

SJOS 2022 SUMMER UPDATE

(The latest news from St Joseph's Outreach Services Inc.)

SJOS HIGHLIGHTS

The end of 2021 saw the continuance the COVID pandemic, but fortunately less restrictions regarding our outreach services. The housing units are fully occupied, the food store has been very busy, the bread bank continues to support the community and the harvest from the garden has been amazing. The SJOS COVID Safe Plan is still in place and all volunteers and visitors are encouraged to maintain appropriate safety guidelines. Social distancing is always encouraged with masks, hand sanitisers and gloves available.

Our mission is to provide transitional housing and support services to those in need, regardless of race or creed, and to work towards relieving the effects of poverty in our community.

SJOS VOLUNTEERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Tuesday 21 December 2021, more than 50 volunteers gathered in the garden to enjoy the ambiance of the surroundings in a very appropriate social distancing manner. This opportunity to celebrate the SJOS Volunteers, as well as commemorate the David Quin AM Garden Bench, proved very successful, on such a beautiful summer night. Volunteers from all aspects of the outreach services were represented and the garden team was on hand to showcase their garden, and their summer planting projects. The **Dunn family** were able to represent the extended family of David Quin and everyone had the chance to participate in the commemoration. **A special big thank you to the volunteer who supported SJOS with funds for this event.**



The Dunn Family



Volunteers in the garden

THE 2021 CHRISTMAS HAMPERS PROJECT

Every year the SJOS Board of Management prepares hampers for the residents of the SJOS Housing Units as well as contribute to the efforts of UnitingCare Prahran's Christmas Toy Shop and Christmas Activities. This initiative is well supported by the Parish of South Yarra's Christmas Giving Tree, and a wonderful Christmas Toy drive organised by the Faith and Mission Team at **De La Salle College**. As COVID has challenged schools throughout most of 2021, we were overwhelmed to receive the many bags and packages donated by the families of De La Salle students. As pictured in the photo, these toys included basketballs, soccer balls and footballs, along with Lego sets, clothing items and some wonderful handknitted soft toys, even some dolls of various ethnic backgrounds. A very generous array of gifts.



De La Salle Christmas Toys

Patron: TBA

President: Ms. Joan Donoghue



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As we have seen in the past, SJOS gets support and assistance from lots of different groups. In early December, **Tammy Van Exan**, and her colleagues from **The Travel Corporation**, visited SJOS to give a morning of their time to assist. Whereby this group is usually more comfortable in selling holidays programmes to enthusiastic Australian travellers, they donned tee shirts and packed, carried, sorted and sifted a variety of things for the SJOS Housing Units and Food Store. It was a rainy morning, so not great for any outdoor activity, but the group were going onto their company's Christmas Luncheon, so they were full of enthusiasm. Thank you.

DONATIONS TO SJOS ARE WELCOME | DONATE NOW: <https://sjos.org.au/donate/>

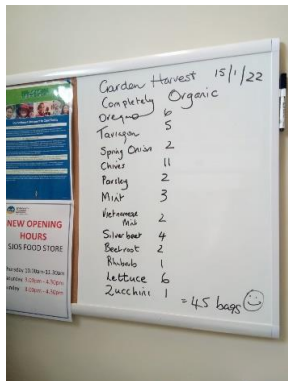
AND . . . a big thank you to those who assisted with extra gifts of generosity during the Christmas season.

SJOS FOOD STORE UPDATES

Even though SJOS did not receive the normal Food For Friends Christmas Donations through the Toorak Ecumenical Group's activities, we were blessed with the support we did receive. **The Garden Club** had some wonderful harvests, one day in particular, with 54 bags, all beautifully listed on the Food Store white board, for volunteers and visitors to see. The **La Scala Apartments**, once again, completed a Christmas Donations Box project and delivered a vast array of food goods and Christmas treats, while the **South Yarra Parish Giving Tree** produced some fabulous food items as well as gifts. It is wonderful to see the true spirit of Christmas shining through in our community. **Thank you to all.**



Garden Club Harvest



Summer Harvest List



La Scala Apts. Donation



Christmas Giving Tree