



**St Joseph's
Outreach
Services**

Shelter | Opportunity | Support

SJOS 2024 AUTUMN UPDATE

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

SJOS HIGHLIGHTS:

The season of Autumn has seen increased numbers visiting the Food Store and using the Bread Bank. The volunteers are continuing to work diligently to support the needs of those attending for emergency food relief. While the availability of food products has improved and we seem to be able to stock most of the items requested, the supply of bread from the various local bakeries and supermarkets has not been as plentiful. The Bread Bank is often empty, as we just cannot keep up with demand. The SJOS Board will be reviewing the challenge to hopefully source a solution.



Easter Donations from the families at St Peter's Early Learning Centre in Toorak were given out to Easter visitors to the Food Store as special Easter treats for families.

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 MARGARET LOCHTENBERG

On 13 March 2024, many gathered at St Thomas Aquinas Church to say goodbye to Margaret Lochtenberg, the matriarch of the Lochtenberg family, and one of the founders of SJOS. Margaret and her husband, Ben spent many years overseas before moving into South Yarra and becoming part of the local South Yarra community. They were both committed to social justice and the plight of the disadvantaged, so with the help of some friends, and Fr John Barry, Margaret's cousin, they started the emergency housing association that eventually became SJOS. Margaret was the first President and used her hardworking enthusiasm and organisational skills to raise funds, enabling the refurbishment of the closed St Joseph's Primary School into the Emergency Housing Units at 54 Fitzgerald Street South Yarra VIC 3141. A truly beautiful woman who saw a need and worked tirelessly to make a difference. **R.I.P Margaret.**

VALE MARGARET QUEALY

Margaret Quealy and her husband, Pat, were long term supporters of SJOS. They attended various events and they were always prepared to contribute to the fundraising needs of SJOS. A gentle lady, who lived the vision and the mission of SJOS. **R.I.P Margaret.**

SJOS OUTREACH OPERATIONS UPDATE

The services provided by SJOS have continued, with the support of the wonderful team of SJOS volunteers and all the outreach services are in place to provide emergency relief for those struggling. The ongoing challenge for SJOS is that it is so much more expensive to provide these services. For the Food Store, the number of families attending has increased by close to 10%, but the cost to purchase the products requested has increased by nearly to 20%. The SJOS Board considers the Food Store an integral part of the SJOS mission, but the increasing costs are challenging. As a sign of the times, SJOS is not receiving the same amount of actual food donations, and this means that more products need to be purchased. It is hoped that the current pricing issues with the wholesalers and supermarkets will flatten and the cost increases will be contained. Thank you to all those who support and assist the SJOS Food Store

SJOS DONATIONS AND GRANTS

Over the past weeks, SJOS has been gifted with some wonderful donations. While the costs for the Food Store has increased dramatically, the utilities bills keep rising, and the cost of volunteer and liability insurance has escalated. As such, every gift, no matter how small, is just so appreciated. The wonderful generosity of the various donors, supporters, families, and philanthropic groups help SJOS to continue with the emergency relief services provided to the disadvantaged. We would also like to acknowledge the support of **STREETSMART** from whom we have received a grant to help fund the outreach services.

SJOS GARDEN GROUP



What a team, and what an outstanding effort! The **SJOS Gardening Group** has been working diligently to replenish the garden beds for autumn. The team is now using the former Crisis Shelter as a work room for the harvest and this allows them to bag and label the garden produce for those visiting the Food Store. During a working bee in early April, the team topped up the soil in the garden beds and created better paths around the garden with new gravel. There was pruning and harvesting, with the removal of seasonal tomato plants. The new planting, conducted in mid April, included radishes, broccoli, snow peas, lettuce, beetroot, broad beans and coriander. From January 2024 to March 2024, the team harvestes 642 bags of produce for the SJOS Food Store, with the top seven (7) items harvested being silvrbeet, lettuce, rainbow chard, tomatoes, passionfruit, chives and oregano.

SJOS BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE

The SJOS Volunteers are conducting another fundraising Sausage Sizzle. To be held at **Bunnings Collingwood**, near the intersection of Victoria Parage and Hoddle Street, on Sunday 19 May 2024, the team hope to have another day of fundraising and friendraising. The volunteers plan to sell close to 500 sausages and raise about \$1,500.00 for SJOS. Lots of sausages, lots of cooked onions and hopefully a mild sunny afternoon to enjoy and raise money for SJOS.



SJOS SOCIAL JUSTICE SUPPORT

Xavier College provided SJOS with a group of boys to help with some activities as part of their social justice program. The boys gave up the week before their Easter break to participate in SJOS Volunteering. They were not sure what they would be asked to do, but these Xavier students enthusiastically worked in the kitchen area, unpacked the grocery deliveries, cleaned the shelves, and restocked the SJOS Food Store. They assisted the volunteers during the Thursday morning opening, as well as helping in some tasks in the SJOS Housing Units. SJOS would like to thank Xavier College for this initiative as it does give students the opportunity to receive, first hand, the challenges in the community for those disadvantaged and marginalized.

SJOS SUPPORTERS | FOODFILLED

SJOS is being supported by a local team of volunteers who source left over produce from delis and green grocers in the local Stonnington community. Established in 2018, **FOODFILLED** is a youth-led food rescue charity dedicated to combating food waste and alleviating hunger. They try to save perfectly edible food every week to feed those in need and boast an ever-growing network of volunteers and partners. Every Saturday, one of these dedicated FOODFILLED volunteers collects left over produce of vegetables and bread, then deliver what they collect to the SJOS volunteers managing the Food Store. We are never sure of what we will receive but all produce is so welcomed by the families visiting the Food Store during the weekend.

DONATIONS WELCOME

SJOS is a totally volunteer organisation relying on the support of generous donors, families and philanthropic organisations for financial support. Apart from a grant for the Food Store from the City of Stonnington, we are not government funded and we truly thank all our most generous donors. We appreciate all the support received as every donation makes a difference. SJOS could not do what we do without the support of those who care and those who want to make a better place for the vulnerable in our community. As we get closer to the end of the 2023/2024 Financial Year, we would like to encourage those who can to support our services, and to review www.sjos.org.au/donate. *Thank you.*