



St. Merkorious Charity

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At St. Merkorious Charity, we assist the less fortunate to relieve them of the misery that builds up when hunger consumes every waking moment with thoughts of desperation and futility. Our program opens the way for people to realise that they are not forgotten, and that someone cares enough to visit them, talk to them, and support them in their time of need.



*Paula Nicolas
Founder and President*

BURWOOD HOT MEAL AND FELLOWSHIP BBQ- KPMG CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING DAY

On 25 September 2019, Spring flowers were in bloom, the sun was shining, and we had an amazing day celebrating our first community meal in Burwood Park. Many thanks to our special guest, Fr James from St. Paul's Church Burwood and the enthusiastic, energetic and empowering 30 KPMG staff who assisted us for the day with food preparation, setting up, cooking and serving food, companionship with guests and then packing up.

KPMG feedback, highlighted that they loved the opportunity to engage with others in the community and it was humbling to see the impact that a meal, conversation and kindness can foster to the human spirit. They valued and appreciated this experience and hope that this can be a continued working partnership.

None of this would occur without the generosity and support of our local community. This event is funded by a grant received from Burwood RSL who has contributed \$10,000 to host the monthly lunch for the next six months. Our great supporters at Burwood Council have committed to providing the venue in kind in Burwood Park to minimise our costs. We thank Burwood RSL and Burwood Council for their contribution and together we can work towards reducing the isolation and help empower the vulnerable in our community.



R U OK Day?

On 12 September 2019, Paula (President) and Dorian (Vice President) had the opportunity to spend time with our sponsors Paynter Dixon at their head office in North Ryde to talk about our charity at their R U OK Day event. James from Paynter Dixon introduced our charity, staff viewed our St. Merkorious Charity video and then the guests discussed the impact of homelessness and mental illness in the community before sharing a meal together.

Staff were encouraged to participate in our upcoming Sydney Street Feast on 15 November 2019 and Parramatta St Feast on 20 November 2019. Both these events are sponsored by Payce Foundation and Paynter Dixon along with St. Merkorious who will be providing the catering.



WESTFIELD BURWOOD LOCAL HERO AWARD PRESENTATION

It was with great honour and pride that on Thursday 3rd October 2019 at Burwood Westfield, our Founder and President Paula Nicolas was recognised for her dedication, empathy and kindness in assisting those in our community. She received the Westfield Burwood Local Hero Award and a cheque for \$10,000. Special guests included the charities great supporters Mayor John Faker and Cr Maryanne Duggan. Many thanks to Paula's family and committee members for attending and their continued support.



HAMPER PACKING - 4 OCTOBER 2019

During the school holidays, we had a dedicated group of volunteers who generously donated pantry foods and non-perishable items and assisted us to prepare over 120 hampers for the homeless and families in need. A special thank you to all our young volunteers who assisted, you did an amazing job and also our gratitude to Montessori Academy for their continued support and provision of the location to prepare the hampers.



COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERING

On 8 October 2019, we were fortunate to have three lovely students from Trinity Grammar School and St. Ignatius College who volunteered with us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Community Service hours. They helped make fresh hampers, as well as packaging cooked food.

This is a great initiative that we would love to build further that empowers our youth and leaves a humble experience. The boys learned to show gratitude and value the opportunities that they have, and to always remember, reflect and care for others in our community.



THANK YOU STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

St. Merkorious Charity received \$1500 from Strathfield Council to assist with providing nutritious food relief to those who are struggling in the Strathfield Local Area. We thank Council for their continued support with assisting us to prepare and distribute nourishing meals and food hampers to the less fortunate in our community. Together we can develop, foster and facilitate community programs to address poverty and alleviate the stress for the vulnerable.



FAIRFIELD SERVICE

We continue to enjoy our weekly hot meal, fellowship and activities at our Fairfield service. Around 100 people usually share this event, we look forward to hopefully implementing a project in 2020 which will connect, engage and offer a variety of fun learning opportunities to the group.



HOT MEAL AND FELLOWSHIP, RHODES

We continue to meet fortnightly on Monday nights at our highly anticipated service. We are humbled how a community gathers to help one another. Two buses with generous drivers who donate their services, pick up the guests from the city and bring them to St. Merkorious Church in Rhodes. From here, they enjoy fellowship and blessing and then share a meal together. There is an opportunity for our clients to shower, utilise hairdressing services and connect with others. They also get to take home many prizes and freebies. We look forward in the future to welcoming corporate sponsors who volunteer at these evenings and share our vision.



J&J METRO WEST 25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On 14 September 2019 at Le Montage, we were privileged to celebrate with John Megalli (Managing Director of J&J Metro West) and 260 guests a festive evening to honour their success of 25 years in business. J&J Metro West very generously donated all proceeds from ticket sales, auctions and raffles to St. Merkorious Charity. During the event we were entertained by comedian, Rob Shehadie and enjoyed delicious food and dancing. In addition to the money raised on the night, John presented a cheque to St. Merkorious Charity from J&J Metro West for \$20,000 and from Mitsubishi \$5,000. The total raised on the night was \$47,000 which will be utilised for food relief and fellowship services. We thank J&J Metro West and Mitsubishi for their very generous donation and support and value the incredible difference that it will make in the lives of the clients that we support.



GOOD NEWS

So much has been occurring at St. Merkorious Charity that we will now be sending out bi-monthly newsletters to ensure that you are all updated with our continued progress and events.

We wish to thank you all for your continuous support and generosity in assisting us to aid those who are less fortunate in our community. Our objective is to make a difference and a lasting impact on the lives of our clients whom are trying to overcome obstacles, to help support their journey and a special emphasis on supporting families with dependent children to assist with educating and "breaking the cycle".

We look forward to sharing our successes and bread with you all. God Bless.

Stay updated via Social Media:



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