



SUMMER 2017

Fighting Chance

Eighty-five percent of young adults with a profound disability in Australia experience life-long unemployment, and have just one-tenth the opportunity for social participation compared to the average Australian. As a community we can and should do better.

That is why the Sisters of Charity Foundation recently decided to provide a significant longer-term grant to an innovative and compassionate disability service called Fighting Chance. Fighting Chance tackles the issues of endemic economic and social isolation facing young people with disability in Australia through two inspired commercial activities, Avenue and Jigsaw.

Avenue is a social enterprise which imports and sells ethically made homeware products to the Australian consumer through e-commerce, community markets and wholesale. Avenue is unique in the disability sector as the only 'community participation program' for people with severe and profound disability offering vocational activities, where participants earn money through a profit mechanism.

Jigsaw is focused on creating jobs and pathways into mainstream employment for people with moderate and mild disability. It is successfully training participants to be job ready in a business that offers digitisation and document management services to corporate and government customers designed to streamline workflows, improve productivity and assist businesses in going paperless.

We believe the service model created by Fighting Chance recognises and encourages the intrinsic worth of every individual. By encouraging people living with disability to participate in the economic life of the community they are breaking down the barriers of social isolation, building self-esteem and affording dignity to an extremely vulnerable group of people that have historically not been well catered for by traditional models of service.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation recently granted the funds necessary for the employment of an intake case worker for a three-year period to give Fighting Chance the resources needed to grow the number of locations where Avenue and Jigsaw are able to offer their services.

We have also created a dedicated fundraising site where you can directly contribute to our campaign to help Fighting Chance offer more people living with disability the chance to participate in meaningful work opportunities. You can make a donation by going to:

<https://enablr.org.au/campaign/Fighting-Chance>



Chairman's Message



We are very pleased to be able to announce a significant expansion of The Sisters of Charity Tertiary Scholarship Program which will enable us to offer financial assistance to those young people who would like to undertake further education but do not feel that studying at university is the best fit for them.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation has recently negotiated the roll-out of our successful scholarship program to TAFE which is set to commence in 2018. To begin with we will offer scholarships at the Sydney Institute of TAFE (NSW) and The Gordon Institute of TAFE (VIC) covering both a metropolitan and regional centre.

The expansion from a university focused program to one that encompasses the vocational education sector will enable us to reach out to more young people who want to turn their lives around through education.

Our scholarship program gives preference to young people who have lived in some form of out-of-home care. Sadly, there are increasing numbers of children and young people who are removed from their birth parents through no fault of their own and this traumatic start in life can severely compromise their educational outcomes. In fact, less than 3% of young people who have lived in out-of-home care go onto any form of higher education. This compares with the community average of 41%. This participation rate is unacceptably low but our scholarship program has demonstrated that with the right support young people can build a bright future for themselves and make a valuable contribution to the communities in which they live and work.

Although our scholarship program has only been going for a short while, we have already celebrated the graduation of three of our students and watched them go onto become lawyers and a nurse. There are currently twelve scholarship recipients studying at six universities across Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. But we understand not everybody is suited to university or can commit the years it takes to attain a degree level qualification.

We remain committed to our university scholarships and will continue to build that part of our program but we are excited to be able to offer assistance to those seeking to become job ready through vocational education.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the National TAFE Directors Foundation for partnering with us on this exciting initiative and providing their guidance and expertise to ensure we can target our program to where assistance is most needed.

Indeed, as the year draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters and service delivery partners for their generous gifts and the collaboration that has enabled the Sisters of Charity Foundation to bring relief and hope to the lives of so many who are disadvantaged through poverty and social isolation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Mary Reemst as a Director of the Foundation. Mary joined the Board in October and as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Macquarie Bank she brings with her an abundance of expertise. Furthermore, she has a deep personal commitment to the Sisters of Charity of Australia and a commitment to be of practical service to the poor and underserved.

The new year brings with it exciting new opportunities for the Foundation. In particular, we are now looking at an opportunity to affect long term social change, by pledging our support to the expansion of innovative and compassionate vocational and mainstream work opportunities for people with disabilities. We remain committed to our existing programs but always welcome the opportunity to do more for those who need a helping hand.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to make positive change where it is needed most.

Richard Haddock AM

Restoring Hope, Building Dignity

Asylum Seekers Housing Project - Berala Property

To celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Sisters of Charity Congregation in Australia, the Foundation established the Asylum Seekers Housing Project to provide emergency and transitional housing to those asylum seekers at risk of homelessness. Since 2014, the Foundation, in partnership with the Asylum Seekers Centre of NSW has provided good quality safe housing and support services to some of the most traumatised and vulnerable people in our community.

And thanks to a recent, very generous gift from the Sisters of Charity Congregation the Foundation will be able to build on the assistance we offer those escaping persecution and violence in their homelands.

The Sisters of Charity Congregation generously gifted the Foundation a six-bedroom house located in Berala (NSW) which had become surplus to their requirements. The gift was made with the intended purpose of better enabling the Foundation to meet the need for emergency accommodation for asylum seekers at risk of homelessness.

We would like to extend our most sincere thanks to the Sisters of Charity of Australia, not only for their generosity, but for entrusting the Foundation with the responsibility of ensuring the Foundation carries on their mission in perpetuity.

The SoCF thanked the Congregation for the gift of the Berala property in the presence of our Patron, General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of NSW.



