

@vinnieswgtm

VINNIES NEWS



DEC 2018

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Conscious Acts of Kindness

Wallace Chapman, of Radio NZ, interviewed Hannah Rodgers on Sunday 2nd December about sending love to the lonely this Christmas. Hannah explained that around this time last year she was driving to the shops with her 5 year old son Jayden and she asked him what he was going to do to be kind that day. His response was that he did not have any money to be kind.

Shocked by this response Hannah immediately resolved that together they would institute 100 days of kindness - each day they would identify and implement a conscious act of kindness. On day 65 Jayden suggested that they write a Christmas card to someone who was lonely. Hannah rang

a local aged care facility only to be told that around 50% of residents received no recognition over Christmas. That led Hannah to organise a campaign called "*Sending Love*". This resulted in the community nationwide writing 35,000 Christmas cards containing individual messages of love and concern to those people on their own for Christmas or who didn't receive anything during the festive season. This year the aim is to reach out to 100,000 people who are alone.

As Vincentians we too make conscious efforts to reach out personally to the lonely and dispossessed not only at Christmas but also throughout the year.

We could expand that outreach by putting some love into some Christmas cards ourselves and

putting them in drop boxes scattered around Wellington as identified on Hannah's web site: sendinglove.co.nz

In addition, we can be inspired and challenged by Hannah's example of identifying and implementing a conscious act of kindness each day leading up to the birth of Christ on

Christmas day and so establish for ourselves a pattern of behaviour for the New Year.

With every blessing for Christmas and on your journey of kindness in the New Year.

John Kennedy-Good
SVDP Wellington Area
Council President



Vinnies Food Bank Appeal



On Saturday 10 November, Vinnies Conferences ran two Food Bank Appeals. Hosted at Pak n Save Kilbirnie and Countdown Johnsonville, over 100 boxes of donated food and toiletries were collected for the Vinnies Food Banks.

We are grateful for the Wellington public who continue to keep our food banks stocked with their generous donations and the support of both Pak N Save and Countdown in hosting these bi-annual appeals.

Thank you to the many Conference members who gave their time to organise and run this final collection for 2018.



Wellington College Food Bank Relay



Year 10, Wellington College students, were set free for a day to partake in volunteer activities throughout the region. With the support of Volunteer Wellington, Vinnies and the Salvation Army joined forces with 16 students in the first-ever Food Bank relay. Students tag-teamed their way

through the Wellington CBD and Newtown area, dropping in to local businesses to pick up donations of food. Ending the day with a tour of both welfare offices, the students left with a new understanding and appreciation for what food banks provide to Wellington communities.



From top left to bottom right:

- > Caroline O'Reilly, *Vinnies Re Sew Coordinator* and Kim Sheehan, *Community Social Worker* at the Wellington City Social Forum.
- > Hilary Staples and friends at the Mental Health Awareness Day in Newtown.
- > Final Festival mass of 2018 held at the Newtown Welfare Office.
- > Young Adult Conference members.
- > Vinnies community after the Feast Day of Saint Vincet de Paul mass hosted by the Seatoun/ Miramar Conference.
- > James Ring, *City Conference member* being interviewed for the latest Vinnies promotion video.

Better Off Together – A Pop-Up Success



On November 17, in line with Pope Francis' call to promote the Second World Day of the Poor, Vinnies chapters in the wider Wellington region held free stores, providing thousands of items of clothes free of charge to those in need. The stores were the largest of the Archdiocese's efforts, with others including 150 fruitcakes sent to Kaikoura, the Soup Kitchen organising full days of meals paid forward, and Challenge2000 holding a workshop and reflection.

