

October, 2020

Metropolitan Schools and Youth

Newsletter

Term 4, October 2020

Welcome to the Vinnies Schools and Youth Newsletter for Term 4

Welcome to the Vinnies Schools and Youth Newsletter for Term 4. We would like to thank you for the ongoing support of Vinnies and pray that you have been re-energised as we approach the Christmas season despite the ongoing challenges of COVID. Please reach out to your Vinnies Schools or Youth Engagement Officer if we can be of any assistance:

Christina Gilio (Schools - Sydney Region)

0477 440 567 ✉ christina.gilio@vinnies.org.au
Book a Meeting/Presentation: <https://bit.ly/ChristinaGilioVinnies>

Chantelle Smit (Schools - Broken Bay and North Sydney Region)

0429 333 055 ✉ chantelle.smit@vinnies.org.au
Book a Meeting/Presentation: <https://bit.ly/ChantelleSmitVinnies>

Roydon Ng (Schools - Parramatta and Western Sydney Region)

0487 001 186 ✉ roydon.ng@vinnies.org.au
Book a Meeting/Presentation: <https://bit.ly/RoydonNgVinnies>

Kate Conroy (Metro Youth Engagement Officer)

0478 180 235 ✉ kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au

Mary Musolino (Metro Manager, Schools and Youth Engagement)

0408 622 294 ✉ mary.musolino@vinnies.org.au

Christmas Appeal 2020

Australian families have been doing it tough in 2020 especially with Coronavirus, increased unemployment and new ways of living. This year, it is expected that there will be far more families calling on Vinnies for support around the festive season than ever before.

A key virtue that inspires Vincentians and the work that we do is 'Hope'. In our work with people in need, we are often called upon to be holders of hope for them because they come to us at times of great need when it can be hard to see the road ahead. Our gift to them is not only the resources that we can provide, but our care for them and the relationships that we build with them.

In a year of ongoing uncertainty, we are aspiring – now more than ever – to serve with hope. We are aspiring to reintroduce hopefulness, belief and light in the lives of Australians who call on us during their darkest times.

Please help us to help people in need this Christmas. More information can be found in the '2020 Vinnies Christmas Appeal' launch email recently sent to you by your Schools Engagement Officer.



Important Announcements

- 1 Christmas Appeal
- 2 Supporting Beirut
- 3 Virtual Community Sleepout

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[Click](#) to see our Metro Schools & Youth Christmas Appeal Launch Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eA9iQZQUqcQ>

Mini Vinnies Formation Program Poem about Vinnies

*I'm on the floor
crying, begging,
All I want to do is eat.
I wait, wait for a
blessing,
But everyday I'm on
the floor, my days
just repeat.*

*I need help, I'm
starving,
But finally, finally I'm
saved
I chuck my old life
out of the window,
I've started,
I'm so happy, I'm
amazed.*

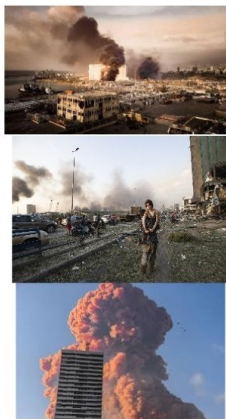
*These people have
helped me,
They gave me a hand
up.
They made me feel
safe and secure
Thank you, Vinnies,
I am SAVED.*

- By Elizabeth Nwosu (Year 6, St Patrick's, Blacktown, as a submission for the Mini Vinnies Formation Program)

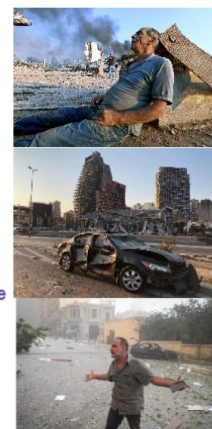
Supporting Beirut



Supporting Beirut



The Vice President of St Vincent de Paul Society for the Middle East and Africa Ella Salhab BITAR has informed us that they are in most urgent need of the following items: **baby nappies (large sizes), baby formula, long life milk, long life cheese, rice and pasta.** General household items such as pots, pans and cutlery along with woolen blankets are also very much appreciated.



