



Issue 29 Jan-March 2024

ST MERKORIOUS CHARITY

FROM THE FOUNDER

PAULA NICOLAS

As we step into a new year, I am thrilled to share that St. Merkorious Charity is buzzing with exciting developments! Our journey ahead is filled with promise and progress, and we couldn't have come this far without your unwavering support.

Firstly, we are eagerly preparing for our move to new premises, which we hope will be ready by early 2025. This move represents a significant milestone for us and will greatly enhance our ability to serve our community. Additionally, we are excited about the upcoming opening of our café in Hudson Park, Strathfield, which will be a wonderful new hub for connection and support.

The year has started on a high note with our special Australia Day hampers, distributed thanks to our partnership with the Australia Day Council of Australia. This initiative was a heartwarming success and exemplifies the spirit of giving that drives our mission.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our dedicated volunteers who make our outreach services possible. Your commitment is the backbone of our success, and your efforts are deeply appreciated. A special shout-out goes to the students from St Patrick's College who volunteered during the January school holidays, as well as those from Homebush Boys and St Brendan's in Bankstown who contributed to our Easter Appeal. Your enthusiasm and hard work make a real difference.

We are also grateful to the staff from KPMG for their three months of dedicated volunteer service, and to the parents from St. Marthas Strathfield for your invaluable contributions.

Lastly, a big thank you to the Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce for inviting our sports ambassador, Joya Nicolas, to speak at their International Women's Day event. Joya's inspiring words and our collaboration with the Chamber help amplify our mission and impact.

Thank you for being a vital part of our journey. Here's to a year filled with continued growth, meaningful connections, and impactful service.





Parramatta Outreach Service - Every Monday Evening

PRINCE ALFRED SQUARE

Every Monday, our amazing team is out at Prince Alfred Square, offering support to those in need. We're proud to provide around 80 hot meals and 80 care packs each week. A massive thank you to our dedicated volunteers who make this possible and truly embody the spirit of community.

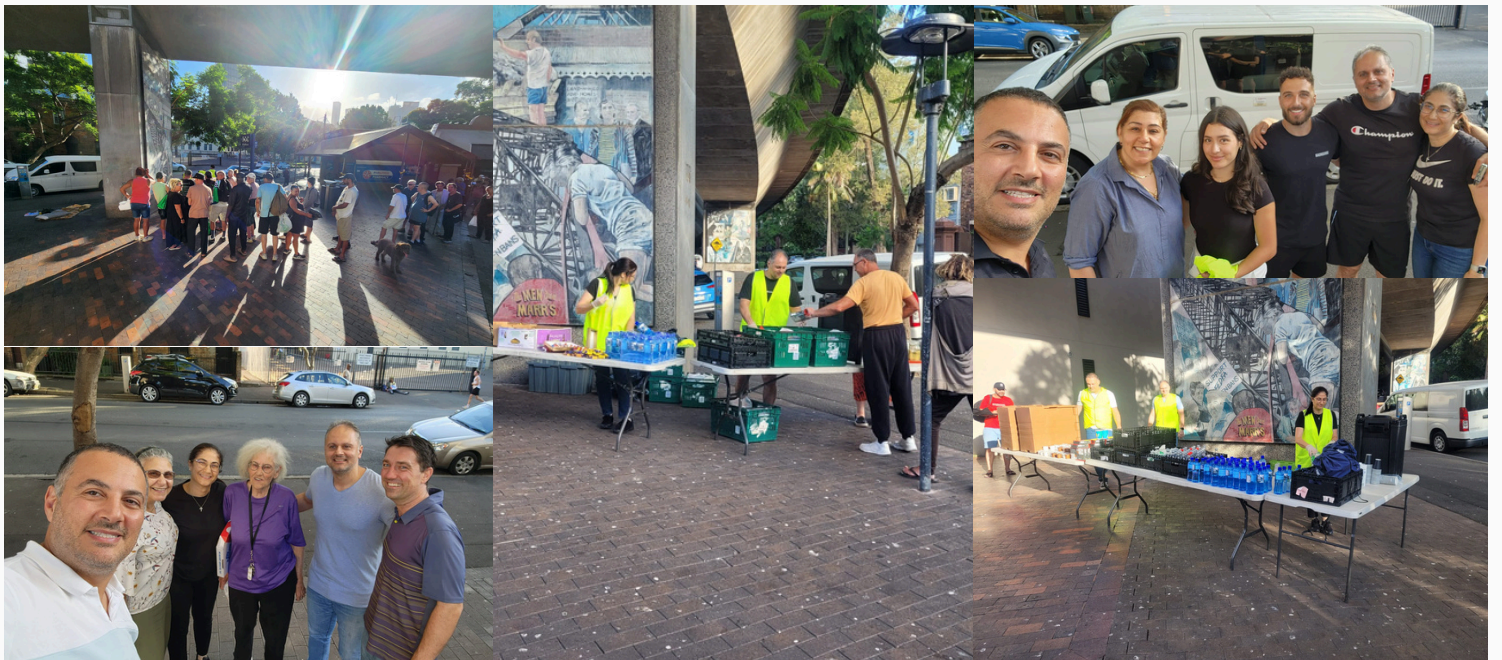


Woolloomooloo Outreach & Fellowship Service - every Friday evening

164 CATHEDRAL ST. WOOLLOOMOOLOO (NEXT TO POLICE STATION)

Every Friday evening in Woolloomooloo, our outreach team is here to help those in need and offer a listening ear. We serve around 60-80 hot meals, tea/coffee, and provide a selection of hygiene products and pantry staples like noodles and tuna, giving individuals the choice to pick what they need.

