

AUTUMN 2025

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY VICTORIA

DONOR IMPACT REPORT

Feature

YOUR GIFT
TRANSFORMS
LIVES

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://www.vinnies.org.au/vic)

THANK YOU FROM OUR CEO

The rising cost of living is more than just a headline. With soaring rents and expenses increasing everyday, more people are reaching out to us for assistance.

Sadly, these financial pressures often impact children and their education. Every year, parents striving to give their children the best start in life struggle with the rising costs of school supplies, uniforms and essential technology.

Providing children with the tools they need for success is key to breaking the cycle of disadvantage. 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.

With your support, we can ensure children have access to school essentials and academic guidance – giving them a chance at a brighter future.

Last year, your generosity enabled us to provide support of \$883,459 dedicated to education, in the last fiscal year[^].

A sincere thank you to members of our community who have included a Gift in their Will enabling the St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria to continue to support our most vulnerable Victorians.

Your generous legacy 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.

For more than 170 years, we have supported Victorians in times of need and our commitment to creating a positive impact remains unwavering. Thanks to supporters like you, we have provided critical assistance to thousands of vulnerable Victorians. Our determination to empower more children like Mai*, whose story you will read in this issue, remains strong.

Your support transforms compassion into action, helping families in need and ensuring children can return to school fully equipped for a successful academic year.

Together, let's make a lasting impact on the lives of people facing a crisis in Victoria.

Warm wishes,

Jennifer Fitzgerald

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



[^] St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria
2023–2024 Impact Report.

* Name has been changed to protect privacy.

THE POWER OF YOUR COMPASSION

IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR:



\$883,459

Your kindness empowered \$883,459 in education assistance



6,252

Your support brightened futures for 6,252 students through our education programs



2,964

Your empathy mobilised 2,964 education program volunteers to support families in need



\$6.9M

Your gifts enabled \$6.9m 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.

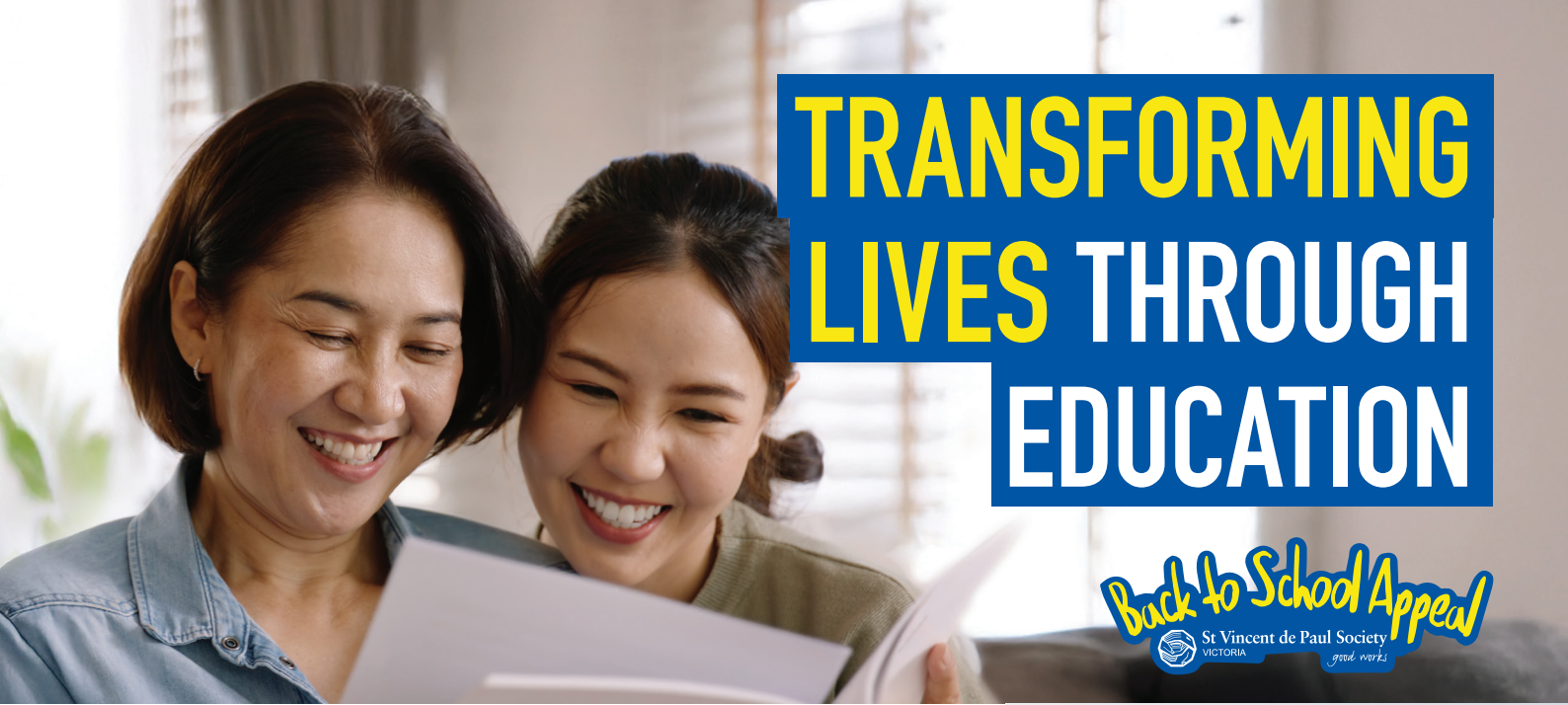
Your generosity can make a lasting impact – long into the future, by providing food, shelter and education to those doing it tough.