Please do not hesitate to contact us for more information and if you would like to be involved in Supporting Beirut & Lebanon through the St Vincent de Paul Society:

- Liberty Plains & Liverpool Regional President: Arthur Doumit
Arthur.Doumit@vinnies.org.au
- St Vincent de Paul Society Manager Youth & Schools Engagement – Metropolitan: Mary Musolino
Mary.Musolino@vinnies.org.au
- Liberty Plains Regional Office: (02) 9643 7794

Virtual Community Sleepout



BE PART OF THE FIRST EVER VIRTUAL NSW VINNIES COMMUNITY SLEEPOUT

On **Friday 23 October**, participants across NSW will sleep out at home in their cars, backyards or couches and unite in a state-wide effort to help those in our local communities who are doing it tough. [Click here](#) to find your event location and connect with fellow sleepers across the state via the event's live stream on the night. Register as a team with your family, sports club or business or join as an individual. Together, we can make a difference in your patch of NSW.

To join or donate now visit www.vinnies.org.au/communitysleepout



Mini Vinnies Formation Program

Thank you to the students in our school communities who have started the Mini Vinnies Formation Program (launched in July 2020). We would like to once again ask schools and parishes to promote this student program to the wider school community.

For more information about the Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP), please see the MVFP Registration Information at <https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFP>. Parents/guardians of students can register their child for the MVFP at <https://bit.ly/MVFPRegistration>

Enquiries about the Mini Vinnies Formation Program can be sent to formationprogram@vinnies.org.au

We are working on the Teen Vinnies Formation Program for high school students with an anticipated launch in Term 1, 2021



Social Housing Petition

For the last 12 months, members of the St Vincent de Paul Society, NSW, have been campaigning hard for the Government to invest in more social housing. With the NSW Budget due to be delivered in November, we now have an invaluable opportunity to ask for and secure the much-needed additional investment in social housing that we need for the 100,000 people on the social housing waiting list and 37,000 people currently homeless in NSW.

Can you help us by collecting as many signatures as you can from people at your workplace or household with whom you are already in contact? We need 2,800 more signatures...

Watch [Jacinta, our Vinnies NSW Youth Social Justice Representative, YouTube Video \(1:21\)](#) explaining the details...

To help, [please click here to download and print the petition](#). Completed petition sheets need to be mailed to the Social Justice Team, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, PO Box 5, Petersham 2049 by 22nd October.

Volunteering with CSOs

Some of our Vinnies Community Support Officers are looking for people with a sense of social justice to provide services to support people to achieve stability in their lives through empowerment and self-determination. It's an excellent way to be introduced to the core work of the St Vincent de Paul Society and to meet the people we assist.

You need to be **over 18yrs**; welcoming and friendly; have good communication skills; basic literacy and writing skills; willing to develop new skills; basic knowledge of office procedures; able to communicate with people with a diverse range of issues; and are reliable and committed to the role. You must abide by a strict sense of confidentiality, be able to work well with staff and Members and be willing to follow directives, including abiding by all COVID-19 policies and procedures.

Tasks include greeting clients; general reception and phone skill duties; booking appointments; data entry; and other ad-hoc administrative duties. Days, hours and frequency of volunteering is flexible and dependent on location. For more information, please contact the Vinnies Community Support Coordinator at the location you are interested in volunteering at;

Liverpool / Mt Prichard - Tricia Fogarty
Tricia.Fogarty@vinnies.org.au 98233921

Redfern - David Roche
David.Roche@vinnies.org.au 9690 5614

Auburn - Georgette Francis
Georgette.Francis@vinnies.org.au 9643 7794

If you cannot get to one of these locations but are interested in helping, get in touch with Kate Conroy and we can see if there is a location near you needing volunteers (there usually always is!)

Other Announcements

Mini Vinnies & Teen Vinnies Gatherings Cancelled

The Mini Vinnies Gathering and Teen Vinnies Gathering have had to be cancelled due to COVID. We are aiming to resume these events in 2021.

Bookings for Presentations

The Metro Schools Team are also now taking bookings for presentations and meetings online. See the respective Schools Engagement Officer's booking form URL on Page 1 for more information.

