

Vinnies Annual Report 2014 - 2015



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY WELLINGTON



President's Address

"And here is the first word that I wish to say to you: Joy! Do not be men and women of sadness: a Christian can never be sad! Never give way to discouragement! Ours is not a joy born of having many possessions, but of having encountered a Person: Jesus, in our midst." (Pope Francis, The Church of Mercy)

This exhortation sums up for me the essence of a Vincentian – we are people imbued with the joy of the gospel – "Evangelii Gaudium". Its proclamation in today's world is evidenced by our encounters with those in need, the lonely, and the dispossessed. One does not become a Vincentian by chance. Each of us is drawn to the Society through a desire to give of one's time and talents without expectation of return – and in this way both the giver and the receiver have an experience of God. Our work is a never ending joyful journey.

To foster and nurture this spirit three Festival Meetings were held during the year together with a Christmas function at the Newtown Centre for Conference Members, Staff, Volunteers and Beneficiaries.



It has been my joy to work with our staff, conference members and volunteers – with each person contributing in their own way to the assistance of others.

We are very fortunate that Wellington is a caring community comprising many

organisations and individuals committed to lending a helping hand to those less fortunate. St Vincent de Paul Society does its part as is evidenced by the number of people we assisted through our Ozanam House Centre and Conferences over the past year (8,500). I would like to thank all of our dedicated Conference members, associate members and volunteers. In particular I would like to thank Mike Keenan, Immediate Past President, John Rossbotham, Wellington Area Manager/Secretary, Victoria Crawford, Welfare & Services Coordinator, Sarah Pearce, Social Worker and Elsbeth Hymes Hancock, Communications and Marketing Officer. These good people together with our Altar Bread Production team ably led by Barbara Jennings, our support for pregnant Mums Annette Law and our youth coordinator Ann D'Souza all contributed significantly to the work of our Society. Thank you also for your support for me in my role as President.

We are always seeking innovative ways of reaching out to those in need. The introduction of cooking classes with the Suzanne Aubert Soup Kitchen is one such initiative. Another, which is in the process of development, is to meet socially over a shared meal with residents in Wellington City Council and Housing NZ social housing complexes to get to know each other with a view to identifying and meeting any unmet needs, particularly loneliness.

As part of our broad interest in social housing we made a submission to Wellington City Council on their Long Term Plan. The Wellington Area Council also endorsed remits to the National AGM on mandatory quality standards for rental and boarding house accommodation, prohibition of zero contract hours, endorsement of the Living Wage and support for increasing the Refugee Quota and involvement of the Society in refugee resettlement. These matters go to the very heart of Vincentian life which demands that we be "concerned not only with alleviating need but also with identifying unjust structures that cause it.... [and] identifying the root causes of poverty and contributing to their elimination" (Rule 7.1).

We have enjoyed modest success during the year with our fundraising, but it remains true that our Vinnies shops provide most of the funds needed to support our welfare activities. To that end we opened our eighth shop, this one located in Kelburn which is proving to be successful. I would like to acknowledge and thank each of our shop managers and their volunteers for their hard work which enables us to assist others in need.

While our Conference membership numbers are of concern, efforts have been made throughout the year to increase our members. The Kilbirnie Conference has been re-established under the inspirational leadership of Margaret Beardsley and preparations are in hand to re-establish a Conference hosted by St Josephs (Wellington South Pastoral Area). Furthermore the proposal referred to above to meet and mingle with residents from social housing complexes over a shared meal will hopefully inspire parishioners and others to involve themselves further in the work of the Society.

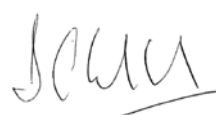


Conference members and associates together with the Wellington based colleges' Young Vinnies members assisted with our annual Street Day Appeal (above), our book fairs (below), and at the News Talk ZB food bank appeals at Kilbirnie Pak'N Save and Johnsonville Countdown supermarkets during the year. Thank you one and all. This is a good illustration of providing task orientated activities which appeal to an ever growing number of volunteers and members.



In summary our journey in the year ahead is focused on increasing our membership and developing further our welfare offering.

We are a joyful team committed to the service of others.



