

ST MERKORIOUS CHARITY



Issue 27. July-Sep

FROM THE FOUNDER

BY PAULA NICOLAS

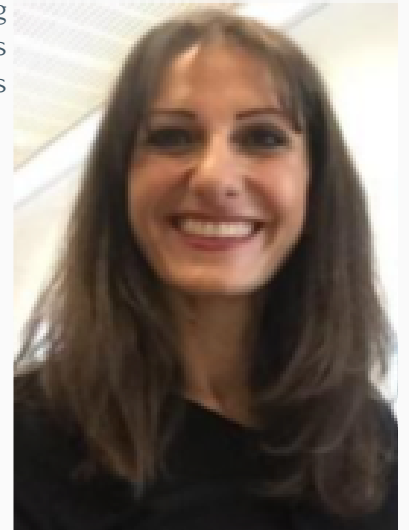
I hope this message finds you well and filled with the same warmth and hope that have marked our journey throughout this year. It is with great joy and gratitude that I share with you the remarkable events that have unfolded during the July to September 2023 quarter.

Our major event, "Day at the Bay," held at Leichhardt Oval on 2 September 2023, was an incredible success. The day was a testament to the power of unity and compassion. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our sponsors whose unwavering support helped us create a memorable day for our community. But the success of this event wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and hard work of countless volunteers. To each and every one of you, thank you for your selfless commitment in making this day a resounding triumph.

I also want to express my deep gratitude to the generous souls who have continued to make donations to SMC. Your contributions are the lifeblood of our organization, enabling us to extend our support to those who need it most. It is through your kindness that we can work tirelessly to alleviate the struggles of countless families and individuals who face the growing challenges of the increasing cost of living.

As we step into the final quarter of the year, we are gearing up for our annual Christmas appeal. This is a time when many families and individuals are feeling the weight of financial burdens. Let us rally together, as we always have, to make this Christmas a truly blessed one for everyone. Your generosity can bring warmth and light to those who are navigating difficult times, and together, we can ensure that no one is left without the joy of the Christmas season.

I encourage you to continue your support by volunteering at our headquarters and outreach services, donating, and spreading the word about our mission. Together, we can create a ripple of positive change that extends far beyond what we can see. Please stay tuned for more updates, as we embark on a new season of giving, sharing, and caring. You can find more information on our website and follow us on social media to stay connected with our work and the impact we create together.



