



# NEWSLETTER

**St Vincent de Paul  
Canterbury Area Council December 2022**

## **From Mike Moore**

Christchurch Area President

Dear Vincentians, Associates, Friends, and Sponsors

As we reach the end of another year, it is important for our organisation to reflect on the past year and pay due recognition to the many who have willingly volunteered for the Society despite difficult times with both Covid and the significant increases in the price of food, rent & fuel. In recent months, we have noticed a significant increase in the number of families & people who need our support. This is made possible by the generous support of our sponsors to whom we say, "a huge thank you" as without your ongoing support, we could not achieve what we have accomplished over the past year."

I am expecting that the demand for Vinnies welfare assistance will continue to increase throughout 2023. I am therefore putting my hope in the Lord that the generosity of our sponsors will continue and allow Vincentians to continue our important work of helping the poor & needy - as Blessed Frederic Ozanam (founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society) would expect of us.

Before I close, may I extend a big "thank you" to our Vinnies staff and to the many volunteers who have generously given Vinnies a huge number of hours of service - we appreciate your generosity!

May I conclude by wishing you and your families, a blessed and happy Christmas

God Bless  
Mike Moore





# Vinnies Christmas Grotto

A huge **THANK YOU** to our participating Christchurch schools, the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch, staff, the National Library of New Zealand team, customers to Vinnie Stores, our parishes and all who gathered and collected gifts for this appeal. Invitations were discerned by schools and agencies to families they identified who have a greater need this Christmas. This year the invitation was also extended to agencies such as Aviva, and Catholic Social Services. A special thank you to North Parish, who generously provided the free use of the parish hall at St Joseph's Papanui for 5 days. It was a blessing to have a place and space, where people could comfortably access. We were able to lay out the Grotto in a way that people could choose what their children would enjoy whether gifts, books, games, or toys. We also had enough donations for the parent/caregiver to choose something for themselves. The joy of both giving and receiving was witness to the Spirit of Christmas.

This year several staff from the Catholic Diocese used their "Day of Good" and joined our conference members to support visitors to the Grotto. This new initiative available to diocesan staff allows them to spend time in the community by serving and putting their faith into action. The shared mission of the Church and St Vincent de Paul society was very visible in the message of the Grotto, in supporting those who are most in need.

Over the three days more than 1200 donated gifts were distributed. An atmosphere of gratitude, love, sharing, and compassion was very evident in both the visitors and the volunteers. It was very uplifting to witness SVdP members from different conferences who did not previously know each other, meet, and establish comradeship through the joint mission of the society.

Whilst it took a team to make the Christmas Grotto a success, a special thank you to Shelley the SVdP Conference Coordinator who supervised the operation of the Grotto over the 3 days. The last thank you goes to Papanui conference member William, who was like an onsite guardian angel over this time and who vacuumed the whole venue at pack down

*"Let us do our duty well, let us go straight to God, let us work to become very humble, very patient, very mortified, and very charitable."*

St Vincent de Paul

# Transitional Housing Project in Pavitt St, Christchurch

## Warm, affordable housing for families

This exciting venture began as an idea in 2016 when Vincentian, Brian Gardner conceived this idea. After six years of planning and fruitful fundraising, the light at the end of the tunnel is ever so close with the completion of these apartments scheduled for later in December 2022.

This project is an initiative of Ozanam Canterbury Charitable Trust, a collaboration between the Society of St Vincent de Paul and St John of God Hauora Trust.

The HOPE Project is set to commence in February 2023, supporting young parents at the seven-unit Pavitt St development in Christchurch. The HOPE Project supports vulnerable young parents with a range of supports that meet individual need, including social work support, as well as a range of pregnancy and parenting support and education services.

Young parents will be supported in their 12-month Transitional Housing term with St Vincent de Paul providing tenancy management support and the St John of God Waipuna Young Parents Development team providing the wrap-around support services.

