

# SJOS 2022 AUTUMN UPDATE

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

## SJOS HIGHLIGHTS

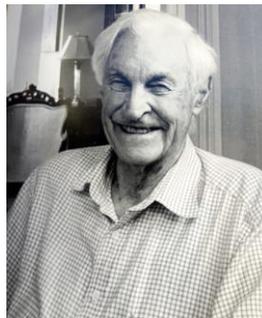
Just when we thought we would be free of COVID in 2022, a new strain has made things even more difficult with lots of volunteers being either in isolation due to contracting the disease, or being a close family contact. The challenge has resulted in limited support from the team at HomeGround, a lot of difficulty in sourcing specific food products for the food store, and some gaps in the rosters. The SJOS COVID Safe Plan is still in place and all volunteers and visitors are encouraged to maintain all the appropriate safety guidelines.

*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.*

## VALE BEN LOCHTENBERG

SJOS was saddened to learn of the passing of **Dr. Bernard (Ben) Lochtenberg**, one of the original founding members of SJOS. As concerned citizens, this group saw the need for more emergency relief support for the marginalized and vulnerable in our community, and they tried to make a difference. SJOS is as it is today due to their collective efforts. Ben, and his beautiful wife Margaret, gave their unwavering time to establish what was the St Joseph South Yarra Emergency Housing Association, first registered in November 1999. Many letters were sent out, and many collaborations considered, before funding was organised, and with the closure of the South Yarra Parish School, St Joseph's Primary School, in 2002, the housing units were created. As a result of these efforts, SJOS now supports many families in their time of need.

**R.I.P. BEN, AND THANK YOU.**



**Dr. Ben Lochtenberg Margaret & Ben Lochtenberg**



**The Food Store Easter Bunny**

## THE EASTER BUNNY CAME TO THE FOOD STORE

What a delight it was to the visitors of the **SJOS Food Store** to be able to receive special treats at Easter. Due to the generosity of a supporter, a parcel of chocolates eggs and sweets were left to be distributed during the week after Easter. The Easter Bunny was enjoyed by many and the treat basket was emptied very quickly. Then, just as we thought Easter was over for the year, another call came through, from another generous supporter of SJOS, and another collection of chocolates and Easter chocolate treats were delivered. Easter lasted for 3 weekends at the Food Store due to a very generous array of sweet treats provided.



## SJOS OUTREACH OPERATION UPDATES

We have had a relatively mild Autumn, but SJOS has had a very busy one. The Food Store has experienced an increase of nearly 20% in visitors, some travelling long distances to receive food relief. Added to that, the cost of food has increased considerably, making it more difficult for the SJOS Budget. The Toorak Non-Denominational Church group, **Food for Friends**, once more provided us with support, with a car load of food items, and **StreetSmart** enabled SJOS to get a grant for the provision of some healthy food options like honey, eggs and cheese. Support such as this is much appreciated. The Bread Bank continues to provide bread and rolls with Woolworths, Baker's Delight Prahran Central and Rustica assisting. Help comes in many forms, including the anonymous supporter who left an envelope of cash. **Our sincere thanks to all those who have been able to support SJOS.**

**Patron:** TBA

**President:** Ms. Joan Donoghue

## Contact Us:

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Food for Friends



The Bread Bank



Cash Donations



Easter Chocolates

## SJOS GARDEN CLUB

The produce from the garden has continued and every week vegetables and herbs are harvested for the SJOS Food Store. The team at the Garden Club are now preparing for the winter and they greatly benefited from a group of Year 11 from Xavier College who were able to assist when some heavy lifting and shoveling was needed. A great way to put some social justice activities in place and their hard work helped to move a load of new soil onto the various garden beds. **Our thanks to all involved at Xavier College for this initiative.**

## SJOS VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Many very generous people volunteer their time to assist SJOS, but more is needed. Due to the challenges of COVID, with isolation due to contracting illness or family concerns regarding the spread, there are many gaps in the rosters and lots of last-minute challenges when someone is unable to complete their rostered role. The Food Store, where we need 2 people attending each operating period, is in need of some more volunteers for Thursday morning (10:00 am to 11:30 am), and more volunteers for the weekend roster would also be helpful. The Bread Bank needs at least one more volunteer every Thursday night at 6:10 pm to pack the bread, and some more volunteers with cars who could be rostered to collect the bread and rolls from Baker's Delight. The roster for collection of bread from Woolworths at 7:00 am also needs another pick-up team. We have to "take out and bring in" the rubbish bins for the housing units on a Tuesday night, and more volunteers would be appreciated for this role. If anyone would like to give some of their time to SJOS, please go onto the SJOS website, [www.sjos.org.au](http://www.sjos.org.au), and complete a volunteer application. A Working with Children Certification is required and SJOS will assist with the completion of this form, if necessary. SJOS is commencing with a new volunteer online programme, Better Impact, and eventually all volunteers will be able to easily access their roster through this online and mobile tool. The technology will be gradually implemented for all the SJOS volunteer rosters.

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

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