



WINTER 2018

Sisters of Charity Foundation Has Funded a New Disability Employment Service in Parramatta

The Sisters of Charity Foundation has recently made a major commitment to fund the establishment of a new hub of the Fighting Chance disability employment service in the Parramatta area which will open in the second half of 2018.

Fighting Chance tackles the issues of endemic economic and social isolation facing young people with disability in Australia through two inspired commercial activities, Avenue and Jigsaw.

Avenue is a social enterprise which imports and sells ethically made homeware products to the Australian consumer through e-commerce, community markets and wholesale. Avenue is unique in the disability sector as the only community participation program for people with severe and profound disability, offering vocational activities where participants earn money through a profit share mechanism. It enables participants, irrespective of the severity of their disability, to make a meaningful contribution to the business, earn an economic reward and achieve savings goals.

We are delighted to partner with Fighting Chance to bring the exciting Avenue service to an area of Sydney where the need is so great. Sydney's Western Suburbs have experienced historical under-funding and under-representation of high quality disability services which is a tragedy for those people who want access to meaningful employment and their careers. In fact, under the NDIS it is estimated the number of people with disability in Western Sydney seeking support will grow from 8,700 to 16,800 by 2020.

This is an important and significant investment by the SoCF. By partnering with Fighting Chance to establish a dedicated, high quality disability service in Parramatta, we are not only bringing relief to those who live with profound disadvantage and social isolation, but we are doing it in an area of Sydney that has enormous historical significance for the Sisters of Charity of Australia.

In 1838 five brave young Sisters set sail from Ireland to bring relief and offer guidance to the convicts incarcerated at the Female Factory in Parramatta. Now 180 years later, through their Foundation, the Sisters are bringing to life the ethos and mission of their Foundress Mary Aikenhead and offering creative solutions to alleviate the suffering of those who need hope and the opportunity to rebuild their lives with dignity.