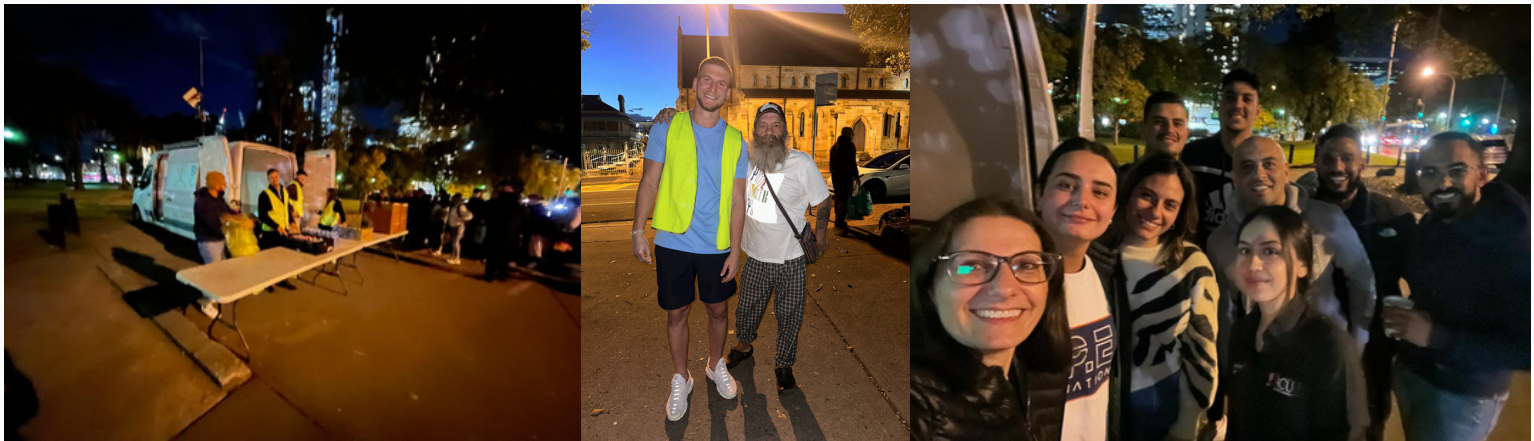


Parramatta Outreach Service - Every Monday Evening

PRINCE ALFRED SQUARE

Every Monday evening SMC offers a free hot takeaway meal and care pack to those in need.

The hot meals are distributed to approximately 80 people with a smile and a chat with one of our friendly volunteers in Prince Alfred Square Parramatta.



Woolloomooloo Outreach & Fellowship Service - every Friday evening

164 CATHEDRAL ST. WOOLLOOMOOLOO (NEXT TO POLICE STATION)

Our 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.



Fairfield Service - Every Monday Lunch Time

St. Merkorious Charity also work with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities. Due to Fairfield's high refugee intake, its CALD communities, and lower socio-economic conditions, each Monday SMC provides a free morning tea and free 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.



Rhodes Outreach Service - Each Month

Monthly, SMC provides a free sit down, hot meal for the homeless 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 of essentials. The evening is filled with laughter and is an opportunity to give one on one time.

We give hope where possible and provide an opportunity to converse with others without judgment. This initiative has been an overwhelming success, and each event brings in around 80-100 homeless people.



Father Greg and Rotary Club Donation

Father Greg and Frank from St Charles in Ryde - Thank you for your ongoing support and for dropping off the pantry items donated by the Lions Club on 15 August 2023.



Gift of Bread

Thank you to Marcel and all the team from Gift of Bread for all your support throughout the year and sharing the bread.



KPMG Pantry Goods Donation

A big thank you to the staff at KPMG for organising and donating various pantry items and hygiene products for our hampers on 11 July 2023. Its great having the staff volunteer with us throughout the year and help give back to the community.



SMC Rhodes Choir



Thank you to Mark and the team for running the SMC Community Choir for the past few months at The Connection room in Rhodes, the feedback was amazing.

This all couldn't have been achieved without the support of Canada Bay Council...Thank you



St. Martha Primary School Parent Volunteers



Thank you Elena Razzoli, family educator from St. Martha Primary School, for organising on 17 July 2023 for the keen parents to volunteer with us at SMC.