Back: Srs Gaye Reynolds, Cate O'Brien, Maureen Heffernan, Margaret Valentine, Anthea Groves Angela Burke, Suzette Clark & Pauline Nicholson. **Middle:** Srs Maria Wheeler, Clare Nolan & Annette Cunliffe. **Front:** Srs Margaret Guy, Pauline Staunton, Colleen Noonan, Margaret Fitzgerald, Genevieve Walsh & Deirdre Hickey. **Seated:** Mrs Hurley, Sr St Jude Doyle, His Excellency David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of NSW.

Bequest Program

The Sisters of Charity Foundation invites you to consider making a gift that will be dedicated to enabling those plagued by disadvantage to build a brighter future for themselves and those they love.

If you would like more information about the Sisters of Charity Foundation Bequest Program please contact Reba Meagher or Judy Christie on 02 9367 1211.

Sisters of Charity Foundation Community Grants Program

School Uniforms for Dignity (SA)

Second Chances is the only organisation in South Australia that works with the children of prisoners to provide early intervention crime prevention. Children are the silent victims when a parent goes to prison. These children often struggle at school, are bullied, experience shame, feel socially isolated and live in debilitating poverty. Second Chances work with families through their Family Care team and the volunteer leaders are often quite distressed when they see first-hand how little these children have and the poor state of their clothing. With the help of a grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation, Second Chances will provide school uniforms and shoes for up to 300 children across Adelaide. The aim of providing uniforms and shoes is to give kids a good start in life by keeping them in school for as long as possible and enable kids to participate in school sports without feeling embarrassed or ashamed.



Feeding the Homeless (NSW)

Marli Accommodation Services was started in 2015 with the mandate to house, feed, educate and employ homeless people in the Maitland area of NSW. A grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation will go towards the final stages of setting up a coffee lounge called Darcy's Place and offer healthy meals to those people Marli is assisting with transitional housing in accommodation nearby. The coffee lounge will also offer employment to those who have been unemployed for a long time and classes will be run to teach people how to prepare nutritious meals on a low-budget. For many, the high cost of rental accommodation leaves very little for food and other essentials. This service will offer vital accommodation, nutritious food and a chance to get life back on track.



A Better Life for Foster Kids (VIC)

Sadly, there are too many children and young people that cannot live at home safely and are removed from their birth parents to live with foster carers. It is not well known that 85% of children and young people leave their birth families with nothing more than the clothes they are wearing at the time. At that point they are totally dependent upon the kindness of their foster carers and charities for the essentials that we so often take for granted. With the support of the Sisters of Charity Foundation, A Better Life for Foster Kids will offer clothing, shoes, personal hygiene products, bedding and other essentials. It will also help kids access sporting, dancing and music groups which enable them to make friendships outside their normal circle and show them that abuse and neglect is not the norm. Every week in Victoria, there are approximately 12 children removed from their families through no fault of their own and sadly, that figure increases each year. A Better Life for Foster Kids is an important initiative that aims to help young people in small but important ways to ease the pain.



Hoofbeats (QLD)

The I Give a Buck Foundation supports young people at risk through equine assisted therapy. Interestingly, horses have developed complex communication skills to enable them to survive in a herd. They are finely tuned to even the most subtle changes in body language and emotions and respond best to people who are calm, controlled and display reassuring behaviours. These qualities make them well suited as therapy animals. Guided interaction with horses teaches young people how to be present in the moment and attentive to how the horse is responding; an activity closely aligned with mindfulness meditation. As children work through the program they develop self confidence and self-esteem and importantly they learn the importance of self-regulation of behaviour and emotion. The program is supported by the Queensland Police Service, local schools and other youth agencies. A grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation is being used to build program capacity so that up to 200 young people can benefit from this beneficial therapy offered in a non-clinical setting.



Christmas Card Design Competition



The students from Mary Aikenhead Schools in Queensland and Victoria created some wonderful designs for the 2017 Christmas Card Design Competition. The designs reflected a positive Christmas message and gave consideration to the history and charism of the Sisters of Charity. The winning design will be the official 2017 Christmas greeting of the Sisters of Charity Foundation.

First prize was awarded to Kemrose Dalam a Year 7 student at Catholic Ladies' College.

Our judges selected two runners-up, Emma Dyson a Year 9 student from Mt St Michael's College and Jacqui Doherty a Year 7 student from Catholic Ladies' College.

Donation

The Sisters of Charity Foundation means the world of difference to people who, through no fault of their own, live with the harsh effects of poverty on a daily basis. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Please visit our WEB site at www.sistersofcharityfoundation.com.au to donate online or complete this form and send to **Sisters of Charity Foundation, PO Box 2432 Bondi Junction NSW 1355**

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Title First Name Surname
Street Address Suburb State
Post Code Country
Phone number () E-mail

Payment Details

Please accept my Single Monthly Quarterly tax deductible donation of: \$

My cheque/money order is enclosed payable to Sisters of Charity Foundation or please debit the amount I've indicated from my:

VISA MasterCard AMEX Expiry Date / Cardholder Name
Signature Card No.

I authorise the Sisters of Charity Foundation to deduct this amount from my credit card on receipt of this form. If monthly or quarterly pledge has been ticked please deduct this amount from my credit card accordingly. This authority will remain valid until revoked in writing by me or the Sisters of Charity Foundation.

Workplace Giving

I would like to make a regular donation Pre-Tax from my salary of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$_____ every week/fortnight/month


I authorise the Payroll Department at my work place to deduct the above amount and deposit to:

Sisters of Charity Foundation Limited ATF Sisters of Charity Foundation BSB 032 040 Account 12 63 76

Please give this to your payroll officer.

Send me information about leaving a bequest to the Sisters of Charity Foundation.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Thank you.

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