

NUNS ON THE RUN...

... pound the pavement
 in the **City2Surf 2012**

More than 40 volunteers joined our Nuns on the Run City2Surf team and braved the cold and windy weather to walk the 14km from Martin Place to Bondi Beach to raise money for Gorman House.

Nuns on the Run raised over \$18,000 to help Gorman House keep its doors open seven days a week, 365 days a year. Gorman House provides vital drug and alcohol detoxification services to over 1,500 people a year, some of whom are amongst the most marginalised members of our community. In fact, more than half the people helped by Gorman House are homeless.

Many thanks to Sr Leone Wittmack, for leading the team and to Tony Stokes of C3 Careers who sponsored our team by supplying the outrageously loud orange team T shirts. Special thanks also to all of our team members and donors.



Community Grants Program

The Sisters of Charity Foundation has embraced the opportunity to support some wonderful programs making a real difference to peoples' lives. Here are just a few that we financially assisted in 2012:

Riding for the Disabled in the Manning Great Lakes area of NSW

A team of volunteers assist disabled children to enjoy the fun of horse riding, a sport we normally associate with able bodied people. Horse riding builds confidence and allows disabled young people to enjoy a sense of freedom and independence not often experienced in their everyday lives.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation provides necessary funding for the upkeep of the horses which are selected and trained to ensure these very special young people get the benefits of this unique kind of therapy.

SUMMER 2012

Just because it has not been done before is no reason why it should not be done now...Mary Aikenhead

Chairman's Message



Over the past six months the Sisters of Charity Foundation has been very active in fulfilling its mission to provide practical assistance to the poor and disadvantaged.

Central to our mission is the Community Grants Program where we provide vital funding to life-changing programs that assist the needy. In this newsletter you will see a small number of the programs we have financially supported. It is the tip of the iceberg. In fact, this year we funded 45 programs around the country, each doing something wonderful to assist the needy and ease the burden of poverty.

However, we are also mindful there is great unmet need in the community, which continues to drive our efforts to find better ways to communicate with our friends and supporters and invite them to join with us to offer a helping hand for those who are doing it tough.

To support that goal the Foundation has been developing a new communications strategy which we will be launching in November in the presence of Her Excellency, Prof. Marie Bashir AC, our Patron. We are honoured to have the Governor as our Patron and are grateful for her untiring support of our mission, which is no doubt born of her love for the Sisters of Charity and the remarkable contribution they have made to our community in areas of social justice, education and health.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in our work and your support over the year. We aim to inspire your confidence in our approach by ensuring we have the highest standards of accountability within our organisation. We also seek to demonstrate your generosity is respected and valued, by ensuring your donation goes to the people it was meant to help.

On behalf of the Sisters of Charity Foundation Directors and staff I would like to wish you and your loved ones a joyous and peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

We look forward to continuing to work with you in 2013 to bring relief and hope where it is most needed.

Richard Haddock AM
Chairman

Community Grants Program

Prison Fellowship Australia

The experience of having a parent sent to prison can be very traumatic for a child. The trauma of separation is often compounded by the absence of good role models in a child's life.

Thankfully, the South Australian branch of Prison Fellowship Australia has designed a program called Camps for Kids which targets the primary school age children of prisoners.

Specially trained youth leaders engage children in many fun and challenging activities as a means of communicating important values such as respect, honesty, manners, team work and trust.

Financial support provided by the Sisters of Charity Foundation will enable children aged between eight and eleven to experience activities such as rock climbing, canoeing, archery, trampolining and BMX riding.

For some it will be their first ever 'holiday' and for all of the children involved it will be a positive learning experience.



The Maslow's Need to Feed Program

Homeless people, and those on the verge of homelessness, struggle with life's basic necessities. That's why the Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service has established a drop in centre. It provides a safe space where people can go and receive compassionate assistance and advice.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation provides important financial support to the Maslow's Need to Feed Program run at the Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service. Our support means that people in real need can be given basic, practical provisions such as tuna, bread and pasta sauce.

UnitingCare Casino Transport Team

Transport to and from essential medical appointments can be expensive and difficult if public transport isn't readily available. However, the people in the Casino and surrounding areas have benefited from the much needed UnitingCare Transport Team services.

Since 1999 UnitingCare have been offering free transport to those in need and the elderly, many of whom would otherwise become isolated and housebound.

With the financial support of the Sisters of Charity Foundation people on low incomes in and around Casino can now be readily transported to Lismore or the Gold Coast for specialist medical treatment.