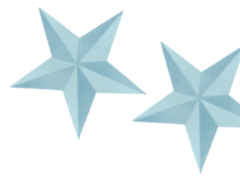
Mike Daly, Ozanam Canterbury Charitable Trust Chair, said "we are hugely appreciative of the support of such a broad range of philanthropic supporters and organisations that have facilitated this project. We are fortunate to be working with the experienced team at St John of God Waipuna to provide high-quality support."

St John of God Waipuna delivers a range of wrap-around support services focused on individual need, ranging from individual and group youth mental health counselling services, adventure-based support for at-risk youth and young people who have offended, as well as a range of services supporting young parents.

Kath Prins, General Manager Community, Youth and Child Services, said "Pavitt St will provide safe, secure and stable housing for seven young families. Our team via the HOPE Project work alongside these families, supporting them with individual social work support and services."



# Thank you Penny



Penny joined Vinnies at Stanmore Rd SVDP at the beginning of 2011 – so worked at Vinnies for 11 amazing years! She started working 20 hours per week on administration and was later appointed as Operations Manager and in the final year took on the new role of Vinnies Conference Coordinator.

Penny reflects on her time at Vinnies – she had been with us for 6 months when an engineer found that the Stanmore Rd building was unsafe and so the shop traded out of the sorting room whilst the shop was rebuilt - this being a 2-year process. Penny was also involved in establishing a Vinnies shop at Hornby shop – this on a shoestring budget which necessitated the revamping of what was a small gym into what is now a lovely big shop. She also assisted in the rebuild of our Papanui shop and helped with organising a temporary shop at Bishopdale shopping centre. She also started up the Christmas Grotto some 6 years ago and it is great to see that this idea has become a regular part of the Vinnies Christmas plan.

Penny was also a valued member of the National VOSPR Retail Advisory Board with the highlight of her term on this committee being the significant increase in turnover following the makeover of the Nelson/Richmond Vinnies Store. She was also a member of the Pavitt St Housing Committee in its early stages as concept plans were developed and fundraising initiatives commenced.

Penny's highlights during her time at Vinnies was hosting on two separate occasions, two International Presidents in Christchurch - Michael Thio (Singapore) who attended a National AGM then came to Christchurch for a few days and then Renato Lima de Oliveira (Brazil).

When the 150th committee had its first meeting nothing pointed to the huge job they had on their hands..... She loved every bit of it and the smiles and the whole atmosphere of the celebration was worth every minute .... she was even seen drinking water instead of Coca Cola to get her through!!!! But still to this day calls it her biggest highlight of her SVDP career !



When Penny decided it was time to move onto newer pastures, she moved to Food Bank Aotearoa to take up a role Business Administrator and is thoroughly enjoying her new responsibilities in a very relaxed environment. On reflection, Penny has missed all the people she worked with at Vinnies but has not missed the 100 odd emails she received each day!!!! What has impressed her at Food Bank Aotearoa is that it has no income and is totally reliant on grant funding and receiving donations. Some 105 Charities feed off Food Bank Aotearoa with up to 6 tonnes of food being distributed each day – amazing and believe it or not they are exceptionally good at recycling – there is virtually no waste.



# Introducing the Board

## Mike Moore - President

Elected as Area Council President in mid-August following seven years' service at Vinnies. I initially started - along with Trish O'Keefe and Debbie Franks - working on calls to our Welfare Line. Later I was asked by Keith Norton to be a member of the Board and this was followed by taking on the role of Treasurer.

I was raised in the Hutt Valley attending St Patricks College in Silverstream and following studies at Victoria University was employed at Statistics NZ in Wellington. Transferred to Chch in 1982 and continued to work in various managerial roles prior to retiring in late 2012. Married to Brigitta and have 5 children and 13 grandchildren.



## Clodagh Ward - Vice President

I come from Ireland moving to New Zealand in 2009. I joined St Vincent de Paul as a Conference Member in 2010, and was invited to join the board of SVdP in 2016. My role on the board was initially involvement in the Vinnie Youth in Christchurch as a mentor and supporter and in the last 3 years. Recently my focus has been directed to a more strategic role in the retail business for the society. I work for the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch as a Safeguarding Officer. I am married to Todd, who hails from Blenheim, and we have four children. I have recently moved to the Selwyn SVdP Conference in our Parish. The mission of the society is very close to my heart and I have personally received much more from being a member than I have given.