A huge thank you to our dedicated volunteers who make this all possible and bring so much warmth and support each week.



Fairfield Service - Every Monday Lunch Time

FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Every Monday, our Fairfield service brings the community together with delicious hot meals, uplifting singing, fun raffles, and the chance to make new friends. We're proud to serve around 60-80 free hot meals, along with tea and coffee.

A big shoutout to our amazing volunteers who give their time and energy to make this weekly event so special. Your commitment helps build connections and brighten days.



Australia Day Celebration - Respect. Reflect. Celebrate

In celebration of Australia Day 2024, we teamed up with the Australia Day Council for a week of meaningful events at our headquarters! We put together beautiful hampers to share with families and individuals in need across Parramatta and Woolloomooloo.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this initiative a success. Your support and generosity truly make a difference. Here's to a heartwarming start to the new year.



SPC Volunteers over the Jan school break

Thank you to all the St. Patricks College students and teachers who volunteered their time during the January 2024 school break.



Rebecca Gauci visits from Wenty Leagues

It was great welcoming Rebecca Gauci from Wenty Leagues on 24 Jan 2024, to discuss future community partnerships and initiatives.



Diamond Food Services

A big thank you to Chris from Diamond Food Services for your weekly donations of lamb to SMC. Your generosity goes a long way.



KPMG Volunteers

Thank you once again to the volunteers from KPMG who helped out in February and March in our kitchen and warehouse at SMC. We hope you had an amazing experience, and we can't wait to welcome you all back again soon.



Blessing of the New SMC Café

SMC is thrilled to announce the upcoming opening of our new café at Hudson Park in Strathfield. We had the honor of having Father Youhana and Father Bishoy bless the premises before any work began, and we're grateful for their support and prayers. Stay tuned for more updates as we prepare to welcome you all to this special place.



Easter Appeal 2024

Thank you to Homebush Boys High, Bass High, Burwood Girls High and St. Brendan's Bankstown for your amazing contribution to the SMC 2024 Easter Appeal. Your donations will go a long way to those in need this Easter.



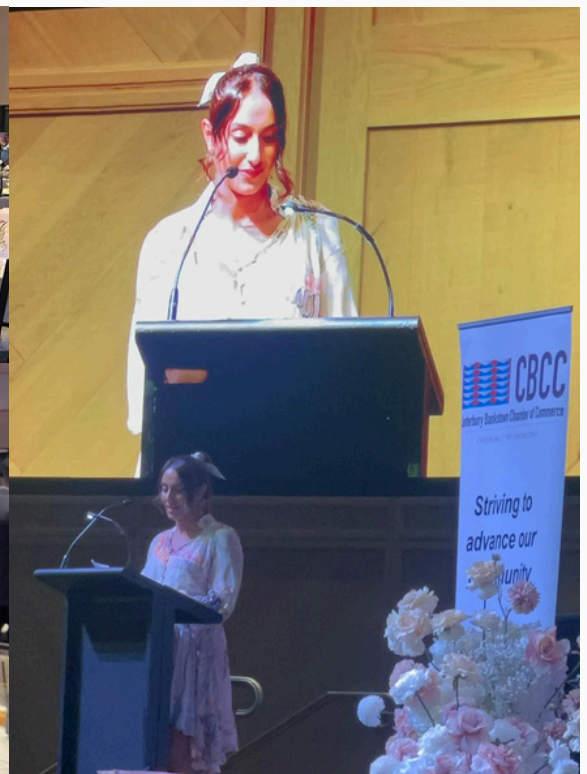
St Martha Strathfield Parent Volunteers

A HUGE thank you to all the amazing parent volunteers from St. Martha Strathfield who dedicated their time on March 25, 2024, to support SMC. Your help was invaluable, and we couldn't have done it without your generous spirit and hard work. We are so grateful for your support.



Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce International Women's Day Event

Our SMC sports ambassador Joya Nicolas was honored to be invited to speak at the Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce International Women's Day event on 8 March 2024.





St. Merkorious Charity

SHARING THE BREAD

FOSTERING COMMUNITY AND TEAM BUILDING WITH SMC

We are delighted to introduce a unique opportunity for your organisation to engage in community service and team building through a partnership with us.

The following outlines how your organisation can make a positive impact on the community while fostering teamwork and camaraderie among your employees and showcase your company's commitment to social responsibility.

St. Merkorious Charity is a registered not for profit organisation and believes that hunger and poverty are a source of intergenerational suffering, and we can only hope to empower our disadvantaged when everyone takes notice and pitches in.

Volunteering with SMC is all about making a change to our community through a range of flexible volunteering opportunities which provide memorable experiences where your staff will grow and learn new skills.

Join a team of dedicated and committed volunteers across Sydney who help our local communities in their times of distress.

Volunteers are a core component and contributor of our organisation. All corporate volunteers can participate with a donation of \$1,500 for groups of 6 or more per annum.

We understand that each organisation has unique goals and preferences, and we are open to tailoring volunteer experiences that align with your values and team dynamics. Let's collaborate to create a volunteer program that resonates with your employees.

To explore this volunteer partnership opportunity further, please reach out to charity@stmerkorious.com.au.

Unite your team around a shared purpose and engage in community service with SMC. By participating, your organisation can contribute to positive change while enhancing team dynamics.

We look forward to discussing how we can come together to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

We are excited about the potential to create a positive impact together.

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