

SJOS 2023 SUMMER UPDATE

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

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 HIGHLIGHTS

The SJOS focus for summer has centred on the SJOS Food Store, with lots of families looking for support. With the increasing cost of food, many more are in difficulties and seeking assistance. Finding some emergency food relief is becoming a necessity for some families. As a result, the SJOS Food Store has been very busy, with over 220 families attending in January alone, even when the store was closed for 3 public holidays. It is felt that the need will only increase. The summer harvest in the garden supported the work of the Food Store volunteers and many visitors express their delight with the availability of fresh garden produce. SJOS will continue providing support.

SJOS OUTREACH OPERATIONS UPDATE

Christmas, and the end of a year, is a time to celebrate with family and friends, and for SJOS, it is a time to give thanks to all those who spread some Christmas cheer. From schools to apartments to family homes, many thought of giving something to SJOS to help us support emergency relief during the festive season.



De La Salle Cards



De La Salle Gifts



Scala Apartments Gifts

The families of the students at **De La Salle College**, once again, provided an array of gifts and toys, as seen above. Many of these gifts also included a lovely, personalised card. Some of the cards were purchased commercial Christmas cards, but many were hand made, probably as part of an art activity, and these were even more special. The wonderful spirit of Christmas!. SJOS would also like to thank the residents of **Scala** and **St Boulevard Apartments** for all their wonderful Christmas goodwill.

2022 CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING TREE

The SJOS Board of Management would especially like to thank all the South Yarra Parishioners who participated in the **2022 Christmas Gift Giving**. Apart from some lovely gifts of food, many people elected to support SJOS with gift cards from various companies, and they will be well used. There were gift cards from Coles, Woolworths, and Aldi, plus cards that could be used in selective stores, for various age groups. The team at SJOS will use these cards for purchasing food for the Food Store, assisting families who need extra support and to provide a little special reward to visitors to the Food Store and residents of the SJOS Housing Units who are having some day-to-day challenges.



Christmas Gift Giving Gift Cards

BETTER IMPACT ROLL OUT

SJOS Board of Management is pleased to report that the new streamlined volunteer engagement portal “**Better Impact**” is up and running with many SJOS Volunteers engaging with the new system. Not only does the portal store all the rosters, but a volunteer can now easily access and review their shifts and look for additional opportunities for further volunteering. Every SJOS volunteering role is detailed and the volunteer can easily select when they want to volunteer, with the click of a button. The SJOS Volunteer Engagement Team will continue to support the process and anyone who needs assistance. SJOS wants to ensure that all volunteers are comfortable with the new procedure.

SJOS GARDEN UPDATE

The produce from the garden continued through summer, even though the growing conditions were not ideal. The **SJOS Garden Team** were able to harvest tomatoes, lettuce, zucchini, beans, silver beet, parsley, cucumber, spring onions, chives, passionfruit and a variety of herbs. The compost bin and worm farm are being well maintained and there has been a lot of effort into supporting the young fruit trees. As the season changes, the team is planning the next growing cycle and working towards future plantings, with top up soil needed to replenish the garden. The fresh produce grown is well received by all visitors to the SJOS Food Store

2023 SAUSAGE SIZZLES AT BUNNINGS COLLINGWOOD

The SJOS Event Committee will be holding Sausage Sizzles at Bunnings in Collingwood on **Sunday 19 March 2023** and **Saturday 22 April 2023**. If you have a need to go to Bunnings, please visit the Collingwood store on Victoria Parade, near the Hoddle Street corner, and buy a sausage to support SJOS. *Thank you.*

SOME ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST.



SJOS Food Store Safety Processes



Stonnington COVID Gifts



Bed Linen Gifts



Stonnington Toy Library

The threat of COVID is lessening, but the safety measures put in place at the **SJOS Food Store** will remain for some time. SJOS encourages all volunteers to make use of the masks, gloves and sanitisers in place, and ensure that the visitors remain behind the perspex screen. Sincere thanks to **Stonnington Council** who have recently given SJOS many boxes of food, personal hygiene products and cleaning materials. These products were purchased and stored by the council for emergency COVID needs, and they are now being distributed, with SJOS being one of the beneficiaries. Thank you to the Emergency Relief Manager at Stonnington Council. SJOS has also anonymously received some bed linens for the **SJOS Housing Units**, and they have certainly brightened up Unit 7. Some toys were also delivered and these were gifted on to the **Stonnington Toy Library in Malvern**, with much appreciation. The team at the Toy Library are providing much needed services to the local community and they have an amazing array of toys to be “loaned” out.

DON'T FORGET | DONATIONS TO SJOS ARE WELCOME | DONATE NOW: <https://sjos.org.au/donate/>

SJOS | info@sjos.org.au | www.sjos.org.au | Post Office Box 21 South Yarra VIC 3141