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VINNIES 2019
BUSHFIRE RESPONSE

FIRE, FLOOD OR DROUGHT,
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BE ALWAYS THERE

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You are

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

HOW YOUR SUPPORT OF VINNIES QUEENSLAND IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

SPECIAL EDITION



Vinnies
good works



Thank You FROM OUR STATE PRESIDENT

Welcome to a special edition of *You Are Making a Difference*.

Sadly, the start of Spring has been marred by devastating bushfires affecting Queensland from its far north to our most southern border and risking many homes.

The following pages feature stories of hope, resilience and empathy in the face of disaster – and are a testament to the impact of your generosity. I'm sure you'll feel proud to know your kindness helps ensure those in our community, who may already be vulnerable, are not placed at greater risk of homelessness or poverty during a natural disaster.

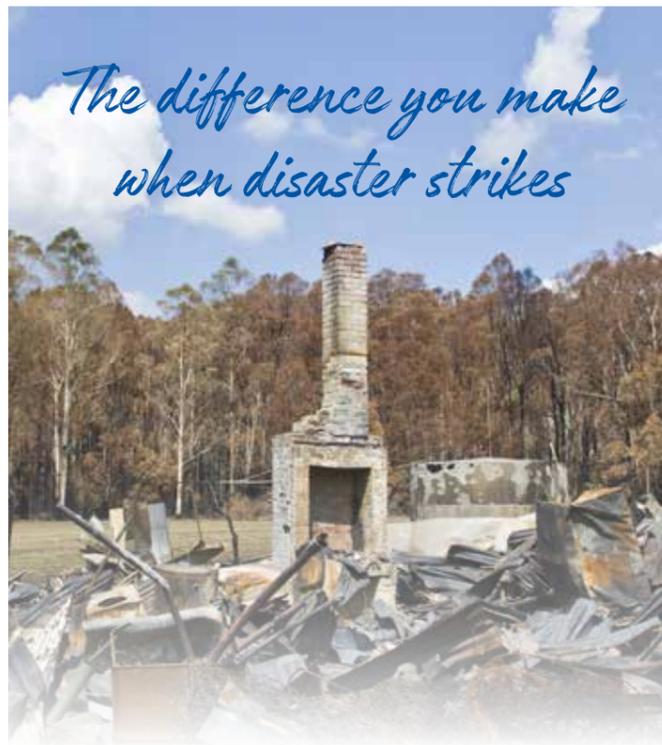
Right now, your support allows us to mobilise volunteers and resources to help at evacuation centres in the initial response to the fires. We'll be there, providing the hands on support needed by those experiencing the fear and uncertainty caused as fires tear through their suburbs – people like Amanda, whose story you'll read on page 4.

Like me, I'm sure you'll be inspired by Vincentian and volunteer, Barbara Bickhoff, whose dedication in responding to victims of the 2018 Queensland floods and fires helped many in her community across a massive distance of 1,200km.

None of this would be possible without your generosity. For your trust and support, I thank you wholeheartedly.

Dennis Innes

Dennis Innes, State President
St Vincent de Paul Society QLD



Thanks to you, Vinnies is always there – be it in drought, fire or flood. In fact, in the last year we have distributed \$5.2 million to families affected by natural disasters.

For example, when floods devastated North Queensland in February, your support allowed Vinnies to give a much needed helping hand.

In North Queensland alone, we visited more than 860 homes and helped to provide not only practical, on the ground assistance but also emotional support.

But our work isn't over yet for flood affected families. The efforts to recover and rebuild take months, even years.

And there is a real risk that some of these areas affected by flood will also be affected by bushfire this season. But no matter what, Vinnies will continue to be there for all Queenslanders.

To donate call 13 18 12
Visit www.vinnies.org.au/donate
Email: dosomething@svdpqld.org.au
Follow us on Social Media



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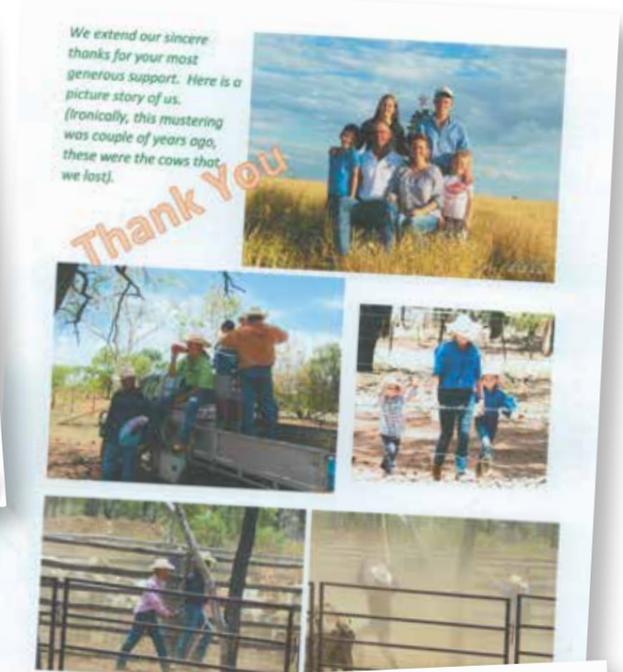


