

FROM THE FOUNDER

PAULA NICOLAS

As we reflect on the past few months, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the tremendous support and dedication shown by our volunteers and donors. Your generosity and commitment have made a significant impact on the lives of those we serve in our community, and we cannot thank you enough.

From October to December 2023, St. Mekorious Charity (SMC) was actively engaged in various outreach services across Rhodes, Parramatta, Fairfield, and Woolloomooloo. Your tireless efforts during this time have helped us reach out to those in need, providing them with essential support and care.

We would also like to express our gratitude to everyone who generously contributed towards our 2023 Christmas Appeal. Your kindness has enabled us to continue our mission of spreading joy and hope to those facing challenges during the holiday season.

A special thank you goes to Terra Ferma Pty Ltd for sponsoring a stand for SMC at the National Childcare Providers 2nd Annual Networking Evening on October 28, 2023, at ICC. Your invitation provided us with a valuable opportunity to connect with others and raise awareness about our cause.

On November 1, 2023, SMC was very fortunate to host a charity event cruise sponsored by Terra Ferma Pty Ltd to launch our initiative to Sponsor 2,000 meals a week for \$10,000. It was a great night with amazing entertainment by Violin By Mel and a chance to network with incredible businesses. Thank you to Suzy Michael who MC'd our event and to all the businesses that supported SMC by giving back.

On November 30, 2023, we had the privilege of hosting an amazing concert sponsored by Georges River Council for the community. It was a memorable evening filled with music, laughter, and unity, bringing joy to all who attended.

As December unfolded, we gathered to express our gratitude during the Volunteer Christmas Party. This event was a heartfelt celebration of the invaluable contributions made by every volunteer throughout the year.

On December 10, 2023, SMC was honored to participate in the St. Marks Coptic Church Christmas Carols evening, where we raised funds for our special project for St. Bishoy Hospital in Egypt. Your support for this initiative will help improve healthcare services for those in need.

We also want to acknowledge the dedication of our volunteers who assisted with hamper packing and volunteered at our Rhodes Christmas party. Your commitment to serving others has made a meaningful difference in the lives of many individuals and families.

SMC is thrilled to also announce that we have received a generous grant of \$8,690,000 from the NSW Government - Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants Program (WSIG) to establish a brand-new Food Distribution Centre and Sustainable Community Garden. This project is set to revolutionize our efforts in combating food insecurity and supporting disadvantaged communities across Greater Sydney. Thank you for your support

As we approach the holiday season, we want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the spirit of love, peace, and goodwill fill your hearts and homes during this festive time.



EXCITING NEWS: GRANT APPROVED FOR A NEW SMC FOOD DISTRIBUTION CENTRE & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY GARDEN

SMC is thrilled to announce that we have received a generous grant of \$8,690,000.00 from the NSW Government Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants Program (WSIG) to establish a brand-new Food Distribution Centre and Sustainable Community Garden at 121 Cosgrove Rd Strathfield South. This project is set to revolutionize our efforts in combating food insecurity and supporting disadvantaged communities across Greater Sydney.

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT

The new facility will enable SMC to provide up to 15,000 meals a week to those in need. This significant increase in our capacity will allow us to reach more people, offering emergency crisis relief and comprehensive referral services to the socio-economically disadvantaged.

PROJECT SCOPE

The ambitious project includes the construction of:

- Large Commercial-Grade Kitchen: Designed to accommodate 15-20 people.
- Community Garden: A sustainable garden where fresh produce can be grown, promoting healthy eating and community involvement.
- Garage and Warehouse: Essential for storage and logistical operations.
- Interview Room and Call Centre: Providing a private and supportive environment for client interactions.
- Office and Counselling Rooms: Dedicated spaces for counselling and administrative tasks.
- Board Room, Print Room, and Training Room: Facilitating strategic planning, documentation, and volunteer training.
- Parking Facilities: Five car parking spaces, along with internal truck and van parking for smooth operations.

This new center will serve as the dedicated headquarters for SMC, enhancing our ability to deliver critical services to those facing food insecurity and other socio-economic challenges. The facility's comprehensive design ensures that we can operate efficiently and effectively, providing a welcoming space for our community.

We are deeply grateful to the NSW Government for their support and investment in our mission. This grant not only allows us to expand our services but also reinforces the importance of community solidarity in addressing food insecurity. We look forward to the positive impact this new center will have on the lives of many.

Stay tuned for updates as we embark on this exciting journey to better serve our community. Thank you for your continued support!



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!



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.



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.



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.



Mercure Hotel Bankstown Donation - 11 Oct 2023

Thank you to Mercure Sydney Bankstown for organising the amazing hygiene products for our hygiene hampers. products for our hygiene hampers.



