

SPRING 2024

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY VICTORIA

Feature

THANK YOU
FOR GIVING THAT
'EXTRA LITTLE BIT'

DONOR IMPACT REPORT

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

THANK YOU FROM OUR CEO

Spring is a time of renewal, growth and hope. Yet, for many Victorians, food insecurity remains a harsh reality. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis is straining family budgets, leaving many households without access to healthy meals.

Every day, we witness the profound impact that food insecurity has on the health and wellbeing of our community, and we are more determined than ever to provide the support they need to overcome these hardships.

Our dedicated members and volunteers work hard all over Victoria to make sure that food aid reaches the people who need it the most. Thanks to your contribution, we are always there for the people we serve, whether it's through our mobile food pantries, emergency aid services or soup van services.

Your generosity provides more than just food – it provides hope and respect.

Last financial year, your support enabled us to make a tangible difference in the lives of people facing food insecurity, providing more than 810,000[^] meals to individuals and families, including children.

Linda's* story, featured in this issue, is just one example of how your contribution has transformed lives.

We're also excited to share updates on how your generous donations have made a real difference. Thanks to your support for our Back to School Appeal, we've been able to raise more than \$195,000 to help children like Ted's* access the education they deserve.

Through your contributions, we raised more than \$1.8 million for our Winter Appeal to help individuals like Luke*, who faced harsh realities of homelessness. Your kindness has given them the stability and hope they needed to rebuild their lives.

At St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria, our mission remains unwavering – to stand beside those who need us most.

Your unwavering support is the foundation of our work, and without you, none of this would be possible. Every meal we provide, every smile we bring to a struggling family, is direct result of your compassion.

With warmest regards,

Jennifer Fitzgerald

Dr Jennifer Fitzgerald AM
Group Chief Executive Officer
St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria



* Name has been changed to protect privacy.

[^] As per the latest statistics of St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria, July 2024.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT CHANGES LIVES

IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR:



810,000 MEALS

Your support helped us distribute 810,000 meals across Victoria

10% INCREASE

Your donation enabled a 10% increase in meals provided by the Vinnies Inner-City Soup Van



296,000 PEOPLE

296,000 people served with food assistance, thanks to your contribution

21% INCREASE

The Berwick Soup Van saw a 21% increase in people seeking food assistance



95% OF CALLERS

Over 95% of callers reached out for food assistance

UPCOMING CHALLENGES

Preparing for an even busier SPRING

This year, with your generous donations, our volunteers are gearing up to meet an even greater demand for food, as we anticipate a significant increase over last year.



CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW



CLICK HERE TO LEAVE A LEGACY FOR GOOD



UPLIFTING LIVES

That little bit extra is making a big difference, all thanks to your generosity!

“As a grandmother, I want the best for my grandchildren, but it is hard on a limited income,” Linda confided.*

Linda’s story is not unique, but it is a testament to the challenges faced by families in our community. Despite her best efforts, trying to provide nutritious meals amid escalating food prices has become a source of stress.

Linda, a grandmother who, like many other Victorians, found herself at a crossroads not long ago.

Linda’s daughter, who is a single mother, faced severe personal challenges and health issues, leaving Linda to care for her two grandchildren, Lily* and Jack*. Though she cherishes them dearly, providing for their basic needs on her small pension has been a tremendous struggle.

In Victoria, we’re experiencing a range of crises including poverty, food insecurity, in addition to the cost-of-living and mortgage stress.

“My income is stretched thin covering rent, utilities, my medication, and the special skincare Lily needs for her eczema. Even with my best efforts to teach English for a small fee, it’s hard to make ends meet.” Linda says.

St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies Victoria) is dedicated to ensuring families have access to healthy, nutritious food.

Through the support of compassionate individuals like yourself, Linda and her family received assistance in securing nutritious meals, allowing her grandchildren the opportunity to grow and thrive without the burden of hunger and financial hardship.

“Vinnies has been incredibly helpful. Seeing the joy on Jack and Lily’s faces enjoying the treat of a warming hot chocolate from volunteers on the night we visit, is so special.” - Linda



Thank you for being there by their side. Your support ensures that families like Linda’s have the nourishment they need for a brighter future; it is a lifeline for people navigating their way through tough times, who need it the most.

If you haven’t had a chance to donate yet, or if you’d like to contribute again to our Spring Appeal, please scan the QR code below to donate.

Every bit helps make a BIG difference for families in need. Thank you!



 **CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE RICH HISTORY OF OUR GOOD WORKS.**

CELEBRATING 170 YEARS
This year, we celebrate 170 years of our Good Works within the community, and take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been part of our journey: our donors, members, volunteers and employees. With your ongoing support, we will continue to be here for people who need us.

* Names and images have been changed to protect privacy.



TRANSFORMING LIVES TOGETHER

Your support makes a BIG difference!

Thank you! The success of our Back to School Appeal has played a pivotal role in mobilizing funds to support the remarkable efforts of our members and volunteers in assisting local communities.

Ted*, 54, a father of four, was struggling to pay the cost of uniforms, books and other educational essentials.

"It's a big relief not to have to worry about the uniforms and books because it affects your mental health when a bill comes in like the gas or electric, or the kids say they need something for school, and you're always thinking 'where am I going to get the money for that'". - Ted.

Thanks to the generous support of over 800 donors like yourself. Your support ensures that children like Ted's have the stepping stones they need for a brighter future; it is a lifeline for those navigating their way through tough times, who need it the most, without judgment, without hesitation.

Ted is hoping to get some work soon as a delivery driver, which would give some flexibility with his hours so he could be available to go home at short notice if needed.

"I want my kids to experience life and not struggle the way I do," says Ted.

You are making a difference to people's lives!

* Names and images have been changed to protect privacy.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING PEOPLE LIKE LUKE!

Due to cost-of-living pressures and the worsening housing crisis, Luke* and his dad Colin* were pushed into homelessness. With nowhere else to go, they ended up living in abandoned buildings, and then a tent.

Thanks to wonderful people like you, Luke and his dad Colin, are feeling hopeful for the future, and are so grateful for the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

"Since Vinnies helped us, it's all changed. Dad's health is getting better, and I feel happier every day. Vinnies are amazing. They provide help when it's needed." - Luke.

They were over the moon when reunited with their pet, Ruby*, and to have their own furniture and possessions with Ruby is something they never thought would happen. They are very grateful.

Your generous donation came at just the right time to help the increasing number of people like Luke experiencing or at risk of homelessness right now.



YOUR GIFT HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.

Donate today to enable our members and volunteers who work tirelessly to support vulnerable Victorians.



CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW



DONATE TODAY
VISIT vinnies.org.au/vic
OR PHONE 13 18 12



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