Important Dates

Anti-Poverty Week
Sunday 11 - Saturday 17
October

[More information](#)

NAIDOC Week
8 - 15 November
[Click for information](#)

Vinnies Metro Youth

Vinnies Metro Youth consists of a diverse group of passionate and fun young people, giving their time and talents to help those in the local community. We have volunteers who participate in our youth programs such as Buddies Days, we have members who meet regularly with their Vinnies Young Adult Conference, and we have volunteers who serve on our leadership teams, there is something for everyone!

We'd like to introduce you to one of our wonderful Metro Youth Volunteers - Jacinta McGrath. Jacinta has been part of Vinnies Youth since 2017 where she began as a volunteer on Buddies Days and Kids Camps. Jacinta has since become involved in Sydney Vinnies Van Services; she is an executive Member of the Sydney Uni Young Vinnies Conference and was recently elected to join the Vinnies State Youth Team as the Vinnies NSW Youth Social Justice Representative. On top of all that, Jacinta is currently studying a Bachelor of Applied Science in Occupational Therapy at Sydney University. Jacinta is particularly passionate about youth; both the youth supported by Vinnies, and engaging youth in becoming involved in the works of Vinnies. Of her involvement with she says, "I love the community both between volunteers and between volunteers and clients - whatever the event or gathering in the name of Vinnies, it is such a warm and welcoming affair." If you haven't already, you can see Jacinta in action, calling for you to take part in our Vinnies Social Housing Petition.



Vinnies Youth Conference Connect

Over the past few months, Vinnies Metro Youth (volunteers aged 18-35 years) have responded to the changing needs of those we support, and the work done by Vinnies Conferences, by participating in the Vinnies Youth Conference Connect Project. Vinnies youth volunteers have been matched with Vinnies Conferences to be involved with their Conference work by being a youth volunteer 'Helping Hand or 'Listening Ear'. The Helping Hands Volunteers have been helping to pack hampers and drop off food vouchers. The Listening Ear Volunteers have been working with Conferences to make social phone calls to people to help address the loneliness and uncertainty that these times bring. Vinnies Metro Youth were excited about this great opportunity to bring our younger

volunteers together with experienced Members, with the potential to lead to ongoing and deeper relationships with our Conferences. If you're aged between 18-35 years and would like to know more about the Conference Connect Project or Vinnies Metro Youth, please contact Kate Conroy.



Vinnies Metro Youth Christmas Gathering

To all our incredible youth volunteers and members... watch this space! As with most things this year, our 2020 Christmas Social Gathering will look a bit different, but don't fear as we are working on an extra special and fun experience. If you'd like to be involved in the planning and preparation, get in touch with Kate or your Youth Conference President.

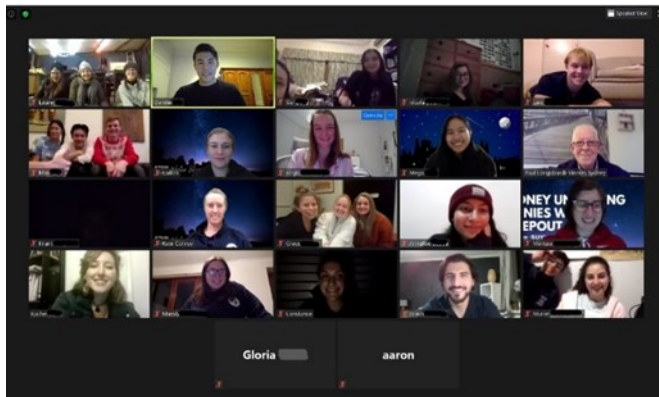
Special Thanks!!

Donation Acknowledgements

University NSW Young Adult Conference: raised funds during their Winter Appeals Week to purchase much needed goods for the Vinnies Marian Centre, that will be given to families, women and children who have experienced domestic/family violence and/or homelessness.



Sydney Univeristy Young Adult Conference – raised \$6,400 at their virtual Winter Sleepout while having a fun evening together, with guest speakers, a movie and sleeping rough on their couch or backyards.



COVID Winter Sleepout @ Home – online fundraiser

Thank you to primary schools in Sydney for raising over \$70,000 for the COVID Winter Appeal!!

