

SJOS 2022 WINTER UPDATE

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

SJOS HIGHLIGHTS

The SJOS Housing Units have had only a few families moving on and the units are now more short term, part of HomeGround Real Estate's affordable housing initiative. The current Residential Tenancy Act does not really allow for "transitional housing" and with the limited rental availability in the market, the SJOS Units will be tenanted for longer. We do, however, now plan to relaunch the SJOS Renovation Project which has stalled due to current building challenges. As the health and safety of all is of primary importance, the SJOS COVID Safe Plan is still in place, All volunteers and visitors are encouraged to maintain appropriate safety guidelines.



Fr. Gerry Dullard in the garden

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 OUTREACH OPERATIONS UPDATE

The winter of 2022, bleak though it proved to be, was a very busy one for all the SJOS volunteer teams. The continuance of COVID and Flu meant that at times the volunteer numbers were depleted, but the need for our outreach services continued. The **SJOS Food Store** saw an increase of 14% in the cost of goods given out per visitor, and the numbers attending have grown by 27% since the same time 2021. The end of the Financial Year reports in July showed that SJOS had spent \$46,061.00 in food produce, with only about a third of this amount supported by grants from the **City of Stonnington** and the **Toorak Ecumenical Council's Food for Friends**. The regular small donations and support from the general public plus various neighbourhood schools has been impeded by the restrictions in place due to COVID. The volunteer team have formed a Fundraising Committee and the first post COVID event was a **Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Collingwood**. We have another Sausage Sizzle on Saturday 17 September 2022 as well as a **Walk-a-thon** around Albert Park Lake targeted for **Sunday 23 October 2022**. More information to follow.



SJOS Bunnings Sausage Sizzle First Shift in the cold and rain.

VALE FR. GERRY DULLARD

Fr Gerry Dullard, a much-loved Augustinian priest, plus a true friend and supporter of SJOS, died peacefully on Monday 30 May 2022, in his 91st year. Gerry's greatest wish, after several years of illness, was to celebrate his 90th Birthday, which he did with great gusto on 3rd April, 2022. When the idea of a community garden was mooted, and Bunnings Collingwood's Opening Team offered to build the first garden beds, Fr. Gerry gave SJOS his support with this initiative. He was often



Patron: TBA

President: Ms. Joan Donoghue

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seen in the garden and he became a sounding board plus mentor to those in the Garden Team. He will be missed in the garden, one of his passions in life. **R.I.P Gerry.**

SJOS GARDEN CLUB

The volunteer team at the Garden Club have been preparing the garden for the new season's crops and they are now harvesting various vegetables including, Silverbeet, Spinach, Lettuce, Radishes and Chilies, plus Herbs. During winter the produce was only harvested once every week, but this will change when the amount of produce increases. The produce is available in the Food Store for the Saturday afternoon opening.

SJOS VOLUNTEERS NEW ROSTER SYSTEM

SJOS Board of Management is working on a project to streamline all the volunteer rostering and have installed **Better Impact**, a volunteer engagement programme. The sub committee have uploaded all the contact details of the volunteers and now the project requires the volunteers to access and verify their details. The system will allow access to all the rosters, via mobile, tablet or computer, and it is hoped that better engagement will be achieved. It will also alleviate the need to constantly send out emails searching for volunteers. The sub-committee have connected with all listed volunteers over the past month.

SJOS WORKS WITH THE STONNINGTON TOY LIBRARY

SJOS was able to assist the team at the Stonnington Toy Library recently, moving on some children's toys given by one of the school groups. With the COVID Safe Plan, it is now not appropriate to have a give away table in the Food Store. At various times, generous people leave things in the church or at the doorstep, but SJOS is unable to provide a place to "give-away" these gifts. Thus, we have to re-gift.

SJOS WORKS WITH ST KILDA MUMS

A very generous supporter of SJOS has also given us a lot of children's clothes and these will be given to **St Kilda Mums**. In 2009, a group of young mothers all attending St Kilda Maternal and Child Health Centre, saw the need for a group to help sort and distribute baby clothes given to the Centre. This hard-working organisation, now based in Clayton, supports many families in need when a new baby arrives. Baby clothes and pre loved prams are needed, so please share this initiative. <https://www.stkildamums.org>

DONATIONS TO SJOS ARE WELCOME AND WE THANK THOSE WHO GAVE IN 2021/2022

SJOS would not survive without the generous support of many who give an annual gift. We thank all those who were able to unleash their generosity as it has enabled us to continue our mission for the vulnerable, marginalised and disadvantaged. **Thank you so very much for your amazing support.**

DONATE NOW: <https://sjos.org.au/donate/>

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