John Kennedy-Good
Wellington Area Council President

Welfare Centre Activity

Welfare Stats

When we talk about meeting the needs of those who come to us, it is easy to use words like the derogatory phrase 'hand out'. This is incorrect. Our welfare is all about a 'hand up' where we offer a chance to change current circumstances. Some need long term support; others need something because disaster has suddenly struck. Each need is different.

The first step is assessment. There are many different types of hand ups that we are able to provide.

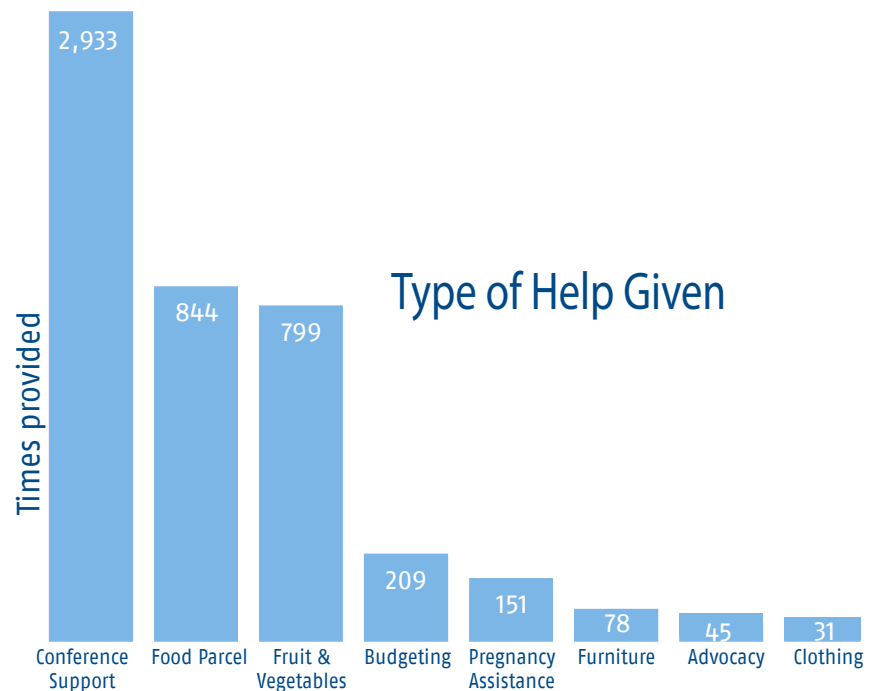
By far, the most common type of help we give is the varied support which our six conferences offer. From food parcels to accomodation and cash grants, they provide many servies in local areas.

When it comes to the specific help given by our welfare centre, the most common are food parcels, with fresh fruit and vegetables coming in a close second.

As you can see in the graph to the right, budgeting falls below these services. This is because of the way assessment works. Budgeting is really the most important part of our 'hand up' process. Once a budget has been established, food, furniture and clothing are given out depending on what their budget indicates as the need. Some people need weekly food parcels for three months, others one a month for a year: each need is different.

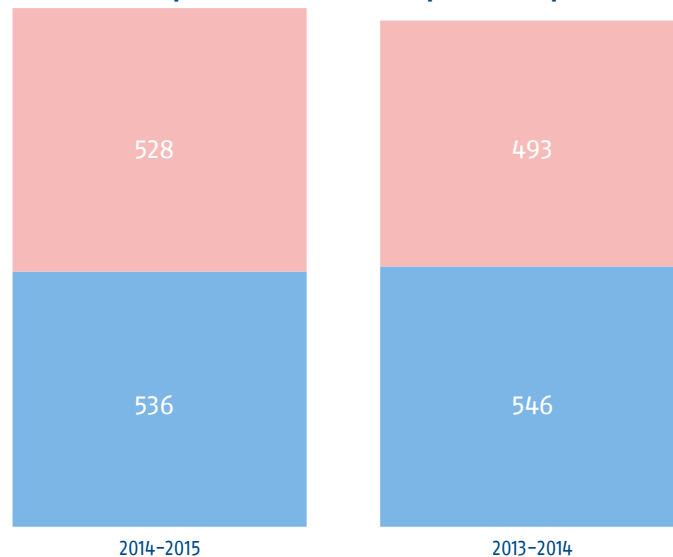
In addition to their budget, an important part of the process is to explore other avenues such as their Work and Income entitlements. We also offer help specifically for new families through Pregnancy Assistance.