Arun Volunteering from Rotary Granville

Thank you to Arun from Rotary Granville, for volunteering and giving up your time to help SMC.



Strathfield Council Town Hall 100 Year Anniversary

Congratulations to Strathfield Council on celebrating 100 years on 11 October 2023 for the Strathfield Town Hall.



Raly4ever Fundraising Event - BBQ sponsored by SMC

On Sunday 22 October a Tennis Charity Fundraising Event was held for Mental Health month, SMC were honored to sponsor a BBQ lunch for such a great cause.



Wedded Wonderland 10th Anniversary Volunteering Day

It was great having the team from Wedded Wonderland on 24 October 2023 volunteer with SMC as a way of giving back to the community to celebrate their 10-year Anniversary.... Congratulations from all the team at SMC!



ICC National Childcare Providers Alliance 2nd Annual Networking Evening

SMC were honored to attend the Childcare Providers Alliance 2nd Annual Networking Evening on the 28 October 2023 at the ICC and we would like to express a special thank you to Terra Ferma for helping to launch our new initiative of \$10,000 and Suzy Michael for their unwavering support. To all our new sponsors who have dedicated quarterly to our new initiative of \$10,000 for 2,000 meals. Congratulations to the organisers for an amazing and successful evening.



SMC Cruise 1 November 2023

SMC were very fortunate to be able to host a charity event cruise sponsored by Terra Ferma Pt Ltd to launch our initiative to Sponsor 2,000 meals a week for \$10,000. A great night was had by all with amazing entertainment by Violin by Mel and a chance to network with incredible businesses. Thank you to Suzy Michael who MC our event on the evening and all the businesses who supported SMC by giving back.



Coptic Orphans 35 Year Anniversary Gala Dinner - 5 Nov 2023

SMC were very happy to support and to attend the Coptic Orphans 35 Anniversary Gala Dinner with the founder Nermine Reid. It was a night full of great inspiration, food and a great performance by The Ayoub Sisters, a great evening was had by all.

Congratulations to Coptic Orphans on such an amazing charity.



St Francis Xavier Parent Volunteers

Thank you to all 9 parents from St. Francis Xavier, for volunteering your time on 6 November 2023 at SMC on 6 Nov 2023.



SMC sector meeting with Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP

Our development manager, Morad from SMC had the pleasure of attending a meeting in Town Hall on 7 Nov 2023 with Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP who serves as the Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities, and Treasury, to share ideas on rebuilding community engagement and on how to build a more connected Australia.



Strathfield Girls Volunteers

Thank you to all the students from Strathfield Girls High for volunteering your time on 10 November 2023, giving back to our community.



St Maroun Student Volunteers

Thank you to all the students from St. Marouns College for volunteering your time on 13, 14 and 15 November 2023 helping in both the kitchen and warehouse.



Parramatta Street Feast - 11 Nov 2023

SMC, in collaboration with Payce Foundation, Paynter Dixon and the Diocese of Parramatta, provided a delicious meal for those in need. The day is inspired by Pope Francis' World Day of the Poor. The day was filled with great food, entertainment and a great sense of community. Thank you to everyone involved for your amazing efforts.



Sydney Street Feast - 17 Nov 2023

SMC, in collaboration with Payce Foundation, Paynter Dixon and the Diocese of Sydney, provided a delicious BBQ lunch in the forecourt of St. Mary's Cathedral. Various organisations, including SMC invited clients who are doing it tough to join Archbishop Anthony Fisher for lunch. Thank you once again to all our amazing volunteers on the day.



Santa Sabina Volunteers 20, 22, 23 and 24 Nov 2023

Thank you to all the students from Santa Sabina College for volunteering your time at SMC.



Georges River Concert - 30 Nov 2023

SMC held an outstanding community concert, which was proudly supported by Georges River Council and the Hurstville Entertainment Centre and the Georges River Council Venue Hire Grant. Entertainment was provided by The Vine Choir, Malak Worship Team and Gawargious Team. The performances were outstanding.



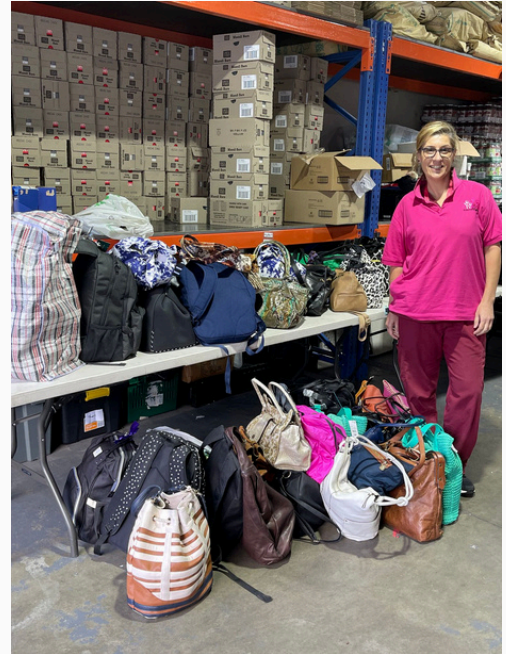
Christmas Hamper Appeal - Liverpool Boys High School

