

## FROM THE FOUNDER

PAULA NICOLAS

As we move into the second half of the year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to all our dedicated volunteers. Your unwavering commitment to our outreach services, whether working at our headquarters in the kitchen and warehouse or delivering hampers and meals to those in need, is truly the backbone of St. Merkorious Charity (SMC).

The second quarter of this year was filled with significant activities and achievements. In partnership with International Rotary, we successfully prepared 14,000 blankets to send to Egypt, Lebanon, and Thailand, providing essential warmth to those less fortunate. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to the folding and packing of these blankets.

We also had the pleasure of hosting our Art course in collaboration with the Canada Bay Council, which fostered community spirit and creativity. Additionally, our hospitality and barista courses, made possible through our partnership with the Department of Premier & Cabinet and the Women NSW Investing in Women Program, provided valuable skills and opportunities.

This year has been particularly special as we celebrated SMC's 11-year anniversary. It was wonderful to bring together our volunteers, sponsors, corporates, and potential sponsors to commemorate this milestone. Your presence and support made the event a resounding success.

Looking ahead, the second half of the year promises to be just as exciting. We have our annual Day at the Bay 2024 scheduled for September 21 and our Street Feast events in Parramatta and Sydney planned for November. We look forward to these events with enthusiasm and hope to see many of you there.

Thank you once again for your incredible support and dedication.

Together, we continue to make a meaningful impact in our community.





## Parramatta Outreach Service - Every Monday Evening

PRINCE ALFRED SQUARE

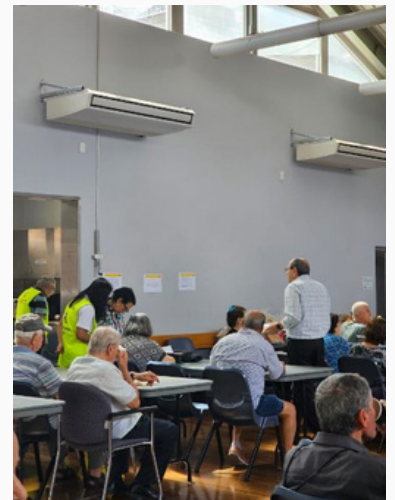
Our Parramatta outreach service each Monday evening is a time of fellowship and charity, spreading love and approximately 80 care packs and food to those in the community. Thank you to all the volunteers for your help!



## Fairfield Service - Every Monday Lunch Time

FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

St. Merkorious Charity also work with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. Each Monday lunchtime in Fairfield, SMC provide a free morning tea and lunch to around 50-80 locals. Our Fairfield service provides an opportunity to come together, socialize and share common and varied interests over a meal.



# Woolloomooloo Outreach & Fellowship Service - every Friday evening

164 CATHEDRAL ST. WOOLLOOMOOLOO (NEXT TO POLICE STATION)

Our outreach service operates every Friday evening at Woolloomooloo. We offer healthy hot meals, desserts, drinks, tea and coffee, clothing, pillows, blankets and care packs.

During the service our volunteers provide an opportunity to converse with those in need, offering fellowship and comfort to approximately 60-80 people.



# Rhodes Outreach Service - Each Month

2 CAVELL AVE RHODES

Monthly, SMC provides a free sit down, hot meal for approximately 80-100 disadvantage of Sydney. We pick up rough sleepers, in a bus from Martin Place and Parramatta and take them to St. Merkorious Church hall in Rhodes. Here we provide a hot, sit-down meal, free haircuts, free clean clothes and take away hampers. The evening is filled with laughter. fun and hope. It's also an opportunity to converse with others without judgment.



# Blanket Project in Collaboration with Rotary International

A Heartfelt THANK YOU to approximately 200 incredible volunteers.

During April 2024, you dedicated your time and effort to SMC's blanket project, folding thousands of donated blankets from Rotary International. Your collective effort helped us fill containers bound for those in need overseas, bringing warmth and comfort to countless lives around the globe.

Your generosity and hard work have made a huge difference, and we couldn't have done it without you. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your amazing contribution.



