



St Vincent de Paul Society

CANBERRA/GOULBURN

good works

St Vinnies @ St Johns KIPPAX MARCH 2014

St VINNIES 2014 DOORKNOCK

Thank you to the 87 volunteers who knocked on doors in 94 areas around the parish. We covered 58% of our collection areas, which is down on previous years.

The good news is that the doorknockers collected almost \$15,000 which will help greatly in our support for those in our local community who struggle to make ends meet, are lonely or are suffering from physical or mental illness. On their behalf, we thank you.

Thanks to those who helped with counting and refreshments as well.

Finally, a big thank you to Colin Fox for his very efficient coordination of the Doorknock. A job well done, again!

Donations are always gratefully accepted in the Poor Box, just inside the church on the back wall or via the Vinnies website.

THANK YOU

2013 Christmas Appeal well beyond expectations

Our 2013 Christmas Appeal in the Parish raised over \$5,700. Of this \$1850 was used to purchase Woollies gift cards which were included with the Christmas hampers for families in our local area. The rest will support the Conference work over the coming year.

With the help of several parishioners we packed and delivered 68 hampers. Many people helped with the wrapping of gifts as well. Twenty hampers were for the families of PNG nationals studying for higher degrees in Canberra. We helped 48 local families enjoy Christmas with good food and some fantastic gifts for their children. The total value of your food and gift donations amounted to \$3600, shared among 254 people comprising 111 adults and 143 children. The staff and students from St John the Apostle Primary School and St Francis Xavier College donated food and gifts as well. Thank you so much for your generous support for needy families in our community at Christmas. Peter Niesi, President of the PNG Canberra Students Association wrote to us to thank the parish for the hampers. He wrote:

The joy and enthusiasm with which the children received the hampers and the smiles on the faces of the parents was great to behold during delivery day. It certainly helped to ease away homesickness about being away from Papua New Guinea and extended family members. Organisations like yours brighten our world!

St John's Conference contacts

Michael Blyth
President
62540368

Gabrielle Culkane
Secretary
62543012

Ted Kildea
Treasurer
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The St Vincent de Paul 2013 Congress

In response to the very successful Congress held in October last year our Conference at Kippax has agreed to embrace the strategy *to make a difference*. This is what we plan to do:

- We want to give a **'hand up', not a 'hand out'**. We recognise that this is best achieved through building relationships of change with those we assist, by encouraging independence, and seeing Christ in others.
- We know that in order to make a difference we **need to understand the changing and differing needs of the poor**. We will involve those we assist in shaping and providing the support and services we have available. We will monitor, measure and evaluate what we do and improve where necessary.
- We also know that in order to make a difference we **must build our capability and skills, and partner with others**

In relation to the capacity building strategy we will plan to implement the following actions:

- We want to **share skills and knowledge within the Society** so we feel more connected, informed and supported in our service.
- We want to **partner with other service providers in our local region** so we can make better referrals and work together to tackle problems and create opportunities.

To accomplish our aims we can always do with more volunteers. There are many different areas where help is needed and welcomed.

Report to the Parish and Information Night

If you would like to learn more about the work of St Vinnies in the parish then please come along to the Parish Centre on Monday 7 April at 7:30pm. Members of the Conference will report on our activities over the past year including an overview of home visitations, the Christmas appeal and Christmas hampers, and the recent Doorknock. We will also talk about our plans for 2014, including how we will implement our response to the 2013 St Vincent de Paul Congress. We welcome feedback and suggestions from parishioners to ensure that we are effective in our work to alleviate poverty within our local community.

This will be an opportunity to learn about what we do, who we help and the benefits of our work. We look forward to seeing you there.

You can learn more about St Vinnies at our website:

<http://www.vinnies.org.au/home-act>

If you need help from St Vinnies

Please call: 6282 2722 Monday to Friday

Meeting dates in March and April

17 March

31 March

14 April

28 April

7:30 pm, Vinnies Room, at the back of the Parish Centre