

SJOS 2023 AUTUMN 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 OUTREACH OPERATIONS UPDATE

Finally, the opportunity to start work on the refurbishment of **Unit 4 in the SJOS Housing Units** is getting closer, after a delay of 3 years, due to COVID and all the subsequent challenges in the building industry. With 20 years of service to those needing emergency housing relief, this unit will be gutted and new facilities installed, including a new bathroom, a new kitchen, a new heating unit, rewired electricity, new lights and new overhead fans. The project will take approximately 3 months and we will look forward to when we can show off this new unit to those who have financially contributed to SJOS, making this renovation possible.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE | FUNDRAISING OR FRIENDRAISING?



The first team on Sat 23 April 2023 A stocked refrigerator and equipment.

The SJOS Volunteers were able to assist the fundraising budget with two (2) **Autumn 2023 Sausage Sizzles** at Bunnings Collingwood, on Sunday 19 March and Saturday 23 April. It is always an early start getting all the food and equipment set-up and sausages cooking by 9:00 am, and it was a very slow start on the March Sunday. Perhaps it is because all those in the Collingwood / East Melbourne / Fitzroy / Richmond area, as the Bunnings is in the centre of the boundaries to these suburbs, sleep in on Sundays. This year, we were aided with the use of an EFTPOS machine, completely necessary as 75% of those buying sausages and drinks, preferred a credit card transaction. The Sunday event was a cool day, but the April sun shone on the Saturday, more sausages were purchased and the cooks excelled themselves. A fun way to raise some money and enjoy some friendships.

The fun will continue in winter, when we will have a much colder start, but hopefully just as much fun, with more Bunnings Collingwood Sausage Sizzles scheduled for **Sunday 23rd July and Saturday 26th August**. Come along and visit Bunnings Collingwood then, but do not leave without buying a sausage or two, and supporting SJOS.

SJOS HIGHLIGHTS: As the days grow shorter and the cooler weather arrives, we are made more and more aware of those around us who have such reduced financial conditions and need emergency relief. The number of families attending the SJOS Food Store is increasing month over month, with 903 families attending in January through April 2023, compared to 831 for the same period 2022. (9% increase). The volunteers at SJOS are continuing their efforts and we greatly appreciate all the volunteers, our friends, and our supporters, who help enable SJOS to continue our mission to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community. **THANK YOU**



SJOS Sausage Sizzle Volunteers



**St Joseph's
Outreach
Services**
Shelter | Opportunity | Support

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SJOS GARDEN CLUB

The team in the garden have continued their work with enthusiasm and creativity, harvesting their produce for the benefits of those families attending the SJOS Food Store. Time and time again, the food store volunteers hear how fabulous it is to be able to take some organic fresh vegetables and herbs home. In the January to March 2023 period, the team harvested over 500 bags of produce. In April, the team replenished all the garden beds for autumn planting. They planted seedlings (broccoli, cauliflower, snow peas, lettuce, strawberries, and parsley), sowed broad bean seeds, removed a dead tree and replanted a plum tree, plus pruned the citrus trees.



The SJOS Garden Team working in the garden



Food For Friends Food Store Donation

GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM "FOOD FOR FRIENDS"

The Toorak Ecumenical Group, **Food for Friends**, has supported SJOS for many years. In the past, this support consisted of boxes of donated food being delivered in time for Christmas, with lots of Christmas special foods and treats. The donations came from the supermarkets in Toorak, who customers supported the group. Now since COVID, the support has changed, with the group purchasing the food products for us from the money they have raised. A member couple of the group went shopping recently, then generously delivered a packed car load of items for the food store, mainly staples, but including some treats.

Since COVID, the amount of food donated to SJOS has decreased considerable and most items for the Food Store are purchased. **A big THANK YOU to all those at "FOOD FOR FRIENDS" for your support.**

SJOS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK . . .

The families of **St Peter's Early Learning Centre in Toorak** who provided lots on Easter Treats and Toys. The families who attended the Food Store over the Easter week benefited, as did the Stonnington Toy Library. **THANK YOU**

BETTER IMPACT UPDATE

The SJOS Board of Management would like to thank all the volunteers who have so willingly adopted the new engagement and rostering system. Not without a few "hiccups", the system is working quite well as it allows volunteers to manage their own rostered schedule.

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

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