



The Sisters of Charity

FOUNDATION

Under the patronage of Her Excellency,
Professor Marie Bashir, AG Governor of New South Wales



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The Sisters of Charity Foundation is going through a period of exciting transformation which will enable us to extend the reach of our support to the poor and marginalised. In 2012 the Foundation will, for the first time, offer young women from disadvantaged backgrounds, the opportunity to take up tertiary scholarships at Australian Catholic University and the University of Notre Dame to study nursing. By investing in the education of motivated young women we hope to break the cycle of poverty that has dominated their early beginnings and give them the skills needed to make a valuable contribution to the broader community. The Sisters of Charity Foundation Tertiary Scholarship is an ambitious program that we are determined to grow and develop over time.

Whilst the Scholarships are an exciting step for the Foundation we are committed to expanding the reach of our community grant giving program. Since its inception 11 years ago the Sisters of Charity Foundation has been committed to providing funding support to small life changing programs that alleviate the effects of poverty and social isolation.

Over the years we have partnered with hundreds of small organisations that work at the coal face striving to make life a little kinder for those who need a helping hand. We have provided support to wide ranging programs that assist people living with disability, escaping domestic violence, leaving prison, coping with mental health issues and financial stress.

We are also committed to providing support to indigenous families and communities, refugees and asylum seekers. Indeed, our mission is to provide support to 'stop people falling through the cracks' and to be of practical service to the poor and under-served.

In recent times there have been some changes to key personnel. We recently welcomed two new members to the Board, Mr James Dominguez CBE AM and Ms Suzie Graham. Together they bring extensive financial management, communication and fundraising skills. I am confident that we will move into 2012 with a dedicated, skilled team that will drive the performance of our Foundation and enable us to extend the reach of our mission. We invite you to share our vision. By working together we can bring about beneficial change for those less fortunate who we are committed to serve.

On behalf of the Sisters of Charity Foundation, thank you for your help in making the future a little brighter for the poor, the marginalised and the disadvantaged.

Wishing you and yours a very peaceful Christmas and a prosperous 2012,

Richard Haddock,
Chairman.

DECEMBER 2011

The love of Christ impels us...Mary Aikenhead

Nuns Run for Scholarship



Sr Leone has agreed to lead the team again in 2012

The Sisters of Charity Foundation, this year, entered its first team in the annual City2Surf. In aid of a young woman from a disadvantaged background to study education, sixteen brave souls wore bright orange 'Nuns on the Run' shirts and tackled 'heartbreak hill' to reach a fundraising target of \$20,000 to pay for the tertiary scholarship.

A big thank you is sent out to all of our friends and supporters who made it possible to achieve this goal. The 'Nuns on the Run' were led by Sr Leone Wittmack and a special thanks also goes to Sr Helen Clarke, Sr Margaret Fitzgerald and Sr Margaret Guy who made the 14km race look easy! We also extend our thanks to Tony Stokes of C3 Careers for sponsoring the team t-shirts.

An iconic Sydney event, the City2Surf attracted over 85,000 entrants. The atmosphere is made all the more special by so many people doing their bit to raise money for charities that work so hard to make a difference.

We invite you to be part of our 2012 team— it's never too early to start your training!

Breaking Poverty with Education

Next year marks the beginning of the Sisters of Charity Foundation Scholarship Program. Tertiary scholarships will be offered to young women who have experienced a disadvantaged start in life. Young women who have recently left out of home care will be invited to apply to study for a bachelor of nursing or education. The scholarships will be offered at the Australian Catholic University and the University of Notre Dame. They will be fully funded for three years and include text books, uniforms and support for participation in community events.

The education of women is key to breaking the cycle of poverty and by investing in one life we can influence many.

The very first Sisters of Charity worked tirelessly to help the profoundly disadvantaged and socially marginalised women in the Female Factory at Parramatta and have made a tremendous contribution to the health, education and welfare of Australian women since 1838. This scholarship program honours that tradition and continues the mission of the Sisters of Charity.

Our vision is to expand the reach of the scholarship scheme to Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania where the Sisters are recognised for their contribution from the earliest days.

Help us realise this vision and consider a contribution to our Christmas appeal.

Shoes and Socks a Necessity for Little Feet

Little feet should be dry and warm in winter and protected from injury in the playground and on the sporting field. Unfortunately, for many children this is not a reality.