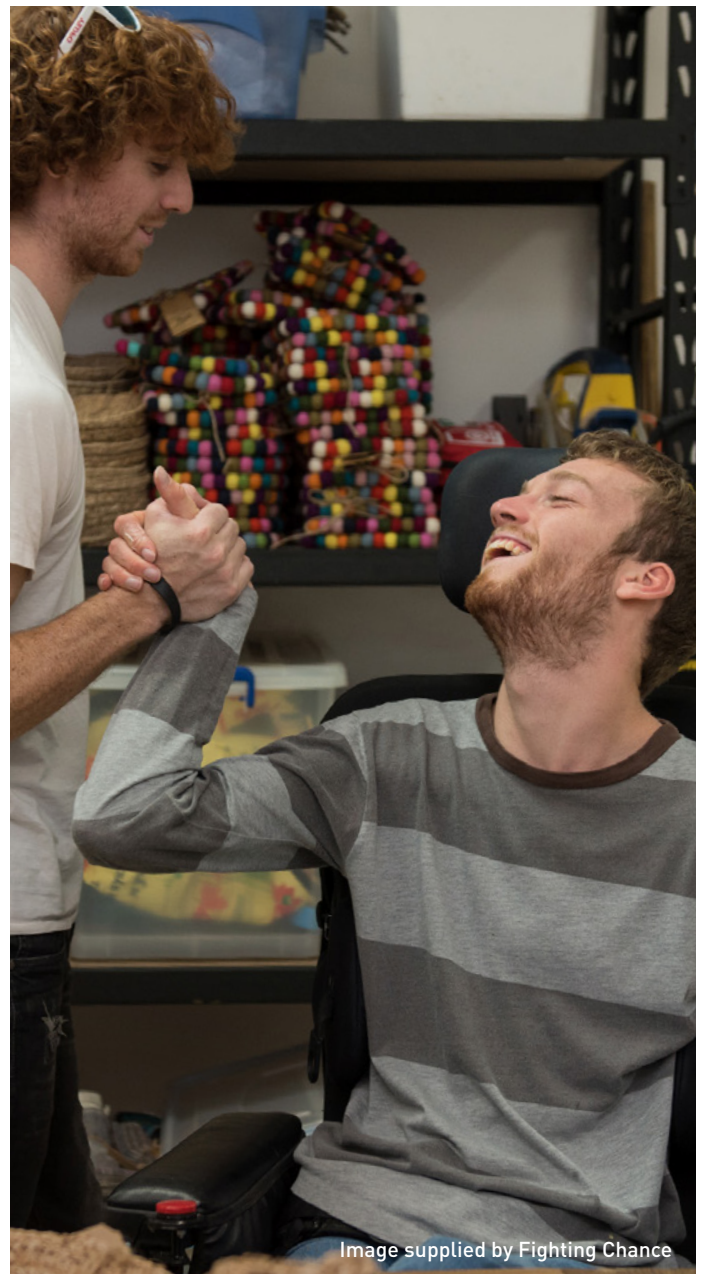


Image supplied by Fighting Chance

Sisters of Charity Foundation Community Grants Program



Image supplied by Aunties and Uncles

Aunties and Uncles (QLD)

Aunties and Uncles targets vulnerable children aged 1 to 11 years of age facing disadvantage and social exclusion in the Brisbane and Gold Coast regions. The program works to improve the welfare of socially vulnerable children without extended family or support networks by providing mentoring relationships which empower children to increase their feelings of confidence and self-worth, build resilience and cope with life's challenges. The program links children referred by social workers, community groups and government agencies with an adult volunteer auntie or uncle. Aunties and uncles are from all walks of life and have a friendly caring nature and are able to provide a safe place for a child. The volunteer aunties and uncles meet with their child at least twice a month for a minimum 12-month period and offer each child time, attention, care, stability, guidance and the benefits of an extended family. A grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation will guarantee 76 children across the Brisbane and Gold Coast areas will receive the benefits of this unique mentoring program.

Bridgewater PCYC (TAS)

Bridgewater PCYC is committed to the advancement of youths and community members by providing an affordable or free and safe environment to engage in meaningful community activities. With a grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation the PCYC will run recreational activities to engage with the 300 Syrian Christians living less than 1km from the PCYC. By engaging with the local Syrian community, the PCYC will break down the barriers leading to their social isolation and encourage broader community acceptance of this recently established refugee community. The Bridgewater PCYC is well positioned within the community with a longstanding reputation of community involvement. Staff currently operate across the community in youth work and family liaison roles with multiple interactions daily within the local schools and have successful ongoing collaborative programs with other support agencies.

Restoring Hope, Building Dignity

Foodbank of South Australia

Foodbank runs the School Breakfast and School Milk Programs which supplies nutritious breakfast food to 460 of the most disadvantaged schools across Adelaide's metropolitan and regional areas. A grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation will supply approximately half of the all the milk required for the School Milk Program during 2018 and will benefit around 15,000 school children from struggling families. Children need a nutritional breakfast to ensure good health and concentration in class but sadly increasing numbers of families are finding it extremely difficult to meet this most basic requirement. Foodbank report over 102,718 South Australians rely on their services every month with an additional 7,000 people unable to access their services because of high demand. Disturbingly, between 30%-40% of those affected are children.



Image supplied by Foodbank SA

HAE Australasia Ltd (VIC)

HAE Australasia is a patient support network dedicated to improving the quality of life for those who suffer from Hereditary Angioedema (HAE). HAE is a rare, chronic, lifelong disease, with random and recurring symptoms that can be life threatening. This condition causes spontaneous episodes of swelling of various parts of the body including airway, tongue or face which could lead to asphyxiation and intestinal swelling which causes intense pain, vomiting and diarrhoea leading to dangerous levels of dehydration. Sufferers struggle in the knowledge that HAE could kill them with little warning and many are unable to plan social events, make travel plans or even hold down employment because of the debilitating symptoms of their condition. The resulting social isolation has led to very high rates of severe depression amongst sufferers. The grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation will be used by HAE to run Healthy Mind workshops for patients and carers offering tailored mental health advice and support which is currently unavailable.