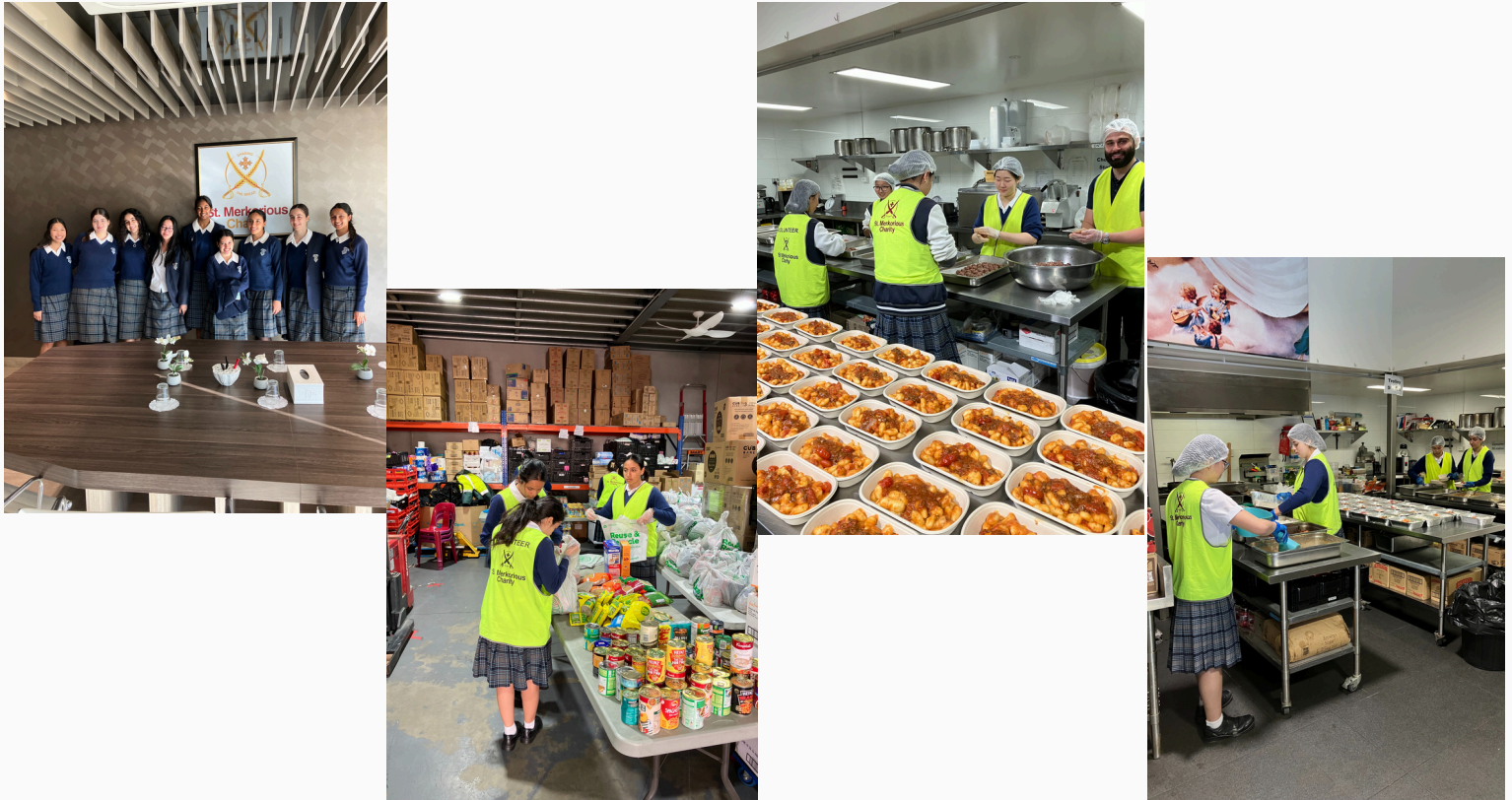
St. Pats Boys Volunteers - Ongoing throughout School Holidays

During the July school break, the various students from St. Patricks College in Strathfield volunteered their time at SMC. Thank you for your ongoing support.



Strathfield Girls High School volunteers

Thank you to all the students from Strathfield Girls High School who volunteered their time each week over the past few months. Your contribution to our community will go a long way.



AXA Volunteers

Thank you, AXA, for volunteering your time on 10 August 2023. Your contribution in both the kitchen and the warehouse has been amazing.

We can't wait to welcome you all back again.



**MAKE
TODAY
GREAT**

Wedded Wonderland

It was great to meet with Wendy from Wedded Wonderland on 10 August 2023.

We appreciate all your valuable input and thank you for your time.



Enfield Rovers Football Club Donation Day - 19 August 2023

Thank you to Victor from Enfield Rovers Football Club for organising and promoting St. Merkorious Charity on presentation day Saturday 19 August 2023.

All the donations that were made on the day have been put towards all our hampers. Thank you to everyone involved.



Day at the Bay - 2 September 2023



ON Saturday 2 September 2023, SMC major event, Day at the Bay, was held at Leichhardt Oval. All our amazing participants and sponsors put on their exercise gear, enjoyed the ocean breeze, connected with friends, and ate great food. Day at the Bay is a great community event that has fun and free family- friendly entertainment and activities.