## Joe McCarthy - Treasurer

Joe has lived in Christchurch since 1984, being retired since 2016. He is a member of the Christchurch East parish and is Treasurer of the Stella Maris Ferrymead Conference. Joe has taken up the role of Treasurer for the ChCh Area Council. His qualifications and experience are in engineering, construction and project management, business administration, and dispute resolution, within central and local government plus self-employment. Has been married to Margaret for 50 plus years with a family of 5 adult children plus several grandchildren, and has been consistently active in parish, school and community affairs since the 1970s.



## Trish O'Keefe - Secretary

Trish is a member of the Cathedral Parish and Conference. She has been a Vincentian for over 32 years initially working on our Welfare line and delivering food to clients in need. She also worked at our Lady of Fatima as School Secretary for 27 years so leads a busy life. Trish became Secretary to the Area Council and the Board in 2017 and during this time has continued to provide great service as Secretary/Treasurer to her local Vinnies Conference. A Mum of four, she shares her home with her daughter, two grandsons, a rabbit and a dog! Whenever she has time, Trish loves to create, and in particular enjoys woodwork, painting and mosaics.



## Bruce Mayhew

Born and bred in Ōtautahi (Christchurch) Bruce is married to Judy and their whānau of 3 adult tamariki and 5 mokopuna keep the balance right for life's journey.

He is part of the Cathedral parish and leads the SVdP conference team at Cathedral. He is also part of the SVdP board, helping to govern the direction and growth of St Vincent de Paul in the Christchurch region, with a focus on welfare. Bruce and Judy have business interests in the hospitality, food, and pet care industries here in New Zealand and internationally.



## Siobhan Bergin

I am married to Rory, and we are the parents of our three children. I greatly value family and my faith. I work for Catholic Diocese of Christchurch, at Transition Facilitator for supporting and guiding the journey of change aligned with the Diocesan future of 'Our Faith, Our Future' plan, this is the vision and the future strategic direction of the Christchurch diocese. It is a privilege to serve as a volunteer on the Christchurch Board for St Vincent de Paul and support the great work that our conference volunteers do to support and care for those in need in our society. My portfolio on the Board is in the areas of HR, Health and Safety and the Retail Strategic Team.



## Mark Currie

Appointed to the Board in November 2021. He worked for nearly five years as the SVDP Dunedin Youth coordinator serving a region that stretched from Oamaru in the North to Balclutha in the South and Queenstown in the West while also sitting as an ex-officio member of the Area Council during that time.

Born and bred in Dunedin, in addition to his work with Vinnies, Mark worked in Education and Sport amongst others. He moved to Ōtautahi - Christchurch in late-2020 to work for the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch in the Youth Ministry Office supporting Parishes. Outside work, he loves to get involved in all sorts of sport - primarily refereeing Football - and is a loud and proud supporter of anything in blue and gold (something which sees him on the end of plenty of gentle ribbing after his teams inevitably lose to those in red and black!)



## Chris Southworth

Chris is a member of the Selwyn parish and is another recent Board appointment who will focus on Property and Communications for Vinnies. His appointment recognises his broad range of experience in the Corporate sector including experience in governance on a number of Boards. He is currently a financial advisor and owns and operates a Jim's Test and Tag franchise. He is married to Theresa and they have 5 kids. She is an active member of the SVDP Selwyn conference.



## Festival Day - September 2022

Our Festival day was hosted by the Stella Maris Conference and the event was held at Star of the Sea in Sumner. Anne Nicholls and her team did a fantastic job – and they were very capably supported by Shelley Knowles, our Conference Coordinator. The event was attended by a large number of Vincentians and all agreed that this was the best Festival day ever held as a result of some very good presentations.

After a welcome by Fr Paolo, newly elected President Mike Moore provided an update on activities and issues being faced in the Canterbury Area, Sister Clare Murphy spoke on the 'Life & Mission of Jesus and the call of the Vincentians.' This was an inspirational presentation and all present agreed that it will provide an invaluable resource going forward, especially to our new Vincentians.

