

Donations

If you would like to make a donation, please complete this coupon and return to us in the envelope provided or go to our website www.ccam.org.au and donate online. Thank you.

Yes, I would like to support CatholicCare's programs (please tick):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CATHOLICCARE'S OVERALL WORK | <input type="checkbox"/> ASYLUM SEEKER SUPPORT/ REFUGEE & SETTLEMENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADOPTIONS & PERMANENT CARE | <input type="checkbox"/> OUTPOSTED COUNSELLING GEELONG |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG FAMILY SERVICE | <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT & FAMILY COUNSELLING |

FIRST NAME

SURNAME

MR MRS MISS MS FAMILY FR SR DR (PLEASE CIRCLE)

ADDRESS

..... P/CODE

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MONEY ORDER | <input type="checkbox"/> CHEQUE | <input type="checkbox"/> CASH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VISA | <input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD | |

AMOUNT \$.....

CARD NUMBER

..... / / /

CARD HOLDER NAME

.....

EXPIRY DATE /

SIGNATURE

DATE / /

Please make your cheque payable to CatholicCare. Donations of \$2 and more are tax deductible.

Yes, I would like further information on (please tick):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BEQUESTS | <input type="checkbox"/> PLANNED GIVING (eg monthly) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I HAVE ALREADY INCLUDED CATHOLICCARE IN MY WILL | <input type="checkbox"/> VOLUNTEERING |

Please contact us if you would like a copy of CatholicCare's financial statements.



CatholicCare
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www.ccam.org.au

Glamour of the Gown Parade

CatholicCare, together with Friends of St Mary of the Cross, held a stunning Glamour of the Gown Parade on 1 September as a fundraiser for CatholicCare's Alcohol & Other Drug Family Service.

A collection of after five and special occasion gowns dating back to the 1940s were modelled at Box Hill Town Hall. Every era was represented - including the future - with creations from up and coming fashion designers from sponsor Kangan Institute.

Friends of St Mary of the Cross volunteers and event organisers Helen White and Joan Adamson led a team of volunteers who did a wonderful job putting the event together with support from Corporate Relations and Events Manager Angela Paterno-Smith.

Please contact CatholicCare's St Mary of the Cross Centre on 8417 1200 if you would like to arrange assistance for your family. If you would like to volunteer to be involved in CatholicCare's programs, fundraising or administration, contact Volunteer Coordinator Frank Tomasetig on 9287 5699 to discuss the wide range of opportunities.



"You Believed in Me"

CatholicCare's School Refusal Program has helped hundreds of children with phobia-like symptoms to school attendance to reconnect to educational opportunities and their peer group. Research strongly indicates that if left untreated, children with school refusal disorders are at risk of developing long term mental health illnesses such as obsessive compulsive disorder, social phobia and chronic depression.

It is tremendously difficult to attract funding to our program, despite excellent evaluations conducted both internally and by external evaluators. Without a reasonable standard of education, children's life opportunities are extremely limited indeed. We do hope we are able to continue to offer support to families like the family in the following story.

Cameron, Jodie and 14 year old William were referred by a local secondary college. They had recently moved from country Victoria because Cameron had been retrenched. They were struggling financially and the move for William was very difficult, as he left behind friends and family.

William's life had been challenging. His biological mother was a heroin addict and he had been placed in a variety of emergency foster care placements for the first 12 months of his life. His mother loved him, but was unable to provide a safe environment for him. When he was 18 months old, he was placed with Cameron and Jodie, but continued to return to his mother for short periods. His mother died of an overdose when he was six years of age, and Cameron and Jodie were able to legally adopt him "after a long battle with red tape".

Understandably, separation anxiety had been an issue for William throughout his life. He found it hard to settle at kindergarten, primary school and secondary school. Now he was being asked to resettle again in a new environment. He was refusing to go to school, staying up late at night playing computer games, and sleeping during the day.

Cameron and Jodie were in conflict about how his behaviour should be managed. Cameron believed in tough love while Jodie continually focused on his past traumas and felt unable to set boundaries for him.

CatholicCare provided individual counselling for William, family therapy for the whole family, and consultation and liaison with the school. With everyone working together, William eventually connected with his new school and developed a strong peer support group.

The last time William saw his CatholicCare counsellor he said "You believed in me, and now I can do things I felt I couldn't do before".

Pat Boyhan, Manager Special Projects




Connect

A NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS OF CATHOLICCARE



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Building Bridges, Not Walls: Prisons and the Justice System



As a prison chaplain and CEO of CatholicCare, I was asked to conduct the Melbourne launch of the 'Building Bridges, Not Walls - Prisons and the Justice System' Social Justice Statement of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference for 2011 - 2012.

So much of the public discourse on criminal justice issues too often manipulates and arouses fear in the general population rather than a desire to treat

seriously the causes and effects of offending behaviour.