To learn more about leaving a legacy of compassion, contact our Gift in Will Manager on **03 9895 5821** or email bequest@svdp-vic.org.au



CLICK HERE TO CREATE A LEGACY FOR GOOD





TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



CHILDREN CAN DREAM OF A BETTER FUTURE, ALL THANKS TO YOU!

"I never thought we'd be in this position, but knowing people care enough to help means everything to us," says Linh.*

Linh came to Australia with her family in search of a brighter future. Yet life here has not been easy. After her husband left, Linh was alone to run a small business while raising Mai* and her younger brother. The daily struggle to keep up with bills became overwhelming, especially as Mai's new school year approached.

Mai is a bright student with big dreams of attending university, but the rising costs of school supplies, uniforms and required technology threatened to end her academic journey.

"I want to make my mum proud and go to university. I don't want her sacrifices to be in vain," says Mai.

St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria (Vinnies Victoria) is dedicated to empowering children recognising that education is a pivotal step in lifting young people out of crisis.

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, we were able to step in and support Mai with the essentials she needed to stay in school.

* Names and images have been changed to protect privacy.

^ St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria 2023-2024 Impact Report.

Linh's relief and gratitude were immense: "The St Vincent de Paul Society has been a lifeline for us. They kept my daughter in school and lifted a heavy weight off my shoulders."

But Linh and Mai's story is only one among thousands.

Every day, we hear from families who are struggling to make ends meet and wondering how they will afford education supplies for their children. We are grateful to have you by their side.

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[^]. Yet with the cost of living on the rise, the need is greater than ever.

Thank you for standing with families in need. With your compassion and generosity, we can make a difference in the lives of children who, like Mai, 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.

EDUCATION = OPPORTUNITY

"Education is not just a privilege; it's a right that every child deserves. Our programs, recognised for their excellence, are instrumental in providing children with the skills and confidence needed to overcome challenges."

— Dr Jennifer Fitzgerald AM, Group CEO

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 our full focus which works wonders for the children's confidence as they begin schooling in a new country. It is incredible to see our young students grow 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; and
- ✓ they developed feelings of success.





THANK YOU FOR GIVING THAT 'LITTLE BIT EXTRA'

It was a tremendous struggle for Linda* but as a grandmother, Linda didn't hesitate to step in to assist her grandchildren and cherishes the role she is now playing.

As a grandmother, Linda wants only the best for Lily* and Jack* and the hardest part is knowing that her grandchildren might miss out on a joyful, carefree childhood due to the financial constraints she encountered.

Thanks to the generosity of the people like yourself, Linda is now able to provide fresh fruit, vegetables and healthy food to put on the table that she wouldn't be able to afford.

"The Vinnies Soup Vans have been a lifeline for us. At first, I was hesitant to queue up, but the warm, friendly volunteers quickly made us feel welcome. Seeing the joy on Jack and Lily's faces when they enjoy their hot chocolate is so special," Linda confides.

Thank you for being there by their side. Your support is a lifeline for people navigating their way through tough times, who need it the most.

* Names and images have been changed to protect privacy.

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

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

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

Tania acknowledges that the cost of living is still a major challenge for her, and she does have her bad days, but she now lives by the mantra: "I allow it. I feel it, but then I release it."

Tania is now more hopeful. She visited her psychiatrist recently, who noted that she heard Tania laugh for the first time in four years.

She was so happy to be able to share her story with others, and has been touched by the many cards of support she received from complete strangers after her story became the focus for the 2024 Christmas Appeal.

Tania still receives ongoing support from Vinnies and supporters, like you. Recently, we were able to assist her to purchase a new fridge, which has made such a difference to her life. She can now do some 'batch' cooking! Tania was touched by this generosity – thank you!

Your gift this Christmas has helped provide desperately needed support to people to help them build better futures.



YOUR GIFT HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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



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



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