



St. Merkorious Charity

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As 2020 drew to a close, St Merkorious Charity continued to strive and provide hope for all the people in need of help. From the resounding success of our Evening for Beirut dinner to a remarkable end to our Christmas Appeal, we thank all our sponsors, donors, staff and volunteers for all your efforts this past year. COVID-19 was tough, unprecedented, and recovery will be a long process – but I am confident that we will all be able to pull through together. God Bless.



*Paula Nicolas
Founder and
President*

EVENING FOR BEIRUT DINNER- OCTOBER 29, 2020

To support the victims and families affected by the horrifying major explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, we organised a fundraising dinner at Massaya Authentic Lebanese Restaurant.

To our great surprise, we managed to get nearly 150 attendees and raised over \$60,000 in total, through donations, ticket sales, lucky key sales, silent and live auctions.

Thank you to everyone who came - we really appreciate your time and efforts.



HOT MEAL AND FELLOWSHIP, RHODES (POST COVID-19) -NOVEMBER, 2020

It was lovely to see so many familiar faces we missed as well as new members at Prince Alfred Square as we recommenced our fortnightly Monday “Hot Meal & Fellowship” service.

As usual, we were greeted with huge rounds of success as nearly 50 people turned up to our services as they began again. We first picked up clients from areas ranging from Woolloomooloo to Martin Place, and Parramatta to drove them on our hired busses to where we serve the community meals at our Rhodes Hall.

Besides serving them hot meals, we also offer free haircuts, showers, clothes and care packs which included hand sanitisers and soap, to help them get through the pandemic. Thank you to all the volunteers who came and Fr Youhanna for his prayers and guidance throughout the events! We appreciate your continued support and efforts to continue supporting those in need.

WESTFIELD BURWOOD ‘COMMUNITY SPACE’- DECEMBER 1-4, 2020

We kick-started December by putting up a charity stand in front of Woolworths in Burwood Westfield, right next to a large banner of St. Merkorious and our logo to raise awareness in the lieu of Christmas - the Giving Season.

Through this we received dry food packages as well as monetary donations for our annual Christmas Appeal.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, visited and donated at our stall!! Our success wouldn't have been possible without you.



SHARE THE DIGNITY CAMPAIGN- DECEMBER, 2020

The “Share the Dignity Campaign” by Strathfield Council was a great way to assist women who are struggling. Strathfield Council generously collected over 200 handbags filled with items for women to be distributed through the community.

Their contribution is highly appreciated, as we helped distribute the donated goods at our following outreach services to mothers and women in need. Everyone deserves their basic rights and dignity, and we were glad to support that.

HAMPER PACKING NIGHTS-DECEMBER 9/10, 2020

The Hamper Packing Nights were filled with enthusiasm as our volunteers packed over 500 bags of hampers for both disadvantaged families and individuals. We give a special thank you to the volunteers from Tennis FX Academy and everyone else who attended for assisting us in creating bags for the needy.

WARANARA SCHOOL-DECEMBER 11, 2020

Thank you to all the students of Waranara School who volunteered with us on the 11th of December! Not only did they help us to pack multiple boxes and of fresh veggies and fruits to sustain the poor families in the area through Christmas and New Years; they even lit up our warehouse with their enthusiasm and laughter. It truly brought about the spirit that 'Together, we can' truly do anything. Thank you for all you have done for us and the community.



BLACKTOWN CHRISTMAS LUNCH-DECEMBER 15, 2020

The Blacktown Christmas Lunch was a great time for our volunteers to sit and chat with individuals who are struggling. We served hot meals and dessert while also distributed multiple packaged meals to families to have over the Christmas period so that they can enjoy Christmas with security and food in their stomachs. Additionally, given the generous support and donations from Strathfield Council's "Share the Dignity" Campaign, we were able to distribute care packs and bags for women and their families.

WESTFIELD GIFT WRAPPING STATION - DECEMBER 11-17, 2020

With the approaching of the 'Giving' season, Burwood Westfield set up a Christmas Gift Wrapping Station, where all gift-wrapping proceeds went directly to charity. For 4 days, Burwood Westfield was extremely generous, offering to provide all the proceeds from the gift wrapping to our cause.

We are also very grateful for all the volunteers who offered up their time to man the stall. A special mention goes to St. Pat's boys, who covered most days at the stall regardless of it being on their school holidays. Thank you for your generosity and time!



MONTESSORI ACADEMY APPEAL- DECEMBER, 2020

It brought us great joy to hear that Montessori Academy would be assisting us again this year! Their annual contribution to our Christmas appeal was highly appreciated. It's a time where children and families get together to assist those who are less fortunate. The Montessori Academy Appeal was not only done from their local Croydon centre, but rather from various centres all around Sydney. It was amazing to have their enormous support in sharing compassion and love to the needy this Christmas.

ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE VOLUNTEERING- 17/18/23 DECEMBER, 2020

St Pat's boys never cease to amaze us with their dedication to charity work! Ever since they began their Summer holidays, these boys have been incredibly helpful and always around the St. Merkorious warehouse and kitchen. It's great to see so many eager young men active with charity - we hope they have made some memorable experiences in the process



of changing lives.



DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS APPEAL - DECEMBER 22, 2020

We completed our Christmas appeal with a very generous donations from Paynter Dixon and 3 Bridges, where they donated a large supply of food and clothes. Their contribution went a long way during the closing of our centre in the Christmas period, allowing us to continue providing hot meals and care packs to those in need. It was lovely to have so many helping hands, most especially with the additional gifts that were donated to be given out at our outreach services. We thank our volunteers, staff and donors for their continued support. What a wonderful way to end our Christmas appeal!



Westfield
Local Heroes
One act. Big impact.

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