While budgeting, and advocacy incur only a cost of our social worker's time, everything that we give has a cost value associated with it.



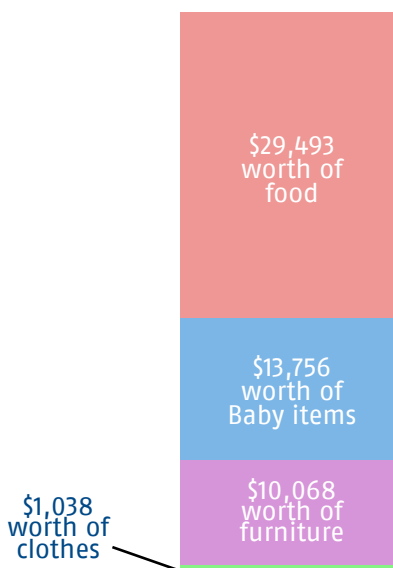
Although most of the food for our food parcels is donated to us, and all our fresh fruit and vegetables come from Kaibosh food rescue, we do also have to purchase food when donations are low. We also buy cheese, eggs and other more perishable items on a weekly basis. The graph in the lower left shows the value of the items we have given away this year. The total value of food and goods given away is over \$50,000!

Comparison of People Helped



Finally, who are the people we are helping? This year we've had a rise in the total number of people helped. With only one full-time social worker to meet with and support our clients, you can see how busy she has been this year!

The red indicates the direct client who comes in seeking some form of assistance. Again, some are one-offs, others require yearlong support (with a 3 month review of course). The blue indicates the rest of those impacted by us: partners, children or other dependents such as parents. That makes our total for this year 1064 people helped compared to last year's number of 1039.



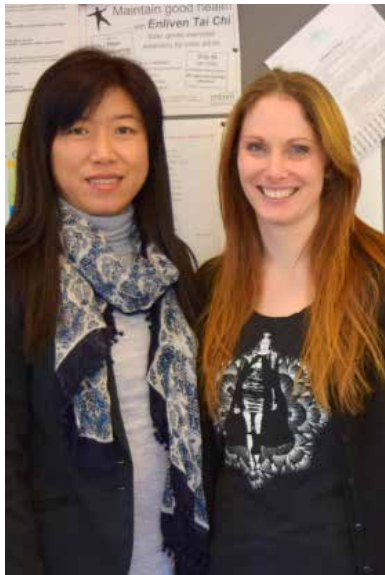
Vinnies in the Village

In March we were able to start a brand new welfare initiative called Vinnies in the Village.

The idea behind this is to alleviate the pressure of both time and money when it comes to getting help. Our social worker started out with locations in two local community centres (Strathmore & Johnsonville) where she was available for budgeting and advocacy--the same services available at Newtown.

There is a great need for this local support, and very soon, a third location (Newlands) was added to the list.

So far, Vinnies in the Village is thriving and will continue running this next year.



Street Outreach

Street Outreach is a great initiative involving 11 other Wellington-based charities including us! The mission is to identify and support those who are out on the streets. The project is managed by the Soup Kitchen.

The teams go out in pairs and converse with those they find on the streets of Wellington. Sometimes the outcome from a conversation is just a simple 'how are you doing,' and the easy response of 'fine'--in such cases they already know the services available to them. Others need help, and this is the first point of contact. It is then up to them to take the next step (as it should be).

Welfare Stories

So what exactly does a social worker do? Well Sarah has compiled a few stories to show you (while of course, maintaining strict confidentiality).

Client A:

After waiting for many months for a transfer to more suitable housing, supported by the GP, A came to see me at their local community centre to ask if I could find out what the holdup was and to ascertain where they were on the waiting list. A knew of a very suitable property that had been vacant in an ideal area for her family and wondered

1. Why it hadn't been occupied since there is a waiting list and
2. Why she hadn't been offered this property.

Contacting the housing provider and discussing the situation, the property was offered within the week and the family moved within the month.

Client B:

B had been living with incontinence issues for quite a few years. She came to see me in a 'Vinnies in the Village' community centre. She had been feeling housebound since she was unable to afford to buy the sanitary items she needed and was using wads of toilet paper.

I wrote a letter to her GP asking for help with this and a commode for her room, as she was currently having to use a cookie time bucket if she needed to at night.

