Premier Peter Malinauskas
- Highest first year fundraiser: Rachael Azzopardi, Creative director and Co-Founder Illuminate Adelaide
- Top Team Award: Business Dudes - Andrew Sullivan, Rob Cowie, Jarrad Brown and Tom Clark.

Planning for the 2025 event to be held Thursday 19 June is well underway, and we look forward to welcoming new and returning participants as together we work towards breaking the cycle of homelessness.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Corporate and Community Partners

IGA

IGA retailers play an important part in their local communities, giving back wherever possible with various campaigns designed to raise funds and awareness about some of the challenges faced by vulnerable communities, or those who have been impacted by natural disaster.

IGA has also been a strong supporter of Vinnies by providing goods for Christmas hampers which are distributed to people in need so that they could have a more joyful and dignified Christmas. Each Christmas they raise funds by encouraging shoppers to purchase a \$2 token or selected 'community chest' products, the proceeds of which go to Vinnies.



Direct Collect

Direct Collect is an initiative that sees special bins delivered to Adelaide homes and businesses. The service picks up the bins when they are full of recyclable containers, and customers can elect to have the refund deposited into Vinnies' bank account.



Kraft Heinz - Gravox

A new partnership was established which saw 20 cents from the sale of specially marked Gravox canisters donated to Vinnies. In addition, ceramicist Shelby Sherrit upcycled a collection of second-hand gravy boats that were sourced in Vinnies shops. Each gravy boat was auctioned off online, with funds also donated to Vinnies.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Grill'd Healthy Burgers

Grill'd Healthy Burgers are a burger joint with a difference – their Relish membership offers bonuses to customers, but importantly their '8 and Donate' program means that customers can give back. After eight visits, Relish Members are given the choice to donate a meal to our Fred's Van service.

The Grill'd 'Local Matters' initiative offers customers the opportunity to vote for a cause to their heart.

On the first Tuesday of every month, Grill'd CBD closes six of their CBD restaurants around Australia - including one in Adelaide - from 5pm. For the rest of the night, they team up with Vinnies and Salvos to feed anyone for free - no questions asked.



MRASA Toy Run

For more than 40 years, the Motorcycle Riders' Association SA (MRASA) has organised the iconic Toy Run event which brings excited spectators out to see around thousands of motorcycle riders ride from Victoria Park to Callington with their cargo of toys and Christmas cheer. Toys are collected by The Society to be given to children who may otherwise miss out.



Amazon

Amazon came on board to help us support families with back-to-school costs, through the distribution of gift cards via our Conference network. Amazon have also established disaster relief hubs where they store items that people may need in the event of a disaster.



GOVERNANCE

As at 30 June 2024

Members In Office

State President	Bradley Hocking
Vice President	Sandro Canale
Vice President	Alice Clark
Vice President	Geraldine Hawkes
Treasurer	Des Quirk
Spiritual Advisor	Mario Trinidad
Youth Representative	Hannah Yates

Regional Presidents

Central District	Vacant
Eastern	Claire Victory
Eyre	Frances Power
Fleurieu	Kevin Liston
Hills Murray	Vacant
Northern	Neil Dwiar
Riverland/Yorke	John Fewster
South East	Anne Lyons
Southern	Vacant
Western	John Sullivan

GOVERNANCE

As at 30 June 2024

Ex Officio

Chief Executive Officer	Evelyn O'Loughlin
Minute Secretary	Jenny Papps

Committees

- Commercial Advisory Committee
- Finance Audit and Risk Management Committee
- Regional Presidents Advisory Group
- Work Health and Safety Committee
- Low-Cost Housing Advocacy Group
- SA Overseas Partnership Committee
- SA Social Needs Analysis Advocacy Committee
- Vinnies Refugee and Asylum Seeker Advocacy Committee

Working Groups

- Spirituality Working Group
- Fleurieu Region Initiative
- Reconciliation Working Group

CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

Aberfoyle Park	Goodwood	Newton
Adelaide/St Francis	Greenacres/Walkerville	Noarlunga
Barmera	Hallett Cove	Norwood
Berri/Renmark	Hectorville/Tranmere	Ottoway
Blackwood	Henley Beach	Payneham
Bordertown	Hindmarsh	Port Adelaide
Brighton	Kadina/Wallaroo/Moonta	Port Augusta
Central Youth	Kingswood	Port Lincoln
Clearview	Lefevre	Port Pirie
Colonel Light Gardens	Lockleys	Prospect/Kilburn
Coober Pedy	Maitland/CYP	Salisbury
Croydon	Millicent	Seacombe Gardens
Dernancourt	Modbury	St Marys
Dulwich	Morphett Vale	Stirling
Edwardstown/Plympton	Mount Barker/Strathalbyn	Tea Tree Gully
Elizabeth North	Mount Gambier/St Pauls	Thebarton
Elizabeth West	Mount Gambier Women's	Victor Harbor
Gawler	Murray Bridge	Whyalla/OLHC
Glen Osmond/Parkside	Naracoorte	Willunga
Glenelg		

SHOP LOCATIONS

Adelaide

Barmera

Brighton

Campbelltown

Coober Pedy

Croydon

Elizabeth

Gawler

Hawthorn

Kadina

Kidman Park

Maitland

Millicent

Morphett Vale

Mount Barker

Mount Gambier

Murray Bridge

Naracoorte

Noarlunga

Norwood

Parkside

Port Adelaide

Port Augusta

Port Lincoln

Port Pirie

Prospect

Royal Park

Salisbury

Semaphore

Tailem Bend

Taperoo

Valley View

Victor Harbor

Whyalla

Whyalla Westland

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) relies on the generous support of individuals, community groups, schools and businesses who are committed to building a more just and compassionate society. Please see below for opportunities to support Vinnies so we can assist more South Australians who need a helping hand.

Visit vinnies.org.au/sa/get-involved to find out more.

To support our mission

Make a financial donation

Credit card donations can be made by visiting our website or calling the donation hotline on 13 18 12. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Leave a gift in your Will

The Society is able to assist thousands of people because of the generosity of those who have remembered us in their Will. For more information or an information booklet, speak to our Bequest Officer.

Volunteer your time

If you would like to make a direct impact on the lives of people in need, you can become a member of a conference or volunteer your time to assist people in your community through any Vinnies services or shops.

Donate goods

Donations of quality clothing, small furniture items and household goods can be made at any Vinnies Shop.

Involve your school

Get your school involved to support their local community and learn about issues affecting the community such as poverty, homelessness and social justice.

Host a fundraising event

From BBQs to bake sales and everything in between, you can get creative and fundraise your own way for Vinnies. Fundraising is a great way to get your friends, family and community together to have fun and make a difference for people trying to get back on their feet.

GPO Box 1804,
Adelaide, SA 5001
202 Franklin Street,
Adelaide, SA 5000

(08) 8112 8700
svdp@svdpsa.org.au

Donations 13 18 12
or www.vinnies.org.au

ABN 73 591 401 592