

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 created eight scholarships at The University of Sydney, The University of Queensland, The University of Melbourne, The University of Notre Dame and The Australian Catholic University. Our scholarship recipients have chosen to study in a range of disciplines including degrees in Law, Nursing and Sport Sciences.

Here is a comment from Rene, one of our scholarship recipients (pictured above):

"Growing up in a disadvantaged home I have seen a lot of bad things happen. I intend studying a degree in law and plan on focusing on criminal law, I hope to be able to help children, asylum seekers and minority groups and those that need protection."

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.

Fighting Chance Australia- Creating meaningful employment opportunities for people with profound disabilities.

It is estimated that around 50% of people with a disability live below the poverty line in Australia making them isolated and lonely.

The good news is Fighting Chance Australia has developed an innovative program which creates business that gives genuine employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities who would otherwise be considered 'unemployable'.

A grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation has enabled Fighting Chance to create a retail business which offers employment opportunities, as well as learning and personal development opportunities, to people for whom employment in any other setting has long been dismissed.

Their inspiring vision is to create a world for people with physical disabilities, where each individual lives a life without limits.

In the lead up to Christmas, Fighting Chance intern Ashleigh Powell has been working hard on their 2013 festive card line. Ashley has taken a very creative and modern approach to her designs, which bring together her love of art with festive themes. If you need Christmas cards this year, get them from:

<http://avenuefairtrade.com.au/collections/home-decor/products/2013-christmas-cards>



SUMMER 2013

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

Chairman's Message



2014 marks the 175th anniversary of the Sisters of Charity in Australia. This provides an important opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the invaluable contribution the Sisters have made to our society. Their mission to alleviate the effects of poverty and isolation and to deliver quality education and healthcare services has been enduring.

It is also an opportunity to focus on the future and consider the role of the Sisters of Charity Foundation in ensuring the social justice mission of the Sisters is continued in perpetuity.

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that we are significantly increasing the amount of money we give to support life-changing community projects. The Sisters of Charity Foundation Community Grants Program began nearly thirteen years ago and since then we have distributed over five million dollars to worthy community organisations whose projects make a positive difference in peoples' lives. Being able to expand the impact and reach of this program is important to ensuring the Congregation's legacy is recognised and continued for many years to come.

I look forward to being able to update you over the next twelve months on other important initiatives being undertaken by the Foundation to coincide with the 175th celebrations that are currently in their early planning stages.

The composition of the Foundation's Board recently changed with the retirement of Catherine Briggs. Catherine was a valued Director for five years and her commitment, compassion and dedicated service were indispensable to the Foundation. Tom Boyce was appointed to the Board in June. Tom has had more than 25 years in the practise of commercial property law. We are grateful Tom has agreed to use his extensive experience and skills in furthering the mission of the Foundation. The working of the Foundation is underpinned by the commitment and dedication of our executive team CEO Reba Meagher and Project Officer Judy Christie. Their contribution to the Foundation and pursuit of the ideals of the Sisters of Charity are very much appreciated by the Board and the Sisters.

I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support and dedication that my fellow Directors of the Foundation provide. Their contribution is invaluable.

In closing I would like to thank you for your support over the past twelve months and wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.



Richard Haddock AM
Chairman

Community Grants Program

Since it began in the year 2000 the Sisters of Charity Foundation has given more than five million dollars to life-changing programs that alleviate the effects of poverty and social isolation. Here is a sample of some of the initiatives we supported last year:

Diocese of Broome – Family Support Worker

Helping Indigenous Families in the Kimberley



For the past three years the Sisters of Charity Foundation has funded a Family Support Worker to assist families living in remote locations like Fitzroy Crossing,

Derby, Mulan, Halls Creek and Broome to overcome some of the challenges they confront on a daily basis.

The help offered by the Family Support Worker ranges from practical support like the delivery of warm clothes, blankets and baby clothes to pastoral care, Liturgies and Sacramental preparation.

Importantly, the Family Support Worker helps families access support from government agencies and works with other services in the area to ensure there are strong supports in place for family assistance and child protection.

Golden Memories Karaoke - Making a Difference

Golden Memories Karaoke provides relief of the aged through interactive music to residents of aged care nursing homes through Victoria.