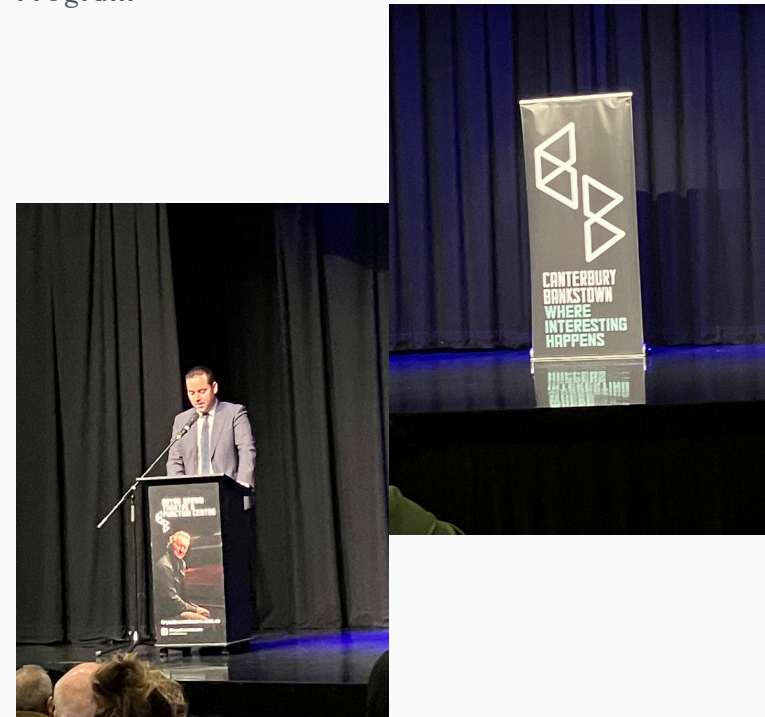
Once again, we would like to thank all our sponsors and those who donated on the day.



Canterbury Bankstown Grant Award

SMC were grateful for the opportunity to attend the Canterbury Bankstown Grant Awards on 6 September 2023.

We extend our sincere appreciation for being awarded a grant to fund our Nutritional Bridges Program



KPMG Volunteers



Thank you to all the staff from KPMG who volunteered with SMC on various dates in the last 3 months. You all have been amazing, thank you for all your support.



Nestle Staff Volunteers

Thank you to all the wonderful staff from Nestle who volunteered at SMC in both the kitchen and the warehouse to prepare and pack meals and hampers on 7 September 2023.

We thank you for all your support.





St Marks Coptic Church Street Food Festival



St. Merkorious Charity were honored to be invited to St. Marks Coptic Orthodox Church in Arncliffe to celebrate with them the Feast of St. Mary and the Coptic New Year - Street Food Festival on Saturday 9 September 2023.

They had kids' entertainment, a live band, merchandise and a great variety of amazing food.

Thank you so much, a great time was had by everyone.



Homebush Boys Morning Tea

Thank you to Homebush Boys High for the amazing morning tea that was held on 19 September 2023.



Strathfield Girls High School 70 Year anniversary assembly



On Thursday 21 September 2023 SMC were invited to join in the celebration of Strathfield Girls High School 70th year anniversary.....Congratulations.



St. Frances Xavier Catholic Primary School - Staff Development Day

Thank you to the 8 teachers from St. Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, for volunteering with SMC on 22 September 2023 for your staff development day. You were all amazing.



St. Scholastica Duke of Ed

Welcome back to the students from St. Scholastica College who volunteered on 29 September 2023 doing the Duke of Ed.

Thank you to Marcella Gallace for organising a great day, we can't wait to welcome you all back again soon.





St. Merkorious Charity Christmas Appeal 2023

Essential items for donation

Packaged food:

Noodles, tuna, chicken, spam, beans, lentils, soups, canned fruit, sweet and savory biscuits, honey, jam, sugar, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, pasta, rice, long life milk, cornflakes and cereal.

Hygiene products:

Body wash, shaving cream, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, tissues, shampoo/ conditioner, deodorant, hand wash, sanitizer and wipes.

Miscellaneous:

Can openers, first-aid items such as band-aids, clean underwear, bandages and torches.