For Vinnies, however, the focus on free stores came after the successful event in August, where 14 out of the 15 bales of clothing up for grabs were distributed. This time around, 48 bales were gathered from the retail stock or donated towards the cause, leaving the team in Newtown with an immense task of organising the clothes, games, books and linen, and laying it all out for the shoppers. The key to success here was the huge number of volunteers and assistance from different organisations, which split both the workload and cost of running the day's events. An estimated 457 volunteer hours were put in, and the list of supporting businesses and groups is too long to name in full. Thanks especially go out to the groups who donated food, which became another key aspect of the day – as key organiser Millie noted, the free lunch gave people more of a reason to stick around and chat with others, solidifying the "Better Off Together" community-based theme for the day.

Other feedback from volunteers highlighted the gratitude shown towards Vinnies, with many attendees astonished that everything, even the food, was free to those who needed it. The music for the day, led by a local busker, added to the joy-filled nature of the event, and the sheer amount of clothes laid out gave people opportunities to look for items they wouldn't usually go for when money is limited. All up, around 70% of the clothes (34 bales) were distributed to 902 customers. The food was equally popular, with 360 portions of banana cake, 300 sausages, 216 tacos and 120 portions of nachos consumed, alongside sushi, Christmas cake, and scones.

The Newtown event was clearly a huge success and was matched by events in other chapters in the Wellington region, including over 300 customers at the Porirua free store and similar success in Wainuiomata and the Hutt Valley. With careful planning led by Millie and over 100 volunteers throughout the week, the free store format is being cemented as a great way to connect the community and distribute stock that otherwise might be thrown out, proving that "Better Off Together" is the way forward for Vinnies in Wellington.

Guest writer
Oliver Bailey

Vinnies Re Sew

“Thank you to our volunteers who have given their time to support the many Re Sew projects throughout 2018. Congratulations to our participants who have joined us to learn to sew and build their skill sets and confidence. It’s been a pleasure to work and learn from you all.”

- Caroline O’Reilly, Textile Recycling Coordinator and Sewing Tutor

Suffrage in Stitches

A collaborate project between Vinnies Re Sew and the community. Recreating the suffrage petition through fabric, stories and conversations.

With the help of 546 individual New Zealand makers and a lot of recycled textiles, Vinnies Re Sew is creating an extraordinary textile work reflecting the physical size of the original suffrage petition and celebrating it through stitching the lives of the woman petitioners of 1893 and beyond.

The final work will be exhibited at the Wellington Museum in 2019.

Want to find out more or be involved? Contact: Caroline O’Reilly at resew@vinnieswgtm.org.nz



A Merry Vinnies Christmas

The Newtown Welfare Office has transformed into a bright and festive toy shop over the month of December.

A Merry Vinnies Christmas is offering a shopping style experience to parents and families looking for assistance over the holiday period. This means giving people the dignity, ownership and choice over what they receive from us.

In the first week, we have seen 37 families come through the door, picking and wrapping gifts for 109 children.

What’s on top with Vinnies Re Sew

Arts Access Aotearoa Auction

Vinnies Re Sew donated an up-cycled jean quilt and matching pillows made from recycled velvet curtains from the Dowse Museum. All items sold with the money going towards supporting accessible art projects for people with disabilities.



Caroline O’Reilly and volunteers at the Wellington Makers Faire.

Participant Success

We are delighted to share that one of our participants who was paired with a volunteer who also happened to be a local NZ fashion designer has now secured a place at NZ Fashion Tech in Auckland.

Community Placements

Two MCLaSS students have recently finished their work experience with us. Their English language developed tremendously over their two-week placement. We look forward to more students joining us.

Community Outreach

We continue to hold a weekly outreach workshop at the Housing New Zealand, Dixon Street flats.



Welfare & Services Newtown Welfare Office

Our welfare support staff and volunteers are committed to helping the community, no matter how big or small the need may be.

From January 1 - December 1 2018, we have provided:

915 individuals and families supported from the Newtown Welfare office - 453 being children.

\$27,725 worth of food given out from the Food Bank.

\$21,392 worth of furniture and clothing given out as welfare support from Vinnies op shops.

\$14,203 worth of baby parcels given out through Pregnancy Assistance.