With a grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation they were able to develop a musical program of the songs of yesteryear via the format of a notebook. Lyrics are displayed in large font on a screen and accompanied by pleasing visuals. Invited guests and volunteers move around the room with wireless microphones



encouraging residents to sing along to the songs of their era.

It is important to note that this form of entertainment is beneficial to the dementia residents as

this is a stimulating interactive activity that directly involves their participation.

Reminiscence therapy is an important component of the care for these residents who are socially isolated because of this debilitating disease.

Household Disaster Relief Fund – Helping Women and Children Escape Domestic Violence

Since 2012 the Victorian Household Disaster Relief Fund has been helping women and children escape the trauma of domestic violence and set up a new home in a new suburb away from the source of their anguish.

With the support of the Sisters of Charity Foundation the Household Disaster Relief Fund helps the children of women escaping domestic violence to start at new schools with new uniforms and books and take their rightful place within the new community.

Support is also given in the form of fridges, washing machines, beds, car maintenance, child care fees and utilities.



Dress for Success

The Sisters of Charity Foundation provided a grant to Dress for Success to support their Dressing Program. The mission of Dress for Success is to promote the economic independence of women in need by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and life.

Much of our confidence stems from the way we look and whether it is appropriate to the situation. Dress for Success provides free clothing, styling, presentation skills and career support programs for women in need. These women are seeking to enter or return to the workforce or may simply need appropriate clothing for a special event such as a court appearance.

Here is what one client from Dress for Success had to say:

"I didn't know what to do; I didn't have one outfit to wear.

Dress for Success helped me and I felt I looked fabulous – I was walking high."



Message from our Patron

It is indeed a joyful consideration that very shortly we will have the opportunity to celebrate with the Sisters of Charity of Australia the anniversary of their arrival in Australia 175 years ago. We will remember the five courageous Irish Nuns that answered Mary Aikenhead's call to minister to the poor and under-served in the fledgling colony of New South Wales.



Together, we can say thank you for their compassion, foresight and determination which has led to the creation of some of our country's finest hospitals, schools and outreach services. This legacy has helped shape the health, education and social justice landscape of our Nation.

The 175 Year Anniversary is a significant occasion that enables us to reflect upon and celebrate past achievements, and importantly, it invites us to look to the future and ask "what is next?"

The Sisters of Charity Foundation is crucial to ensuring the social justice priorities of the Congregation are continued in perpetuity.

I have been honoured to be the Patron of the Foundation since its inception in 2000 and I have witnessed firsthand the invaluable contribution it is making to alleviate the effects of poverty and social isolation.

I am grateful to have had a long association with the Sisters of Charity of Australia, beginning as a resident medical doctor St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney and now as a friend and Patron to a number of services. I am deeply aware, of the Sisters determination to see that "the poor get for love what the rich have for money". This wonderful determination will drive the Sisters of Charity Foundation to deliver important social justice programs for a very long time to come.

Their loving dedication continues to be inspirational to us all.

*Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO
Governor of NSW*

Bequest Program

The Sisters of Charity Foundation invites you to consider making a gift that will be dedicated to enabling those plagued by disadvantaged 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.



Christmas Card Design Competition

The students from Mary Aikenhead Schools in Queensland and Victoria created some wonderful designs for this years Christmas Cards Design Competition. The designs reflected a positive Christmas message and gave consideration to the history and charism of the Sisters of Charity. The winning design will be the official 2013 Christmas greeting of the Sisters of Charity Foundation.

First prize was awarded to Amy Arabena-Byrnes a year 12 student at Mt St Michael's College, QLD.

Our judges selected two runners-up, Jasmine Theisz a year 7 student at Catholic Ladies College, VIC and Phillipa O'Bryan a year 12 student at Mt St Michael's College, QLD.

City2Surf 2013

NUNS ON THE RUN Team



The Nuns on the Run Team were once again pounding the pavements to raise funds for Gorman House, one of the many great services we support. Gorman House provides a safe and comfortable environment where people who are dependent on drugs or alcohol can work closely with staff to detoxify and conquer their addictions. Our 25 strong team enjoyed perfect weather for the 14 k walk.



Promotional DVD

For copies of our 2013 promotional DVDs please contact the Foundation office or alternatively use the links below.

Link to Scholarships Program 2013:

<http://youtu.be/FUu1ORmnCOA>

Link to Sisters of Charity Foundation 2013:

http://youtu.be/Blafeyy30_8

mg13df0170

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