This was followed by a very important presentation by Kath Prins and Danielle Mora from St John of God (Haurora Trust). They spoke about the HOPE programme that will provide “wrap around services” to our clients at our new transitional housing apartments that are located in Pavitt Street, Richmond (behind the Vinnies shop on Stanmore Rd).

Interesting presentations came from Hannah Storey from The Loft, Carol Brown (Aviva) and Katie Dixon (Kainga Ora). Of significance to our members was the array of services available to those in need at The Loft that can be described as a “unique health & wellbeing centre” for Canterbury. These services are available at Eastgate in Christchurch. Then Carol and Katie spoke on the many and varied issues that affect people who are in social housing or awaiting to be housed in Canterbury – a question and answer session followed that provided an even greater insight into the issues faced by so many.

The day concluded with special Vincentian awards being presented to eight members who had completed 25 years or more service. In addition, Certificates of Service were also presented to Vincentians who had between 20-24 years of service plus our newly commissioned members also received a Certificate of Commissioning. The day concluded with Mass being celebrated by Fr Paolo.

Thank you  
Stella Maris!



## Welfare Update 2022

Over the past year, demands for Welfare Services at St Vincent de Paul have continued to grow steadily. Mid-year we saw a slight easing off with demand due to government initiatives, but the need for help by many ramped up markedly in subsequent months, and especially over the past 3 months as the impact of inflation hits the pockets of our community. Recently, demand has increased as much as 25% and as is always the case, demand for assistance in the December period has skyrocketed.

Traditionally, Vinnies offers extra help to the community with Christmas Vouchers and this practice will continue for Christmas 2022. We have had some amazing financial support for this initiative from the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch (Bishop Michael Gielen), the Christchurch City Council Mayors Welfare Fund and other very generous donors – thank you to all for your generosity!

Supporting the significant financial help that comes via the sources noted above for helping to fund our welfare outreach, we also acknowledge the valuable work being done at conference level by our conference members who, not only search out for sources of material help for those in need, but also regularly look for opportunities to keep funds coming into their conferences via donations from supporters at parish, and community level.

In addition, a big thank you to all our Vincentian volunteers who are our face in the community and willingly deliver food and other support to families in the community!

Vinnies Welfare services will close on Tuesday 20th Dec at 11.00am and the service reopens on Monday 16th January 2023.

Wishing everyone a blessed and joyful Christmas



“...TO SERVE THE POOR  
IS TO GO TO GOD...”

St. Vincent de Paul





# Retail update



2022 has been a very busy year for the Vinnie Stores. The relentless work of staff and volunteers largely contributes to the greater purpose of SVdP to help feed, clothe, house, and heal those in need in our community. Our stores meet the mission of the society by generating income which enables the society to provide a broad range of services to support those in need. Our greatest asset is our volunteers, who tirelessly give their time and talents to the society. We are very grateful for their time and talents and all that they contribute to all facets of the society.

Our stores are much more than “Op Shops”. They are places of community where people work together for the common good. Staff and volunteers of the Vinnies stores have challenged preconceived notions of second-hand shops in their approach and the professional presentation and standards met in all three shops is evidence of this attitude. They have also redefined the way people think of op-shops and showcase in our stores a more enticing and inspiring experience.

Polly, Vinnies Retail Stores Manager, heads up the retail operation and oversees the management of all retail staff, volunteers and business related to retail. Polly also manages the Vinnies store in Papanui. With a strong background in fashion and eye for detail, Polly has not only put the Vinnie Papanui Store on the map but has influenced the direction through working collaboratively with the other store managers.

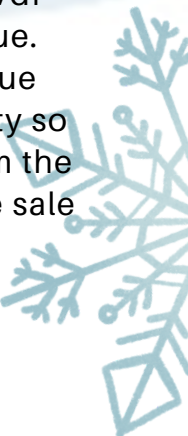
Anna is the Store Manager for Vinnies, Stanmore Road. Anna joined the staff of Vinnies this year. Anna brings a wealth of experience to the role. With a strong understanding of people and management coupled with a flair for fashion, the Stanmore Road store is an enthusiastic environment where staff and volunteer’s flourish. Prior to this Anna had been one of our valuable volunteers based at Vinnies Papanui.