Messages of care in the face of crisis

Dear Chris + St Vincent de Paul Society Qld,

From the bottom of our hearts
Shane + I and our family wish to
thank you so very much for your
valuable support. This money has gone
a long way to helping us stay on our
property, in our home. This drought is
relentless, but we keep going in hope of
rain one day soon.
Kindest Regards,
Manus Blessings,

To St Vincent de Paul Society,
Sorry this is so late.
Just a note to say
Thank you Very Very
much for the major help
you gave us after the
floods at Julia Creek.
We are all well + getting
through the fencing.
We have started purchasing
some Cattle now that we
have some fences up.
Once again a huge thank you.
Regards,



A special note from the people
who support Vinnies...

You are not alone although it will
feel like that often. We pray for you
and give through St Vincent de Paul
Society to endeavour to make life a
little easier for you. Trust in our
loving God who loves you very
dearly. May you always know
you are precious and you are
loved.

Be it fire, flood or drought, Vinnies is
always there for all Queenslanders.

*But we couldn't do it
without you – thank you.*



Fire and fear

THE 2019 QUEENSLAND FIRES – ENSURING NO ONE IS LEFT WITHOUT A HOME

Can you imagine looking out of your window and seeing a bushfire rush toward your family home, engulfing all in its path...then having to drop everything and flee with just the clothes on your back.

But so many Queenslanders have recently faced this horrific nightmare. People like Amanda Rickman, who also happens to be a Vinnies volunteer.

Amanda and her husband fled their home in a panic, leaving it to the mercy of a raging Sunshine Coast bushfire. Right now, they face the fear and uncertainty of not knowing if they have a home left or a crumble of ashes.

“There was absolutely blistering showers of red-hot embers...we walked out without anything. It was scary, we could just see this bright red glow from where we stood,” she said.

Amanda said the smoke was so intense that visibility was limited to a mere 60cm in front of her eyes. As she and her husband made their escape through the blinding smoke, she worried if they would be trapped on the only remaining open road out of the area.

“We joined a huge convoy of vehicles all heading out of Peregian Beach, away from the fire to evacuate to the north.”

The kindness of supporters like you will allow us to mobilise Vinnies volunteers and resources to help at bushfire evacuation centres across Queensland to deal with the

devastation caused by these fires. At times like these, what’s needed most is essential basics - emergency groceries, toiletries and clothing - for a family, like Amanda’s, displaced from their home by the fires.

And while immediate, emergency assistance is so important, so is the ongoing support which is desperately needed for the recovery efforts after the fires ended and the ashes cleared.

Local Vinnies volunteers will be there, answering phone calls and visiting homes in the many months to come. We’ll be there to help the community cope with the loss and grief triggered by natural disaster. And we’ll be there to rebuild lives and livelihoods when everything is gone.

Rebuilding can take months, even years. When a family’s home is entirely destroyed by fire and with nowhere else to go, Vinnies will help re-furnish their home, pay rent, bills and help them back on their feet.

No matter what, Vinnies will be there to help restore lives when all is lost – thank you for your commitment to helping fellow Queenslanders devastated by fire.



2019 QUEENSLAND FIRES – HOW DEVASTATING?

Fires continue to burn across Queensland and there is no sign of the disaster lessening. And with the ongoing dry conditions caused by extreme drought, there is a very grave risk that more fires will be sparked.

Manager of the QFES predictive services unit, Andrew Sturgess, told the news outlets the fire conditions were unprecedented in Queensland¹.

“It is an historic event. We’ve never seen this before in recorded history – fire weather has never been as severe, this early in Spring,” Inspector Sturgess said.

“So this is an omen, if you will, a warning of the fire season that we are likely to see in south-eastern parts of the state where most of the population is.”

Amanda agrees, *“I think we have a long way to go when we come through this, it was a very dangerous and volatile situation.”*

LOCATION OF SPRING 2019 FIRES

Source:
ruralfire.qld.gov.au



¹ <https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2019/09/08/fires-nsw-queensland/>



Your generosity will help areas across Queensland devastated by fire.