“she now has a new lease of life and can be out visiting friends and family with confidence”

She now receives subsidised sanitary items, has a commode and has sent me a text message saying how she now has a new lease of life and can be out visiting friends and family with confidence for a whole day which she had been unable to do for many years.

Client C:

After having a triple heart bypass, C was struggling to pay off the debts accrued whilst in full time employment.

We put an application in to the Insolvency trust for a Summery Instalment Order (SIO), which got declined. We proceeded with the next level of insolvency which is the Non Asset Procedure (NAP) which was accepted.

C is only a few months away from retirement and can now enter the next chapter of his life more financially stable.

Sarah Pearce
Social Worker

Altar Bread Team



It has been time of great change for our altar breads team.

We had a few issues with machine malfunctions in the middle of the year, but those problems were solved and the faulty machine fixed! We also ended our 30 year partnership with IDEA Services and have taken on the employment of a full time manager for our staff. Barb Jennings (middle right) is doing a great job and our production speed is ever increasing.

If your parish is not currently getting their altar breads from us, please suggest our services to them so we can continue this special work of providing paid employment to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

English Class



Our free English Language class which runs every Tuesday morning for refugees and migrants is going as strong as ever. The room is packed with people from many different countries.

We cater for those who have absolutely no English, to those who are developing conversation skills. If there is anyone you know who is struggling with English, or has a family member who does, look no further than Vinnies.

Tai Chi Class

As always, our Tai Chi class which takes place once a month draws people out to experience tranquillity as well as get a little exercise!

Please feel free to drop by on the first Wednesday of the month.



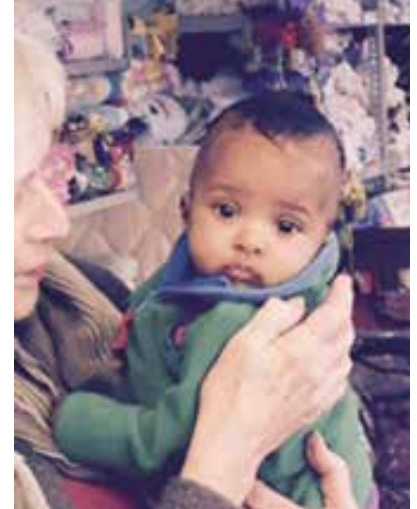
Pregnancy Assistance

Over the past year St Vincent de Paul Pregnancy Assistance has provided help in the form of babies' clothes, cloth nappies, cot and bassinet bedding and various other items needed to over 150 new families and pregnant women. Annette Law, our Pregnancy Assistant Coordinator explains further.

Recently, in the Pregnancy Assistance office, we had an exciting client visit when a young pregnant lady, in quite advanced labour, came in urgently wanting a bassinet, bedding and clothing for her new baby that was going to be born VERY soon.

It was three weeks before her due date and she wasn't

quite prepared. Volunteer Vivienne Soldera and I quickly gathered the items she required, while being very aware of the clients regular contractions! I asked the mum-to-be "What colour blanket she would prefer?" and laughed to myself when Vivienne said "I think she won't be worried about that at this stage!" Fortunately we are close to Wellington Hospital. I helped load her baby supplies into the car, with the support of her partner, and they then headed straight to the delivery suite!



"I helped load her baby supplies into the car, with the support of her partner, and they then headed straight to the delivery suite!"

Pregnancy Assistance could not operate without donations from the Wellington Community, and the help of our volunteers. I would especially like to thank Margaret O'Sullivan, Vivienne Soldera, Mrs Bullinga, Greta Harris, Jean Knolls, Jan Lawlor, Margaret Cliff, Helen Hindmarsh, Pam Mora, Polly Maitland, Anne Conroy, Margaret Northmore, Sr Monica Quigg and Island Bay Ladies' Auxiliary, for their wonderful practical help, knitting, sewing and support this past year.

Annette Law
Pregnancy Assistance Coordinator

Conference Activity

We currently have over 100 individuals committed to doing good either as members or as associate members. Here are a few faces you should recognise as your representatives.

This year's total number of visitations was 4,305.