Image supplied by HAE Australasia

New Sisters of Charity Foundation Scholarships now available for TAFE Students

Scholarships for eligible young people are now available at Sydney TAFE and The Gordon in Victoria and we are currently developing plans to roll-out this important program to other TAFE facilities in the coming months.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation Tertiary Scholarship Program began in 2012 and offers generous scholarships to young people who have lived in out-of-home care. There are many reasons why children and young people cannot live at home safely with their birth parents but the thing they do have in common is that such a traumatic start in life is extremely disruptive and detrimental to their educational outcomes.

In fact, less than 3% of young people who have lived in out-of-home care attempt any form of higher education. Most are released from foster care and group homes at 18 years of age and do not have the emotional support and financial assistance that many of us take for granted when we contemplate further study.

Our scholarship program is trying to turn that around and give deserving young people the opportunity to reach their full potential. A good education is perhaps the greatest gift we can give and enhances not only the life of the scholarship recipient and their loved ones but it also enables them to make a valuable contribution to the communities where they live and work.

Sisters of Charity Foundation Tertiary Scholarships are currently available at The University of Queensland, Western Sydney University, Macquarie University, the Australian Catholic University, The University of Notre Dame and Deakin University in Victoria. However, we realise university isn't the right fit for everyone so we have developed a partnership with The National Foundation of TAFE Directors in order to deliver our highly sought-after scholarships to the vocational education sector.

We are very pleased to announce Serra Jurin is the first recipient of a Sisters of Charity Foundation TAFE Scholarship. Serra is studying a Diploma of Nursing.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation would like to acknowledge our partnership with TAFE Directors Australia National Scholarship Foundation in this tertiary education sector.



Serra Jurin – Diploma of Nursing.

Bequest Program

The Sisters of Charity Foundation invites you to consider making a gift that will be dedicated to enabling those plagued by disadvantage to build a brighter future for themselves and those they love.

If you would like more information about the Sisters of Charity Foundation Bequest Program please contact Reba Meagher or Judy Christie on 02 9367 1211.

Tertiary Scholarship Program

Strongly influenced by her own challenging childhood experiences, Jasmin Tran Yee is determined to pursue a career where she can make tangible differences to the lives of young people facing adverse circumstances. Knowing that a tertiary degree was the best way to achieve her ambitions, Jasmin's dream was frustrated by financial hurdles. However, a Sisters of Charity Foundation Tertiary Scholarship is enabling Jasmin to work towards a Bachelor of Social Science (Criminology) at Macquarie University.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation Tertiary Scholarships Program is unique because it specifically targets young people who have lived in out-of-home care. Sadly, less than 3% of young people who have lived in out-of-home care attempt any form of higher education compared to around 40% of other young people. This participation rate is unacceptably low and the SoCF is committed to creating educational opportunities for deserving young people to fulfil their potential.

Our scholarship program is made possible because of the generous support of our donors. Blackrock Investment Management Australia provided funding for three of our current scholarships including the scholarship at Macquarie University which is enabling Jasmin to secure a brighter future.

On behalf of Jasmin and students currently studying at Deakin University and The University of Queensland we would like to thank Blackrock for their generous support of this very special scholarship program.



"I want to use my studies to devote my life career to helping others. I have always wanted to be a social worker to help children and empower people who are in need. Often, I have been at the other end and in need so I truly understand the difference some support and guidance can give. So, I give great thanks to the SoCF for giving me the gift of opportunity and hope."

Jasmine

Donation

The Sisters of Charity Foundation means the world of difference to people who, through no fault of their own, live with the harsh effects of poverty on a daily basis. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Please visit our WEB site at www.sistersofcharityfoundation.com.au to donate online or complete this form and send to **Sisters of Charity Foundation**, PO Box 2432 Bondi Junction NSW 1355

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Please accept my Single Monthly Quarterly tax deductible donation of: \$

My cheque/money order is enclosed payable to Sisters of Charity Foundation or please debit the amount I've indicated from my:

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I authorise the Sisters of Charity Foundation to deduct this amount from my credit card on receipt of this form. If monthly or quarterly pledge has been ticked please deduct this amount from my credit card accordingly. This authority will remain valid until revoked in writing by me or the Sisters of Charity Foundation.

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All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Thank you.

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