

SJOS 2023 WINTER UPDATE

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

SJOS HIGHLIGHTS: The SJOS Food Store broke a record in July when 251 families were served during the month, one family every 4 minutes. The hard-working volunteers overseeing this service have been very busy, with their efforts made even more difficult by the challenges in sourcing certain food products. The cost of goods has also increased, with reports showing us that over \$52,000.00 was spent on purchasing goods for the Food Store in 2022/2023. The Bread Bank has also experienced greater demand, and we continue to thank Woolworths and Baker's Delight for their support. Challenging times for many and it is hoped that those in need will get the support and help that they require.

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

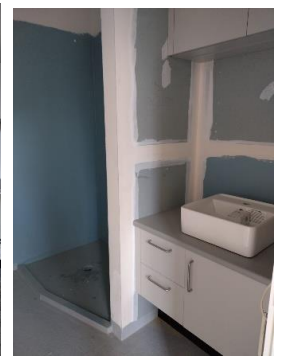
The refurbishment of **Unit 4 in the SJOS Housing Units** finally commenced at the end of May. The unit was completely gutted, to be made ready for the new kitchen, bathroom, and storage units, as well as all new fittings and fixtures. The families staying at the SJOS Units now stay longer, due mainly to the lack of low-cost housing availability, and they have more possessions, so they need more storage facilities. The new refurbished units will have larger wardrobe space, more cupboard facilities in the living area and kitchen, plus storage for cleaning materials. We hope that Unit 4 will be completed by September, at which time we will be able to start on Unit 8, another one-bedroom unit desperately requiring renovation. (Renovation photographs below).



SJOS Unit 4 Living Room



SJOS Unit 4 Kitchen



SJOS Unit 4 Bathroom

Volunteers at the SJOS Morning Tea.



SJOS JUNE VOLUNTEERS' GATHERING

On Sunday 18 June 2023, the volunteers and supporters of SJOS held a **Volunteer Morning Tea**. In addition to providing an update on recent and upcoming fundraising activities, the main update was about the new volunteer rostering platform, Better Impact (BI). The Board expressed concern that some of the volunteers may have been challenged by the new rostering programme as issues have arisen when two people, or a couple, try to schedule the same shift. The Board apologises for any inconvenience and recognises that everyone's time is valuable. If you need assistance and/or support with your schedule, use the BI "help" format or contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Toni Stuart, as she is always available to assist. secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au.

2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **SJOS Annual General Meeting** for the Financial Year 2022/2023 will be held in October. The Board of Management will be presenting the results for the year plus introducing the plans for the future. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the meeting. Further notice and the 2023 Annual Report will be available closer to the meeting date.

SJOS GARDEN CLUB

The enthusiastic members of the **SJOS Garden Club** worked hard over the winter to maintain the garden. The monthly meetings continued and recently the team even moved some pomegranate, fig and lime trees to alternate locations in the garden to ensure the best growing environment. They also received approval to raise some garden beds, making it easier to grow produce. There was a donation of a compost bin to aid the fertilisation of the garden, plus several members of the group attended a special Compost 101 Class conducted by Horticulturalist, Kat Lavers, who also visited the garden and gave advice on plantings, plus compost and worm farm processes.

SJOS WOULD LIKE TO THANK

The team at **Bunnings Collingwood** who supported the SJOS Food Store with a Food Drive during mid-July and collected a big box of food staples, the wonderful ladies at **The Benson** who knitted some colourful scarves and beanies and the “knitters” from **The Prahran Place** who provided knee rugs and jumpers. There were also a few generous supporters who dropped off some food stuffs and treats for the Food Store visitors. (It is always fun to unpack the food bags and find some surprises). We have been very fortunate to have a friend with a great citrus fruit supply who gives away fresh fruit and every Tuesday through Thursday morning SJOS volunteers collect bags of bread from **Woolworths** in Chapel Street to fill up the 2 Way Freezer. This supply of bread and rolls supports the requirements during the week, while the **Baker’s Delight Prahran** supply supports what is needed over the weekend. The team at **Rustica** also continue to support the bread supply.



Bunnings Food Drive

Benson Ladies Knitting

Prahran Place Knitters

A Friend's Citrus Fruit Gift

Woolworths Bread

SJOS VOLUNTEERS ARE AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING

The SJOS Mission is to provide transitional housing and support services to those in need, and it is great to have fun while doing this worthwhile work. The Sausage Sizzle Team and the Garden Club Group, all supporting SJOS, are the best!