# KPMG Corporate Volunteers

Thank you to all the staff from KPMG for volunteering your time during this quarter. We hope you had an amazing experience, and we can't wait to welcome you all back again soon.



# Rise & Shine Kindergarten Volunteers

Thank you to Rise & Shine Kindergarten for their incredible generosity and unwavering support! Their dedication to volunteering at SMC on 17, 19 & 24 April brought warmth and joy to countless hearts. Rise & Shine has also stepped up as sponsors for our 2,000 meals a week initiative, ensuring that no one goes hungry in our community.



# SPC Volunteers

Thank you to all the St Patrick's College Strathfield students and teachers who volunteered their time helping SMC in the kitchen and warehouse during their 2024 second term break.



# St Marthas Strathfield Teacher Volunteers

A heartfelt thank you to all the incredible teachers from St. Martha's Catholic Primary School! Your dedication and kindness truly shined in every aspect. From lending a hand in our kitchen to spreading warmth through the blanket folding project on Friday, April 12, 2024.



# St Mary & St Mina Coptic Orthodox College

A massive shoutout to the incredible students from St Mary & St. Mina Coptic Orthodox College. Your dedication on Monday, 20th May 2024, left us in awe. Thank you for lending your hands in the kitchen and warehouse. Your efforts truly made a difference!



## CBCC Youth Expo 24

On Saturday 25 May 2024 SMC was honored to be part of the CBCC Youth Expo 24, celebrating the CEO for a Day project. This amazing expo held at Western Sydney University Bankstown Campus, was initiated to support youth empowerment and growth and an opportunity to meet community groups, local businesses, and the Bulldogs!



## WBC- Corporate Volunteers

Thank you to our corporate volunteers from Westpac who volunteered time in our kitchen on 8 May 2024.



## Winter Appeal Donations from St. Mary & St. Mina Coptic Orthodox College

Thank you to everyone who donated from St. Mary & St. Mina Coptic Orthodox College. Your incredible generosity and support for our Winter appeal has made a profound difference.



## 2024 Sydney Homeless Persons Memorial Service

On Friday, June 21, 2024, a deeply moving Homeless Memorial Service took place simultaneously at Martin Place and St. Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta. It was a poignant moment of reflection and solidarity as we gathered to honor and remember the lives of those who passed away while experiencing homelessness.

The special prayer service was a heartfelt tribute to individuals whose lives were touched by the harsh realities of homelessness. It reminded us of the importance of compassion, community support, and the need for meaningful change to address homelessness.



# SMC 11 Year Anniversary Celebration

Celebrating 11 Years of SMC! Friday 14 June 2024 was truly an unforgettable evening as we gathered to commemorate over a decade of incredible impact and service to our community. Thank you to our event sponsors Payce Foundation, our major supporters Terra Ferma and DASCO Aus and all our platinum, gold and silver sponsors and to everyone who joined us in making this night truly amazing! Together, we look forward to many more years of making a positive difference in the lives of those in need.



## Art Course

In collaboration with Canada Bay Council, Art on Timber with artist Safaa Shaker was held every Thursday from 30 May 2024 - 4 July 2024, touching lives in our community. It was an incredible journey filled with beautiful art, good company, and delightful lunches. A big thank you to Canada Bay Council for their invaluable support in making this initiative possible!



## Hospitality Course

In collaboration with the NSW Government, SMC kicked off our hospitality course on 25 June 2024 aimed at empowering women to connect with trades. It's been incredible watching these amazing women learn new skills and forge new friendships along the way.



# Meridan student volunteers 25 June 2024

"Thank you to the amazing students from Meridan who volunteered in our kitchen and warehouse on June 25, 2024! Your hard work and dedication made a real difference. We're so grateful for your support and enthusiasm.



**St. Merkorious Charity**

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**TASKS WILL INCLUDE...**

- Assist in our commercial kitchen
- Assist in the warehouse with sorting and packing
- Hamper packing
- Various outreach services
- Hours are flexible

Get in touch: Unit 3, 6-20 Braidwood St. Strathfield South  
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