Despite a relatively consistent crime rate, the proportion of Australians finding themselves in prison almost doubled in the twenty four years from 1984-2008. This trend shows no sign of abatement. In a welcome contribution to the public discourse on the issue, the Bishops identify five challenges affecting every aspect of our criminal justice system.

The first of these is around the fear campaigns on law and order issues that typically escalate at the time of state election campaigns and contribute markedly to the increased incarceration rates in Australia.

The second challenge calls on us to address the social factors that contribute to crime. It is the indigenous, the poor, the mentally ill, the homeless and the addicted who wind up in prison.

Thirdly, when they are in prison, there remains a challenge on how to treat offenders with dignity. For the most part, they will at some stage be released back into the community and it is better for them and all of us that they return better able to fit in and make a contribution to society.

The fourth challenge is to provide new and alternative opportunities for offenders leaving prison. Lack of housing, employment and good support networks increases the likelihood that they will return to offending behaviour. Building bridges out of prison is crucial. As chaplains, we hear far too often of prisoners who die within a couple of weeks of leaving prison.

The fifth challenge is to provide suitable alternatives to prison. Ideally, these alternatives should recognise the needs of victims, the responsibility of offenders and to provide the opportunity for rehabilitation.


Far from swaggering gangsters, it is the real underbelly of our society that we see in prisons. Those who wind up in jail have dropped off the edges of our communities into that bottom drawer, which is our prison system. The Bishops point out that indigenous people now make up one quarter of the prison population. This is way up from the entirely unacceptable 14 per cent in 1991 when the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody report was released. The rate of imprisonment of indigenous Australians is 17 times that of non-indigenous Australians.

Data from the Office of Corrections in Victoria reveals that 93.5 per cent of our prisoners had completed neither secondary schooling nor a trade and only 20 per cent were employed at the time they entered the prison system.

Numerous other studies demonstrate that those who are homeless, those with intellectual disabilities, those who were physically and sexually abused as children, those who are mentally ill and those suffering from addictions are all grossly overrepresented in the prison population.

As a chaplain, I have to say there are few sadder experiences for me than talking to an intellectually disabled young man who can't even tell you why he is in prison and doesn't even know when he is getting out.

Continued overleaf

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Strengthening families and communities
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Depriving a person of their liberty is the most serious sanction that the state can take against an individual. Thus it should be used only when all other possible sanctions have been considered and dismissed as unworkable. Nevertheless we see more Australians in prison than ever. What young people learn in prison does not make them more socially capable.

Despite the evidence of the ineffectiveness of prison and its disproportionate impact on disadvantaged groups, the State Government has reduced the non-custodial sentencing options open to the Courts and is in the process of removing judicial discretion in sentencing for an increased range of offences. Most alarmingly, it is moving to

impose what is effectively mandatory sentences for 16 and 17 year old children convicted of certain violent offences.

The Bishops suggest that the best place to build bridges is way upstream from the criminal justice system. Let us build these bridges before the gulf gets too wide. Investment in services like preschool, play groups and maternal and child health especially targeted to areas of disadvantage is far more likely to promote social cohesion and reduce the crime rate than the building of any number of prisons. CatholicCare's programs to prevent vulnerable, disadvantaged and isolated community members dropping off the edge are also critical.

Fr Joe Caddy, Chief Executive Officer

Family Week – St Anne's Twilight Market

While most Family Week activities were conducted in May, some schools managed to fit our event into their busy calendar later in the year. We are so impressed with the efforts of St Anne's students in Park Orchards who created their own fantastic fundraising and family event. Here is their tale of success:

"Early this year, we received a visit to St Anne's from CatholicCare. They were requesting support for the amazing work they have been doing for many years. The Grade 5/6 students took it upon themselves to investigate their individual talents and how they could raise much needed funds for CatholicCare.

"The students came up with ideas such as face-painting, cooking, car washing, raffles and bands.



We decided to run a Twilight Market to showcase all our products and performances. The market was very successful, with the whole school supporting us by bringing along some of their pocket money to spend on our stalls. Lots of the parents showed up to support the effort of the Grade 5/6 students. The students counted all the money themselves and were thrilled to raise just under \$3,000 for CatholicCare."

Putting Your Heart into CatholicCare

Sacred Heart Sandringham students Grace Tilley and Ella Smith raised \$860 for CatholicCare through their participation in Run Melbourne on 17 July. This represents a great effort by the two young girls and they have been buoyed by their wonderful contribution.

Anyone can sign up to fundraise through programs like Everyday Hero. They can take on a physical challenge, like walking or running, and can then raise money from friends, neighbours or colleagues for a nominated charity like CatholicCare. Any amount will go towards our under funded programs.

If you would like to help us fundraise through being involved in your own challenge or running a small event, please contact Corporate Relations and Events Manager Angela Paterno-Smith on 9926 5722.



