



**THIS WINTER,
GIVE PEOPLE IN NEED
ANOTHER CHOICE.**

Winter Appeal Schools Kit



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works



CONTENTS

Vinnies Winter Appeal	2
A classroom activity	3
How your school can help.....	4
Share your good works	5
Winter Appeal posters.....	6 & 7
Student activity sheet.....	8
Contact us	9

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Help us give people in need another choice this winter, by taking part in the Vinnies Winter Appeal.

The Vinnies Winter Appeal takes place from May to August each year, and raises awareness of pressing issues such as homelessness, cost of living pressures and energy affordability. It also helps to raise much-needed funds and material goods to support people experiencing hardship locally.

It is recommended this appeal runs in Term 2 as a whole school activity. A poster and donation box will be posted to your school in the coming weeks to help promote the appeal.

Please contact your local Vinnies Conference or team member (contact details on the last page) to help you get started and for information about the delivery or processing of donations.

WHY HELP IS NEEDED THIS WINTER

A CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

SEE

Ask the group what they would do in a normal day (in order from morning to evening) and write these up on the left half of a whiteboard or butcher's paper.

The list could include activities they would do from when they wake up in the morning (wake up in their own room at 7.30am, choose their breakfast) to when they go to bed at night (put pyjamas on, pick a book to read).

Discuss the resources you may need for each of these activities (e.g. you need running water in order to take a shower; you need a laptop to do your homework) and write these next to the list of activities.

THINK

Switch focus and ask the group to consider the different types of homelessness people may experience. Though the media often depicts people experiencing homelessness sleeping on the street or in tents, this only accounts for 6% of people experiencing homelessness. The majority are staying:

- In overcrowded dwellings - 39%
- In supported accommodation for the homeless - 20%
- With other households - 17%
- With boarding houses 17%

To explore the effects of experiencing homelessness in these ways, select a category to aide the following reflection activity.

With your category in mind, go through the list of daily activities with the group and discuss whether they would still be able to do those activities in the same way, and what resources you might no longer be available to them. For example, if they imagine they are living with another household, such as their aunty and uncle, they may be sharing a room with a lot of other people and wake up much earlier than normal, they may be able to have breakfast and watch tv, though they might not have a choice of what they eat and what they watch. Discuss how losing these choices would make them feel?

You can ask students the following questions to generate discussion:

- Have you ever thought about these little choices you make every day? How would it feel to lose these choices?
- How would it feel to be living like this for a week? How would it feel to be living this like this for nearly a year?

DO

Check the next page to see what actions your school can take to help people in need this winter.

HOW YOUR SCHOOL CAN HELP

There are many ways your school can get involved and help to raise funds, material goods, or increase awareness in your school community. Your school can choose to support the Vinnies Winter Appeal in a way that works for you, depending on the time available, the amount of students interest, and the support from your community.

When deciding how your school is able to contribute, just remember to keep in mind the needs of your local community, to make sure your contribution can have the biggest impact. If you need tips on what help is most needed in your community, get in touch with your local Vinnies contact.

SOME IDEAS TO GET YOUR SCHOOL INVOLVED:

- Run a blanket or clothing drive, or collect items for food hampers or toiletries packs for a local shelter.
- Set up pop-up shops during winter to raise much needed funds for people experiencing homelessness.
- Place Winter Appeal posters and donation boxes around your school.
- Run a hot chocolate stall to raise funds.
- Knit a blanket as a team, that can be auctioned or donated.
- Have a student present to the school assembly about the additional needs of people experiencing homelessness during the cold winter months.
- Host a Vinnies School Sleepout which allows students and school communities to get a glimpse of the realities of homelessness on a personal level by 'sleeping rough' for one night. The Sleepout encourages students and teachers to gain a deeper understanding of homelessness, raise awareness of the realities faced by people experiencing homelessness and raise funds to support Vinnies homelessness services and early intervention in the local community. [Download a step-by-step information kit here.](#)
- Write an article for a local newspaper about the efforts your school is making the support the Vinnies Winter Appeal.

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED!

Your local Conference members are helping people every week, so they know what the needs of your local community are. They also help distribute the donations from your school, so it's important to check in with them to see how you can best help this winter. If you don't have a point of contact for your local Conference, get in touch with your local Vinnies team member (contact details on the back page of this kit).



FINANCIAL DONATIONS

One of the most valuable ways to show your support and contribute towards real and positive change is by fundraising for Vinnies. For us, it's a simple equation. More than 5,000 people turn to Vinnies for help every single day, the more funds raised on our behalf means the more people we can help.

\$50 will buy blankets for warmth.

\$80 will buy food for a week.

\$200 will help pay a utility bill.

SHARE YOUR GOOD WORKS!

It's always a great idea to share what you're doing with your school community to get more support and raise awareness. Some ways you can share your efforts with your school community include: school newsletter; school website or social media; school assemblies; and putting posters around the school (included in this kit).

Use this kit as inspiration for your speech, newsletter clipping or announcement!

A woman with long brown hair tied back, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, is holding a young child with curly brown hair. The child is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt with white stars and a crescent moon. They are standing outdoors at night, with streetlights visible in the background. The woman has a concerned expression, and the child looks directly at the camera.

SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO CHOOSE

BETWEEN SLEEPING IN A CAR, OR SLEEPING ON THE STREET.