These services are responsive and compassionate, provided without judgement or discrimination.

Nikau Foundation

We are delighted to share that we are successful applicants of a \$5000 Nikau Foundation grant- Kevin & Julia O'Connor Endowment Fund.

This grant is to help pay for interpreter fees. Kim Sheehan, Vinnies Community Social Worker accesses interpreters to help with communication between many of our welfare clients.

"Being able to access interpreters is invaluable to my work as a community social worker – it enables me to communicate more effectively with clients who struggle with English. The clients that I work with are typically marginalised members of our community, who often have complex issues. In order to provide the best support, they benefit from having their

Sustainable Business Awards



Vinnies Wellington and the efforts of Vinnies Re Sew were recognised alongside some of New Zealand's top businesses and social enterprises for their sustainable achievements.

This is a testament to the work of Vinnies Re Sew and the dedication the Re Sew community, led by Caroline O'Reilly has put into our mission over the past year.

Vinnies were finalists in the Going Circular category alongside other change-making companies like Flight Plastics, Ethique, Ricoh, Fuji Xerox, Goodfor and many more.

Congratulations to all winners and finalist of the NZI Sustainable Business Network Awards 2018.



NIKAU FOUNDATION

needs, strengths and situation clearly understood. A thorough social work assessment is dependent on this communication."

- **Kim Sheehan**, Community Social Worker

On Thursday 6 December, we celebrated our amazing Vinnies whānau and the work that has been achieved this year.

As a majority volunteer-based organisation, we rely on the generosity of everyday people giving their time to support the greater mission of Vinnies Wellington- which is to simply help people.

Thank you to our Vincentians of 2018!

“Here’s to the everyday heroes,
The volunteers who do what they can,
To ease the suffering of others,
And be a service to their fellow man.

May they know the true satisfaction
That comes from helping others
Less fortunate than themselves,
But no less their sisters and brothers.

May they feel the gratitude in our hearts
For all of the good that they’ve done.
The appreciation that we all feel for them
Is truly second to none”

Thank you to Mornington Golf Club for donating the use of their facilities and to Ngareta Mason (Altar Bread Supervisor) for cooking the delicious lunch spread.

Thank you Vincentians



Holiday Opening Hours



Newtown Welfare Office

CLOSED: Monday 24 December

OPEN: Monday 7 January 2019

Vinnies Re Sew

CLOSED: Monday 24 December

OPEN: Monday 7 January 2019

Vinnies Op Shops

All Vinnies Op Shops will open for normal business hours apart from the below dates:

CLOSED: Christmas Day- Tuesday 25 December

CLOSED: Boxing Day- Wednesday 26 December

CLOSED: New Year’s Day- Tuesday 1 January

CLOSED: Day after New Year’s Day- Wednesday 2 January

Vincentians Recognised

Three long serving and beloved Vincentians of the Seatoun & Miramar Conference in Wellington were honoured at a Festival Mass in December 2018. John Woods, Brian Ward, and Jack Dobbs have given many years and untiring effort to a great many people in need in the Eastern Suburbs of Wellington. John and Brian have been Vincentians since the early 1970s, and Jack since around 1980.

John Woods, a past Conference President, continues as an active member visiting elder clients every week around the region especially in retirement homes, participating in all appeals, and attends every Conference meeting. Jack Dobbs too has not lost his Vincentian calling, and has continued as an associate member since retiring from active service a handful of years ago. He visits a few long-standing clients, delivers Communion to the sick, and is a Eucharistic Minister. Brian Ward retired six years ago after spells as Conference President, Secretary and Treasurer, played an influential role in the continuity and success of the Conference, and continued as an associate member.



Tribute was paid by Brendan Quirk, the current Conference President, before a framed recognition certificate signed by the National President Marlena Hoeft-Marwick and a brass cross engraved with symbols of the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy, both blessed by Father Dennis Nacorda, were presented by the Area President John Kennedy-Good. As Brian was unable to attend the Festival Mass the presentation was made to him at his retirement home.