Throughout Australia, many young children go to school with bare feet or worn out shoes. Finding it difficult to concentrate in class their feet are wet, they have days off due to illness, they are reluctant to play sport and, sadly, they often don't fit in with peers because their poverty makes them different.

The Brighter Future 4 Kids Foundation is working to turn this situation around and the Sisters of Charity Foundation is proud to support their efforts.

Recently school kids across the Fraser Coast were pleasantly surprised when the Star Trek Express van rocked up to deliver box loads of Bata shoes and socks. After extensive consultation and six months of fundraising the Brighter Future 4 Kids Foundation was able to dispatch over 500 pairs of shoes and 1,500 pairs of socks to alleviate the disadvantage of students in places like Sandy Strait, Maryborough Central, Bauple, Tinana and Pialba.



Examples of the feedback teachers and chaplains have given include:

- "There is a very real sense of pride. For many of the children we gave our shoes to it was their very first ever pair of new shoes they have received. The care they take of them is quite humbling."
- "I have overheard some of the children telling others that 'my shoes are just as good as yours now!'"
- "We are very grateful for the shoes and socks – they are a big help to a school like ours which is in a very low socio economic area with very high unemployment. The children just love their new shoes and the confidence and pride as a result is amazing. We have told the children on our waiting list that didn't get shoes this time that we will try and get them shoes next time."

Schools are now talking to each other and news of this very practical program is spreading fast. The initiative has highlighted the great unmet need for shoes and socks in many communities. Thankfully the Brighter Future 4 Kids Foundation is determined to expand future reach of the program.

thankyou very much
for my awesome new
shoes. my feet are nice
and warm when I go
to school everyday.

from

Andy Room 3.

Dress for Success

The most important thing for a woman trying to get her life back on track, after time in prison or a refuge, is a job. Finding employment can be challenging for most people but it is virtually impossible if you don't own business attire, have never been shown how to groom yourself appropriately and have no idea how to prepare for an interview.

Dress for Success is a not-for-profit organisation that is working with women in the most practical of ways to help them get back on their feet. The aim is to help women work and thrive by providing professional business clothes, styling and presentation skills and, most importantly, a support network.

With headquarters in Marrickville travelling to the city can be hard for some women, particularly those with small children. That's why Dress for Success is developing plans for a bi-monthly mobile service to both Campbelltown and Newcastle. The Sisters of Charity Foundation is supporting this great initiative because helping women regain their dignity, self-esteem and confidence is fundamental to their ability to craft a better life for themselves and their children.

Asylum Seekers At the Heart of the Debate

Sadly, debate continues to rage regarding the processing of asylum seekers and how best to prevent people smugglers from taking advantage of people willing to risk death to start a better life. We must never forget that at the heart of this debate are some of the world's most vulnerable people.

Thankfully, the House of Welcome provides essential services to asylum seekers and refugees who are without any other support while they are being processed by the Australian Government. The Sisters of Charity Foundation is partnering with the House of Welcome to provide the Safe Place Project. This program was created to provide crisis and transitional housing for those who risk becoming homeless.

\$500 provides safe accommodation for an asylum seeker for 3 months.

The house supported by the Sisters of Charity Foundation is in Bonnyrigg, in south west Sydney, and provides a safe haven for women and their children. Over the course of the year the women in the house came from Indonesia, Nigeria, China and North Korea. All of the women were homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. The House of Welcome provides stability and a better future for these women and their children.

Books Bring Hope to Prison

The health and psychological welfare of those who end up in prison has been a priority of the Sisters of Charity since they arrived in Australia in 1838. Indeed, one of the original ministries of the Sisters was the pastoral care of the convicts at the Female Factory in Parramatta.

That's why the Sisters of Charity Foundation is a proud partner of Prison Fellowship Australia – Victoria for the provision of the Hope Book Club program.

The Hope Book Club is currently running at Port Phillip Prison and each week up to nine prisoners are participating in book reading groups.

Paul Moore, the volunteer who coordinates the book club says: "Many of these men have expressed significant shifts in attitudes. Some have said that these books are an eye-opening experience, others have spoken of living in denial of their crimes and are now taking ownership of their offences and the effects on those offended against."

"Forgiving themselves for past wrongs and then seeking the forgiveness of those they have hurt has been completely transforming for a couple of these men," says Paul.



Christmas Appeal

Your donation to our Christmas appeal 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.

Join us this Christmas in making the future a little brighter for the poor, the marginalised and the disadvantaged.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Please 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 _____
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First name Surname

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

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or Bequests – please contact me in the strictest confidence

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