Jenny is one of three million Australians facing tough choices because of poverty. You can give families like Jenny's another choice.

GET INVOLVED THROUGH YOUR SCHOOL.

For more information visit vinnies.org.au



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works



**THIS WINTER, OUR SCHOOL IS HELPING
THE VINNIES WINTER APPEAL BY...**

**For more information,
the best contact in your school is:**



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

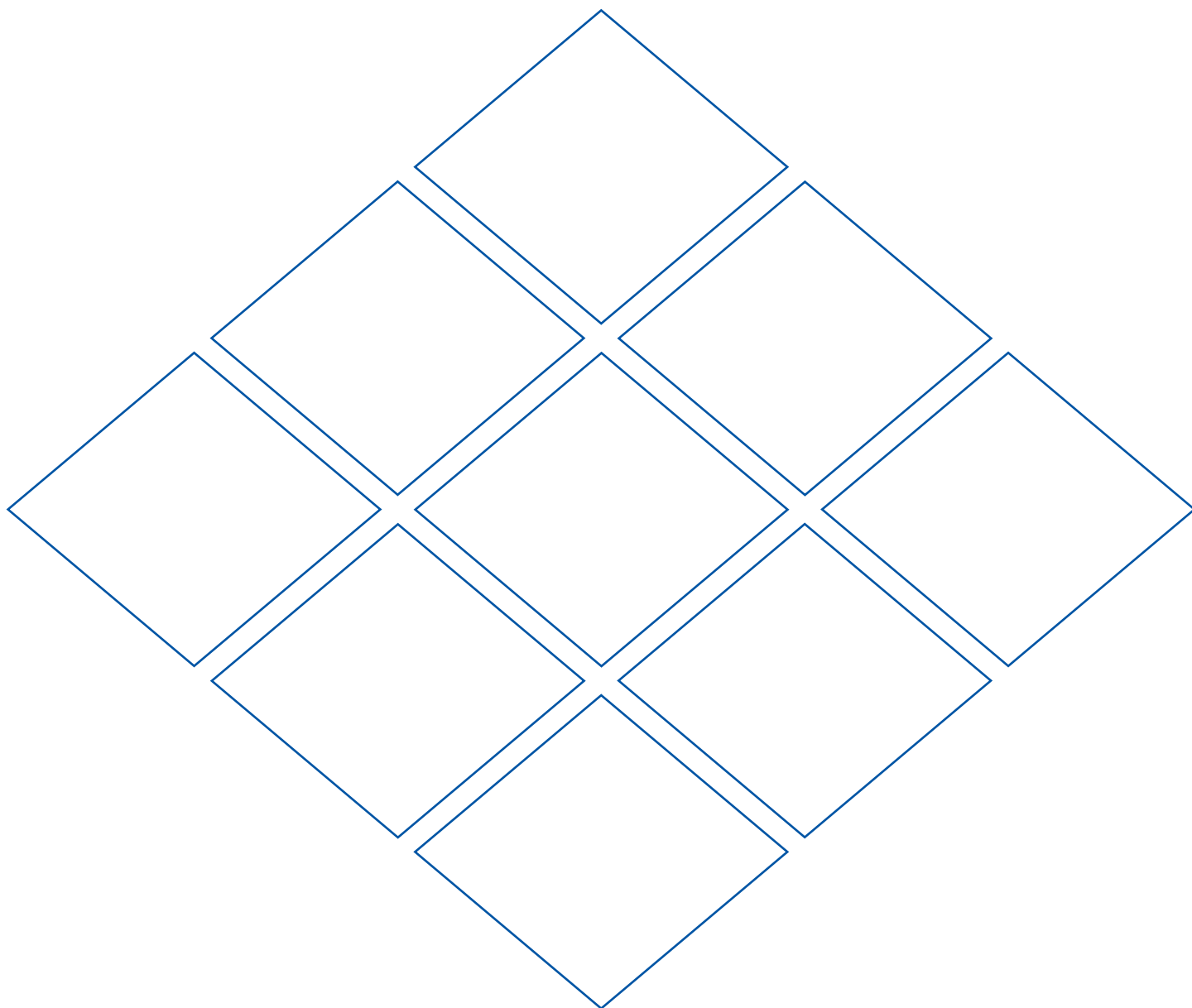
CHOOSING WHAT NEED IS MORE IMPORTANT

A QUICK ACTIVITY

This activity helps to identify and reflect on the difficult choices people experiencing homelessness are faced with on a daily basis.

Consider the needs of someone experiencing homelessness: shelter, safety, food, warmth, friendship, etc. Arrange these needs in order from the most important (in the top diamond) to least important (in the bottom box).

During this activity, you will realise how difficult it is to put one need ahead of another, which are the sorts of difficult decisions people experiencing homelessness are forced to face in real life.



More Resources

Check out the Vinnies Schools and Youth microsite for more resources, activity ideas and inspiration:

<https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au>

Contact us

If you have any questions, please contact your local Vinnies team:

Armidale | 0433 810 423
Bathurst | 02 6362 2565
Broken Bay | 02 9495 8306
Lismore | 02 5612 1365
Maitland Newcastle | 02 4032 3560
Parramatta | 02 8861 9741
Sydney | 0408 622 294
Wagga Wagga | 02 6923 1909
Wilcannia Forbes | 02 6862 5758
Wollongong | 02 4627 9013

www.vinnies.org.au



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works