The Sisters of Charity Bequest Program

Asking people to consider their end of life arrangements is never easy or comfortable and it's something most of us prefer not to think about. In fact, nearly 1 in 2 Australians do not have a valid Will in place, which often makes it difficult for those close to them to honour their wishes.

However, experience has shown us that people often choose to give something to an organisation they respect, or has helped them over the course of their life, after they have made arrangements for loved ones and those nearest to them.

For the first time, the Sisters of Charity Foundation will be inviting our donors and friends to consider making a gift that will be dedicated to enable 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.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation Scholarship (Aikenhead) Program

The Sisters of Charity Foundation Tertiary Scholarship program continues to go from strength to strength.

Since the beginning of 2012 the Foundation has offered university scholarships to disadvantaged young people who have lived in out-of-home care.

Sadly, only around 2.8% of young people who have lived in out-of-home care will go onto university compared to around 40.4% of young people in their early twenties.

Our scholarship program is working towards turning this around. We have already created five scholarships at Australian Catholic University and The University of Notre Dame, Australia. We will build on this result in 2013 with scholarships to commence at The University of Sydney, The University of Queensland and negotiations for the establishment of a scholarship are also underway with The University of Melbourne.

Here's what one of our scholarship recipients told us recently:

"I would like to thank and show my appreciation to every single person who has made this opportunity possible for me, I will forever be grateful and you can be assured I do not take this privilege lightly. I think about all of you and all of the people who would thrive as well, if given the same chance, and that is what gives me the courage and strength to push through especially in the difficult times."

Education gives people the skills required to build a better, more fulfilling life for themselves and their loved ones. The Sisters of Charity Foundation is committed to creating more life changing opportunities for disadvantaged young people in the coming year.

Governor's Visit

Our Patron, Her Excellency Prof. Marie Bashir AC, Governor of NSW has kindly agreed to attend an afternoon tea we are hosting on Friday 30 November, 2012.

The Governor is a great friend of the Sisters of Charity and we are delighted to have the opportunity to share with her an update on the social justice works our Foundation undertakes on behalf of the Sisters.

For more information contact us on 02 9367 1211.



Mary Aikenhead students get behind the inaugural Sisters of Charity Foundation Christmas Card Design Competition

We received quite a number of entries to our inaugural Christmas Card Design Competition from students attending the Mary Aikenhead Schools in Queensland and Victoria. Students were asked to create an original design that reflected a positive Christmas message and gave consideration to the history and charism of the Sisters of Charity. The design had to be suited to both printed and email distribution and suitable for use by the Sisters of Charity Foundation as its official Christmas greeting.

Our judges had a really difficult time trying to decide a winner because the overall standard was excellent.



First prize, an Apple iPad 2 was awarded to Kasia Silva, a year 8 student at Catholic Ladies College, Melbourne. Congratulations Kasia!

Our judges selected two runners-up, Erin McGowan, a year 12 student at Mt St Michael's College, Brisbane and Holly Volkmer, a year 8 student at the Catholic Ladies College, Melbourne. Both of our runners-up will receive an Apple iPod Touch.

Donation with a Difference

In order to be able to fulfil our mission of providing practical assistance to the poor and marginalised we rely, not only on the funding provided by the Sisters of Charity, but also on the gifts of our generous donors and benefactors.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation would like to offer a very warm thankyou to Robert Cahill who recently made a generous gift to the Foundation.

For his recent birthday celebrations, Robert asked his friends to make a donation to the Foundation in lieu of a birthday gift which he then matched dollar for dollar.

"Robert tells us he wanted to mark the occasion by providing opportunity for others, rather than receive birthday gifts better directed to others".

100% of this generous gift has been dedicated to the life-changing programs, supported by the Sisters of Charity Foundation, that alleviate the effects of poverty and isolation.

If you would like information on how to make a donation go to:
www.sistersofcharityfoundation.com.au

Donation

Your donation to 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, Level 7, 35 Grafton Street, Bondi Junction NSW 2022

MY DETAILS

Title Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other _____
Please circle First name Surname

Address _____
Suburb State Postcode

Phone () _____ Email _____

Please accept my single monthly or quarterly tax deductible donation of: \$ _____

My cheque/money order is enclosed payable to Sisters of Charity Foundation OR please debit the amount indicated from my Visa MasterCard

Cardholder Name _____

Card No. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Expiry Date | | | | / | | | |

Signature _____

or Bequests – please contact me in the strictest confidence

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.

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

Sisters of Charity Foundation, Level 7, 35 Grafton Street, Bondi Junction NSW 2022
T - (02) 9367 1211 F 9367 1213 | E - foundation@rscoffice.com | Web - www.sistersofcharityfoundation.com.au