Your impact

“VINNIES WILL ALWAYS BE THERE”

Not all our heroes wear capes, as evidenced by our amazing Vinnies volunteer Barbara Bickhoff and her continued efforts to help her fellow Queenslanders.

A long time Vincentian (Vinnies member), every week Barb provides assistance to people in need in Rockhampton through her local support centre, and works as a senior counsellor for people in crisis with another charity group.

A salt of the earth person who just wants to help wherever she can, Barb has given years of service to the people of Rockhampton and surrounds.

When Central Queensland was ravaged by bushfires in late 2018, Barb was among the first to put her hand up to help. When 8,000 people had to be evacuated from Gracemere, Barb worked tirelessly at the evacuation centre to help local families until 11pm. She then returned at first light the next morning to continue helping anyone she could before going on to assist with the evacuation of The Caves in Central Queensland.

After a few weeks rest, Barb travelled to Townsville to help victims of the North Queensland Floods, spending 10 days on the ground before going on call to travel to Cloncurry in case she was needed.

Barb then returned to Rockhampton, where she insisted on working her normal shifts in her local Vinnies support centre. She also later travelled back to Townsville for a second stint helping the city's residents recover from the floods.



Barb is dependable, always making herself available to fill in at the Vinnies support centre at a moment's notice.

Vinnies Rockhampton Diocese Executive Officer Tanya Doherty says Barb is the perfect example of what makes Vinnies great.

“Barb gives back to the community so much, she just helps wherever and however she can,” she says.

“She has made a difference to so many locals, making people smile, knowing Vinnies is always there.”

Thanks to you and your support

Since the debilitating February floods in North Queensland we have visited 867 homes, providing assistance with: temporary accommodation; rebuilding fences and roads on properties; replacing furniture and appliances; emergency bill payment; food and clothing vouchers.

To become a member of Vinnies

Vinnies members are passionate about helping people in need in their local community and work together in groups to alleviate the suffering of those who seek our help.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Vinnies member please call:

 07 3010 1076

In times of disaster

IMMEDIATE, EMERGENCY RELIEF

When the unimaginable happens and disaster strikes, our staff and volunteers provide essential goods and food to evacuation centres. Vinnies staff and volunteers are uniquely placed in the community to respond to the immediate needs of those in crisis. Your donation allows us to react quickly and respond to whatever is needed most.

RECOVERY... A LONG ROAD AHEAD

When the fire stops burning, the flood waters recede or rain breaks the drought, the recovery efforts begin. These efforts can take many months, even years. Queenslanders affected by a natural disaster are able to seek assistance from their local Vinnies to receive support with housing, financial recovery or even mental health support.

HOW WE HELP IN TIMES OF DISASTER



Food distribution



Mental health services



Housing and homelessness support



Financial wellbeing services



Your donation

Your kind donation will help us support the Queensland community as they cope with the loss and grief triggered by natural disaster. It will help rebuild lives and livelihoods when everything is gone.



\$58

can provide emergency food and essential items for a disaster affected family



\$100

can supply a fresh set of clothing to a family who've left home with no belongings



\$340

can re-equip a home with furniture when all contents are lost



\$5,000

can pay a family's rent while they rebuild a home destroyed by disaster

S19MAD

STEP 1

I would like to donate

\$58 \$100 \$340 \$5,000 My Choice \$ _____

STEP 2

Please debit my credit card

Visa MasterCard Amex Diners

□□□□-□□□□-□□□□-□□□□

Expiry Date □□-□□

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

or, I would like to donate online: vinnies.org.au/donate

Please send me information to help me consider including Vinnies in my Will

or, I would like to donate over the phone: 13 18 12

I have already remembered Vinnies in my Will

STEP 3

My contact details

Title _____ First name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Email address _____ Phone _____

Please send me information about how I can remember the St Vincent de Paul Society QLD in my Will.

St Vincent de Paul Society QLD collects the personal information you provide to us for the primary purpose of marketing and associated communications in respect of our charitable objectives and fundraising activities, and, unless you opt out or unsubscribe, may contact you in the future via any medium. We may not be able to provide you with relevant information and updates without this information. We may share your personal information with our technology service providers, including overseas. For more information about how we collect and handle personal information, please refer to our Privacy Policy at www.vinnies.org.au/privacypolicyqld.

Please tick here if you do NOT want to receive future communications from St Vincent de Paul Society QLD.

To help reach more generous supporters like yourself, occasionally we may disclose your personal information to other like-minded organisations who may contact you, including some organisations located outside of Australia. Those organisations allow us to do the same and this way we can reach more people with vital information.

Please tick here if you do NOT want to receive communications from other organisations.

Thank you