An amazing effort by Liverpool Boys High towards our 2023 Christmas Hamper Appeal. Thank you



Share the Dignity donations

Thank you to Share the Dignity for delivering bags with hygiene products on 30 November 2023 and for your continuous collaboration with SMC.



KPMG Volunteers 21 Nov 23

Thank you to the staff from KPMG for volunteering with SMC and your ongoing support, we can't wait to see you all again in 2024.



St Brendan's Catholic Primary School Central Bankstown - Christmas Hamper Appeal

Thank you to all the staff, parents and students from St Brendan's Catholic Primary School Bankstown for all your generous donations towards our 2023 Christmas Hamper Appeal.



Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year



St. Merkorious
Charity

SMC Volunteer & Staff Christmas Dinner - 1 Dec 2023

This is a time that SMC can get together with both our amazing staff and volunteers, to thank and celebrate all the efforts given throughout the year for our amazing community.



St. Merkorious
Charity

MNS Volunteers shopping for Hamper Packing

Our amazing Monday Night Outreach Service volunteers, thank you for taking the time to shop and donate on 4 December 2023 to our Christmas Hamper Appeal.



Holy Cross College Ryde Donations

Thank you to everyone from Holy Cross College Ryde for all your amazing donations that you delivered on 6 December 2023 towards our 2023 Christmas Appeal.



St Marks Coptic Church Christmas Carols evening - Fund raising for St. Bishoy Hospital Egypt

Thank you to St. Marks Coptic Orthodox Church for inviting SMC on the 10 December 2023 to the Christmas Carols evening to help fund raise approximately \$13,000 for the St. Bishoy Hospital in Egypt.



SPC Volunteers

Thank you to all the students and teachers who volunteered their time during December helping SMC in the kitchen and warehouse. Looking forward to welcoming you back again in 2024 and thank you for your ongoing support.



Nestle Australia Donation

Thank you, Nestle Australia, for your large donation of Uncle Tobys muesli bars in November 2023. The bars were appreciated by all the students in the various schools we provide breakfast club for, families, and our outreach services.



Lions Club Ryde and Ryde Gladesville Catholic Parish Christmas Hamper Appeal

Thank you, Father Greg, for organising and delivering the donations from both the Lions Club Ryde and Ryde Gladesville Catholic Parish on the 13 December 2023 donations towards our Christmas Hamper Appeal, your ongoing support is amazing.



FedEx Donations Christmas Hamper Appeal

Thank you to all the staff at FedEx Enfield for organising in just a matter of weeks and delivering on the 14 December 2023 all the amazing donations towards our Christmas Hamper Appeal.



Pitcher Partners Volunteers

Over 1 week in mid-December 2023, Pitcher Partners employees volunteered their time to help SMC in the kitchen and warehouse. Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,500, we can't wait to welcome you all back in 2024.



Montessori Christmas Appeal 2023

Thank you to all the staff from Montessori Academy and Montessori Care for all your amazing donations for our 2023 Christmas Hamper Appeal and your ongoing support - all the amazing products will be going into our Christmas Hampers for the disadvantage.



Our Youngest volunteer - Emily

A big shout out to our youngest volunteer, Emily. She makes our week each time she comes in to say hello to all of us at SMC.



St Marthas Catholic Primary School Hamper Appeal Donations

Thank you to all the families and staff from St. Marthas Catholic Primary School who donated to our 2023 Christmas Hamper Appeal.



Christmas Hamper Packing Evening

Thank you to everyone who donated and also made the time on 6 December 2023 to help SMC make the Christmas Hampers - a fun night was had by all.



Christmas Hamper Packing Evenings

Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed and dedicated their time on the 19 & 21 December 2023 to assist in packing much needed Christmas Hampers in our new warehouse. Joyful moments filled every heart during the evenings...a big thank you to all the children who also came to assist on the evenings and giving back to our community.



Rhodes Christmas Party

Sharing Joy.... Our annual Christmas Party for our outreach services was held on 18 December 2023. The night was filled with amazing food, haircuts, care packs, raffles and companionship. A big thank you to all our amazing volunteers who assisted on the night. Here's to another year of spreading love.





**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

charity@stmerkorious.com.au

www.stmerkorious.org.au

0478 760 450