



WINTER 2016



The Sisters of Charity Foundation is Helping Homeless Asylum Seekers

After significant renovation and fire safety upgrade works the Sisters of Charity Foundation's Providence House is providing a safe haven to asylum seekers who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Providence House is a block of four two bedroom units in Petersham conveniently located near shops and transport. It is managed by the Asylum Seekers Centre who provide intensive individual support to people seeking refuge in Australia.

Providence House is currently offering priority placement to women and families who are unable to find safe and affordable accommodation. They have been offered help because they do not have any support networks in Australia, are not allowed to work and are not eligible for financial and welfare support from the government.

The women living in Providence House at present have all suffered serious assaults in their home countries as part of the persecution they faced. They are currently accessing intensive healthcare services to treat the physical and mental health problems caused by the abuse they endured.

But there is good news. The support made possible by the partnership between the Sisters of Charity Foundation and the Asylum Seekers Centre is making a lasting difference. For example, one family living in Providence House is from Eastern Europe. Their teenage son has recently been accepted into a local high school and is receiving intensive English language support.

And another woman who has lived in Providence House for the past two months now feels secure enough in her situation to be able to start looking for paid work. This may take some time, but it means she is starting the journey towards independence.

Every year thousands of asylum seekers seek refuge in Australia. The vast majority arrive on aeroplanes. Most arrive with nothing, know no-one and are deeply traumatised by the circumstances of their displacement. They are some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people living in the community.

Providence House will make a real and lasting difference to the lives of many people over the coming years.

Celebrating the commencement of a new Sisters of Charity Foundation Tertiary Scholarship at The Australian Catholic University

“I have lived with my Nan since I was about three so I have been in Foster Care since then. I am a proud Aboriginal/Wiradjuri woman from Griffith (NSW). I am the eldest child of five siblings. I went to boarding school at St Scholastica’s College to study for years eleven and twelve. I successfully completed my HSC there and received a special award at my graduation acknowledging my dedication to my studies throughout senior school. Whilst attending boarding school I realised I wanted to break the cycle of generational issues which young Aboriginal people face within my community, such as struggling with drugs and alcohol, domestic violence and juvenile crimes.

I am the first in my extended family to complete the HSC. My younger sister is currently completing her HSC. My dream is to be a nurse and hopefully specialise in paediatrics.

I believe this scholarship will make a significant difference not only to my life but also that of my siblings. It will allow me and hopefully them to fulfil their aspirations. I know my younger siblings look up to me. I hope my success at university will continue to encourage and inspire them to follow their dreams.

This opportunity is not just for me but also for my family and my community – paving a new path for us all to follow and better ourselves.”

Terri Carberry 2016



The Sisters of Charity Foundation Tertiary Scholarship Program continues to grow and we recently celebrated the commencement of a new scholarship at The Australian Catholic University. Ms Terri Carberry was formally presented with the scholarship by Sisters of Charity Foundation CEO, the Hon. Reba Meagher at a reception held at the university in May.

Our scholarship program is unique because it is offered to young people who have lived in foster care or some other out-of-home care arrangement. Research shows that less than 3% of young people who have lived in out-of-home care go onto higher education compared to around 40% of other young people in their early twenties. This participation rate is unacceptably low and we are committed to giving young people like Terri a better start in life.

Our scholarship program is made possible because of the generous gifts of our donors. Their generosity will enable twelve deserving young people like Terri to change their lives through education. We are currently offering scholarships at Deakin University, The University of Notre Dame, Sydney, Macquarie University, The University of Sydney, The University of Queensland, Western Sydney University and The University of New South Wales.

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.

Community Grant Programs

Manna School Winter Uniform Program (WA)

Needy children across 44 schools in Perth will now receive winter uniform packs (school tracksuit and waterproof parka) thanks to a grant that the Sisters of Charity Foundation have awarded to Manna's School Winter Uniform Program. These often developmentally vulnerable children from poor and unstable homes would otherwise go to school in wet, dirty or inappropriate uniforms. Now, they will go to school warm and dry.