The Hornby Road store is managed by Bronwyn. This store is classed as a destination store. Through hard work and loyal volunteers Hornby Vinnies is a store where many people choose to shop, because they know it sells goods of high quality, or the particular type of clothes that they are looking for.



Donations come from all areas of Christchurch and households of all income levels. Our donors are very generous. Not only do our donors provide items of intrinsic value, they give SVdP items of deep personal value. Donors entrust items of value and sentiment to the society so that others can benefit from the income generated from the sale of such items.

Retail staff and volunteers understand the value of our donor base and work hard to get the best possible monetary value from donations to help support the mission.





## Introducing... Shelley Knowles Conference Coordinator

I have recently been appointed as the new Conference Coordinator for Vinnies. Some of you will know me from my role as Welfare Coordinator which I started in 2017, and especially my involvement with the rollout of Zoho. Many of you may have attended my Zoho training sessions. When Penny Marks resigned from this position, I expressed an interest in the role.

Over the past 5 months, I have enjoyed getting to know Conference Members and in particular, getting to know you all. My highlights so far have been my involvement in the planning and organisation (together with Anne Nicholls of Stella Maris) of Festival Day and more recently the West Parish recruitment drives. I am delighted to be given this opportunity and look forward to supporting our Conferences to continue the good works you provide in the community and to grow our membership.



### A Christmas Message From our GM - Robyn Casey

As I sit at the desk thinking of my Christmas message to you all I reflect on how busy the year has been. Every day I see good, and I see the not so good. I see people with big hearts with a work ethic to volunteer and help those that need it. Covid has been ongoing, challenges of supply, absences, are now part of life daily. This year has seen Monica, Penny, Alex, Tony, and Corey leave - we thank them all for their service over the years. We welcome John, Natasha, Garth, Lynne, Jared, Slav, and Anna to the team, and congratulate Shelley on her new role. I am sure next year will be no different, and unfortunately likely to be as busy and challenging given the economic environment and cost of living. Thank you to my staff, to all the volunteers who have given their time in conferences and the operational side of Vinnies, it is truly appreciated, we couldn't do half of what we do without you all.

So have a good break, enjoy the time with family and friends. A very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2023 to you all.

Be Safe and God Bless

Robyn Casey  
General Manager



## Farewell Corey

Sadly, Corey left Vinnies in September this year so he could relocate south to help care for his mum. On settling in at Temuka, he realised that he had some time each day to work. And being the industrious person that he is, obtained a job with Food Bank Aotearoa at which he works part time collecting / delivering food in the local area. And on a couple of days each week, he drives through to Christchurch and is able to connect with staff at Riccarton including Penny! Best wishes Corey in your new role - you are missed by many in Christchurch and will always be remembered as a caring, generous and hard-working person.

**2022 SVDP Awards** (presented at Festival Day - Sept 2022)

### National Service Awards and Cross - for 25+ years' service

- Paul McErlain (Holy Trinity)
- Dave Mallia (Cathedral)
- Matt Grose (Beckenham)
- Roger McAuley (Christ the King)
- Pat Consedine (New Brighton)
- Trish O'Keefe (Cathedral)
- Ian Bolton (Cathedral)
- Paul Fox (Beckenham)



### Service Awards - 20-24 years' service

- Tony Fahey (Cathedral)
- Tim O'Sullivan (Papanui)
- George Varghese (Papanui)
- Shirley Scott (Cathedral)

### Commissioning Certificates

- Jenny Carter (Rangiora)
- Bruce Carter (Rangiora)
- Ian Tennant (Selwyn)
- Rodney Keegan (Selwyn)
- Theresa Southworth (Selwyn)

*For all our fellow Vincentians, who were laid to rest in 2022*

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**Amen**