Ella Smith and Grace Tilley celebrating at the end of their run.

Geelong Services Face Serious Funding Shortfalls

In addition to Geelong's core counselling programs located in the Geelong city centre, almost half of our services are now outposted and based within communities most in need. Yet the breadth of our services in Geelong cannot be continued if we don't find new funding sources. All our work in North Geelong is non-government funded, and our challenge is to consolidate a secure funding base so we can continue to provide services to the most vulnerable members of our community.

Rural and Outer Suburban Support Program

The Geelong branch of CatholicCare has offered valuable rural information, counselling and support programs for the last four years to the Geelong/Barwon area. Annual funding provided by the Federal Government has been renewed regularly in response to the long term drought conditions in this region and this program has highlighted the continual lack of rural family support services. As the Federal funding ends this December, we are most concerned at the possible withdrawal of services from our rural localities and from families in need.

Family Counselling and Advocacy Services

Since 2007, CatholicCare Geelong has responded to the Corio/Norlane/Rosewall regions, which unfortunately struggle with inadequate health, housing, welfare and employment services. The average weekly income for the Corio, Norlane and North Shore area is currently \$326 with a 15 per cent unemployment rate. Many families are finding life tough in these conditions and are in desperate need of support.

CatholicCare offers family counselling and advocacy services, with an emphasis on support for families with young children. We have integrated our specialist counselling services into a holistic model of support to address our clients' complex needs. To this end, we have developed extensive partnerships with education, health and community service providers.

Child, Youth and Family Refugee Counselling and Advocacy Program

Earlier this year, CatholicCare was funded by Give Where You Live (formerly United Way Geelong) to establish a pilot program to support the social and emotional needs of newly arrived refugees in the North of Geelong. We have co-located counsellors on site at schools and in the community.



To date, we have been working closely and intensively with young people and families from Burma, Liberia, The Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. Some are struggling with cross-cultural conflicts, and others are being assisted to work through their traumatic experiences and other difficulties they endured before they came to Australia.

For example, one young 16 year old is trying to deal with his sense of feeling threatened in public. He has been traumatised by the death of his father and grandparents in the Burmese camps and has found his new life in Corio extremely difficult. With the support of an interpreter, our work with him is slow and gentle as we move towards helping him to understand his experiences a little more and see the positives that may lie ahead in this, a free country.

Our work will become increasingly pivotal to these refugee communities in Geelong as numbers increase. We hope we will be able to find ongoing funding.

We are very grateful to our donors for your ongoing support. We also appreciate the contributions of the following funding sources over the past financial year: Give Where You Live, Newsboys Foundation, Geelong Regional Parenting Centre, Percy Baxter Trust, Jack Brockhoff Foundation and The Geelong Community Foundation.

Kaye Ward-Bisset, Regional Manager and Clare Barrett, Northern Program Co-ordinator

Mass of Appreciation



The loyalty of our donors and parishioners continues to be inspirational and is testimony that the work of CatholicCare to assist disadvantaged and vulnerable children, families and individuals, is seen as an important part of the mission of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

In this edition of Connect, we are highlighting some of the ways our wonderful supporters have contributed to our work and enabled us to maintain some of our unfunded and partially funded programs.

In the past financial year, through our Church, Christmas, Easter and

Winter Appeals, just over \$1 million was raised from individual donations to support critical programs such as our Alcohol and Other Drug Family Service, our Refugee and Settlement Program and our Outpost Counselling Services for socially and economically disadvantaged communities.

CatholicCare's Mass of Appreciation at St Patrick's Cathedral, at 11am on Sunday 20 November 2011, is our way of saying how very much we appreciate and value your continuing generous support. All are welcome to join us for the mass and a light lunch. Please complete the form within the enclosed Remembrance brochure if you would like to join us.

Ralph Roath, Director Development and Fundraising



Church Appeal

CatholicCare would like to thank the students of Genezzano FCJ College Kew (pictured above with CatholicCare's Donor Relations Manager John McCarthy) for volunteering to speak on behalf of CatholicCare at this year's Church Appeal. This is the third year the College has provided speakers, helping to raise the profile of CatholicCare in the community. We appreciate the special contribution of all our dedicated speakers.

We are very grateful to all the parishes and donors who contributed to our recent Church Appeal. Your critical support will enable our unfunded and partially funded programs to continue. Thanks also to Mary Long from the Catholic Bookshop who helped promote CatholicCare during our Church Appeal.



Memorial Envelopes

CatholicCare has memorial gift envelopes available for bereaved families who are wishing to make a donation to a charity instead of receiving flowers for the funeral. Please contact Donor Relations Manager John McCarthy on 9287 5507 for more details.

A Gift to CatholicCare in your Will

– a real and lasting legacy to future generations.

Help us ensure we will be there for all those who are vulnerable, disadvantaged and hurting.