Christmas Giving in the Eastern Suburbs



St. Vincent de Paul Society Seatoun & Miramar Conference says a big thank you to Holy Trinity Parish parishioners, to pupils, parents and staff of Holy Cross and St Anthony's schools and St Patrick's College Young Vinnies, Vinnies Foodbank, New World Miramar and Repco Lyall Bay, and Vinnies members. Your response to our appeal for groceries, treats and presents for our Christmas boxes delivered to those in most need, was overwhelming. Thanks again to New World Miramar who were extremely generous by donating vouchers for a range of groceries,



toiletries and produce to place in the boxes.

On Friday 14 December 2018, the Seatoun and Miramar members and friends of St. Vincent de Paul Society put together the boxes and hampers and delivered them to over 60 households for 230 people most in need of this extra help at this time of year. Thank you to the sorters, drivers and their helpers who delivered all these boxes. Each and every person was a cog in the wheel of this act of kindness in the Holy Christmas spirit to our neighbours."

Thank You to our Supporters

We would not be able to make such a big impact on families and individuals throughout Wellington without the support from our wider community. Each contribution, no matter the size, helps us to make a lasting difference. Every supporter becomes part of our family, and we are truly stronger together.

Nikau Foundation
Kiwi Community Assistance
Samaritans
Berhampore Community Centre
Treehouse
Mercer
Wellington City Mission
Salvation Army South
Newtown Festival
Columbus Coffee Newtown
Iki Sushi Catering
Paul Eagle
Councillor Brian Dawson
Councillor Fleur Fitzsimons
Volunteer Wellington
Kaibosh
ReBicycle
Caritas
Archdiocese of Wellington
Knights of Malta
NZ Police
Wellington City Council
Mahony Burrowes Horner Lawyers
NZ Defence Force
St Patrick's College Kilbirnie
St Mary's College
St Catherine's College
NZ Biosecurity
Susans Earrings
Island Bay Kindergarten
Volunteer Wellington
Stratus Financial Service
Wellington High School
Deputy Mayor Jill Day
Pak n Save Kilbirnie

Countdown Johnsonville
Morningside Golf Club
Countdown Newtown
Vocus Communications
St Thomas Church
Te Papa Staff
Levana, Levin
Sustainability Trust
Curtain Bank
Nancy Stitch Studio
Wellington Sewing Centre
Maid on Marion
Holland Road Yarn
Barbara Sullivan
Sophie Voon
Wellington Museum Staff
The Formary
Barbara Wheeler
Mary Potter Hospice
Red Cross Wellington
MCLaSS
Department of Corrections
Aranui Vocational Centre
NZ Fashion Tech
MIX
Citizen Advice
Capital E
Sustainable Business Network
Phil & Teds
Earthwise
Pregnancy Help
Ladies Auxiliary
Welfare Support Club donors
Skylight Trust
Intercontinental Hotel

Yes, I would like to make a donation to support Wellington's most vulnerable.

Please post this form to PO Box 7319, Newtown, Wellington 6242

Please tick an amount you wish to donate:

- \$10** provides fresh veges for a single person.
 \$25 provides a warm winter coat.
 \$70 provides one hour of interpreting.
 \$150 provides a queen bed.
 \$200 provides a skip and help to de-clutter a hoarding household.

I wish to donate my own amount \$.....

I wish to make a regular donation \$.....

Name:.....

Address:.....

Donations of \$5.00 and over qualify for a tax credit.

Method of payment:

- Cheque** **Credit card** **Direct debit**

Name on card:.....

Expiry date:.....

Signature:.....

Please make cheques payable to:

St Vincent de Paul Society Wellington Area Council

Direct debit can be made to:

Name of Account – St Vincent de Paul Society Wellington
Bank – BNZ

Account Number – 02-0576-0017817-00