Having a clean, warm school uniform improves a child's self-esteem, their school attendance record, behaviour and class participation. It also reduces the rate of illness in the winter months and ensures they feel a part of the school community. Many schools have a set uniform policy and disadvantaged children suffer if their family cannot afford to buy the appropriate uniform. In many instances these children are ostracised by their peers and other parents for looking different, especially if they turn up to school in street clothes.



Community Life Batemans Bay: Hope for the Homeless (NSW)

There is a critical shortage of assisted living accommodation for marginalised and homeless men in the Batemans Bay area. But a grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation will enable the local Community Life Batemans Bay Inc. to establish medium term accommodation for thirteen men in immediate need of assistance. Community Life Batemans Bay will provide a drug and alcohol free house and will offer coordinated programs and direct support to help these men become active, contributing and fulfilled members of the community. The aim is to prepare these men to move into their own rental accommodation after a period of three to six months, obtain employment and restore their family relationships.

Deadlee Maardars Association: Indigenous Transport Program (QLD)

A \$10,000 grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation will be used by the Deadlee Maardars Association toward the purchase of a community bus to provide urgently needed transport enabling local people to meet their educational, medical, social and cultural commitments.

The bus will assist indigenous people living in the Redcliffe/Deception Bay area where the cost of public transport is high. In fact, public transport fares on Queensland's transport operator, Translink are now reportedly the dearest in Australia which has led some families to opt not to send their children to school on a regular basis.

The provision of an indigenous transport service for local indigenous people will assist some of the most disadvantaged people living in the Moreton Bay area to access important appointments and increase attendance of children at school.

The Deadlee Maardars Association has been operating since 2008 and in that time the organisation has achieved a strong membership of volunteers that have effectively developed and delivered services to provide relief and support to socially isolated and disadvantaged communities in the Moreton Bay area.

Nebuliser Assistance Scheme (ACT)

Nebulisers are a key piece of medical equipment that are required in the day to day care of cystic fibrosis patients but they are not subsidised by Medicare or any other government department or organisation. The equipment is essential for supporting the daily treatment plans of patients but the cost is prohibitive for many sufferers.

However, a grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation to the Cystic Fibrosis Association of the ACT Inc. will mean nebulisers and replacement parts can be distributed to twelve individuals with cystic fibrosis relieving the cost burden on individuals and their families and increasing the rate of adherence to patient treatment plans. The Cystic Fibrosis Association of the ACT is a predominantly volunteer organisation that receives no government funding and relies on donations to provide support and advice to people living with cystic fibrosis patients and their families.



Footscape Inc: Shoes for the Needy (VIC)

Footscape is an organisation run by volunteers who collect second hand shoes and distribute them to the homeless and asylum seekers. When the project began, the volunteers would wash the shoes in their own washing machines to ensure they were clean before being distributed to those in need. But as the program grew it became obvious that a dedicated washing machine was needed to launder the shoes.

A grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation enabled Footscape to purchase a washing machine which means podiatrists now have a steady supply of clean, second hand shoes ready for distribution to homeless clients.



Your donation makes a huge difference to the lives of those who need a helping hand

The Kogarah Store House distributes food parcels and emergency utility vouchers to people in the St George area who are doing it tough. Over 2,000 people each year reach out for help and according to Lala Noronha, the Manager of the Store House, those numbers are increasing. The rising cost of rents and general costs of living are putting people under enormous pressure and some just can't make ends meet. The elderly, unemployed, single mothers and those with mental health issues are at risk of falling behind with their essential bills and sometimes there just isn't enough money left to buy food. But the good news is the Store House is able to provide relief.



Lala Noronha, Manager of Kogarah Store House, Robert Cahill, Sisters of Charity Foundation Supporter & Sr Jean Marie Brennan rsc.



Kogarah Store House volunteers preparing lunch.

Recently, representatives of the Sisters of Charity Foundation and our generous donor, Robert Cahill visited the Kogarah Store House to see firsthand how food is collected and packaged for distribution. We also met and listened to the workers and volunteers who give so generously of their time to make the food parcels for collection and provide a hot nutritious lunch for those people who might otherwise be forced to go without.

With your support we are able to fund programs that restore hope and build dignity in those who need a helping hand.

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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