Margaret Beardsley
Kilbirnie Conference
President



Brendan Quirk
Seatoun & Miramar
Conference President



James Ring
City Conference
President



Catherine Hallagan
Otari Conference
Member



Eustie Kamadh
Onslow Conference
Member

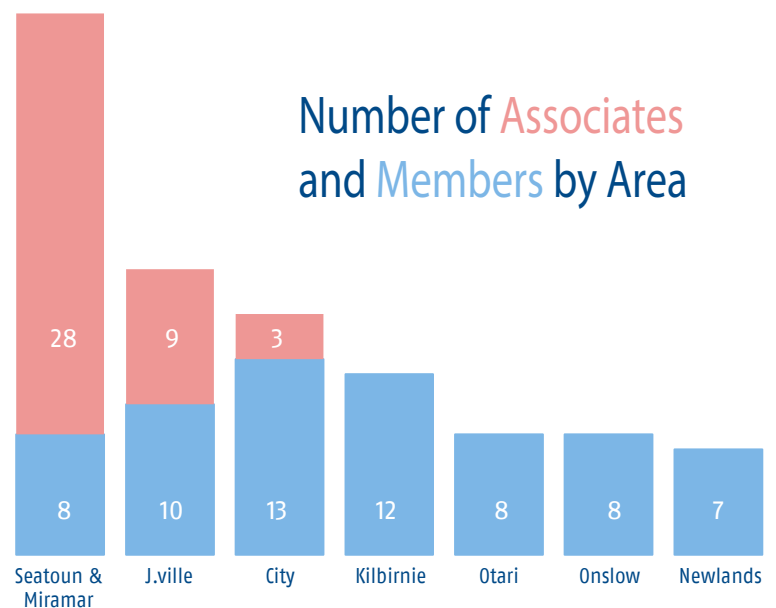


Mike Keenan
Newlands Conference
Member

Membership and Twinning

To reach beyond our immediate community, we have a system called twinning. We are able to locate a conference full of people just like us who want to do a little good in their area and send them support. This way we can build relationships, make a difference and grow as a part of our global community. We are twinned with parishes in Sir Lanka.

Wellington Area Council	Bolawalana, Sir Lanka Jaffna, Sir Lanka Kotte, Sir Lanka
Seatoun & Miramar Conference	Kalutara, Sir Lanka
Onslow Conference	Moratuwa, Sir Lanka
City Conference	Moratuwa, Sir Lanka
Johnsonville Conference	Colombo, Sir Lanka Kalutara, Sir Lanka



City Conference Snapshots

To give you an idea about the type of work that is being done by caring individuals, James Ring, the president of the City conference (based out of the St Mary of the Angels parish) offers his report from this year:

An SVDP Conference can be asked to help people in many different ways. At the City conference this year, requests have been quite varied. One of the most common ways we can practically help is in delivering food parcels to people unable to pick them up themselves.

One woman, for example, lives with a sick mother, has four children under the age of five, and lives in a block of flats up numerous flights of stairs.

Visiting and simply spending time with people is another aspect to conference work.

Elderly or unwell people have been visited in hospital or their homes and two rest homes are paid fortnightly visits. The latter are especially gratifying as many of the inhabitants have few visitors and so really welcome a chat and receiving a book or magazine on a subject of interest. If we can alleviate even a fraction of the loneliness felt so often by these individuals, then our time is well spent.

Sometimes people only need a short bit of support. We had a few single men who had just been released from hospital after leg surgery and, until their mobility returned, required transport to and from the supermarket for supplies.

On a different note, we can also get very specific types of requests. We recently helped



a man with a hoarding problem. He was facing eviction from his council flat unless he tidied it. Additionally, he had a bad back which made the problem even greater for him. Progress was very slow and required a lot of patience but we got there in the end and he was relieved to be allowed to stay in this flat.

The most memorable case, however, has been spending some time with a severely disabled, special needs boy who requires virtually 24 hour care. His mother is on her own and, although she

receives some professional help from caregivers, after moving flat she needed some extra time to unpack. We were asked if someone could keep watch on the boy for an hour at a time. As

he is blind, unable to talk or feed himself and has very little mobility, his mother really has a cross to bear. She showed me how to play with him which involved helping him to clutch a toy and moving his arm around

to keep it flexible. It was a very humbling experience.

To conclude, not everything we do is easy but it fulfils a genuine need, and there's a lot of satisfaction to be gained from it.

“If we can alleviate even a fraction of the loneliness felt so often by these individuals, then our time is well spent.”

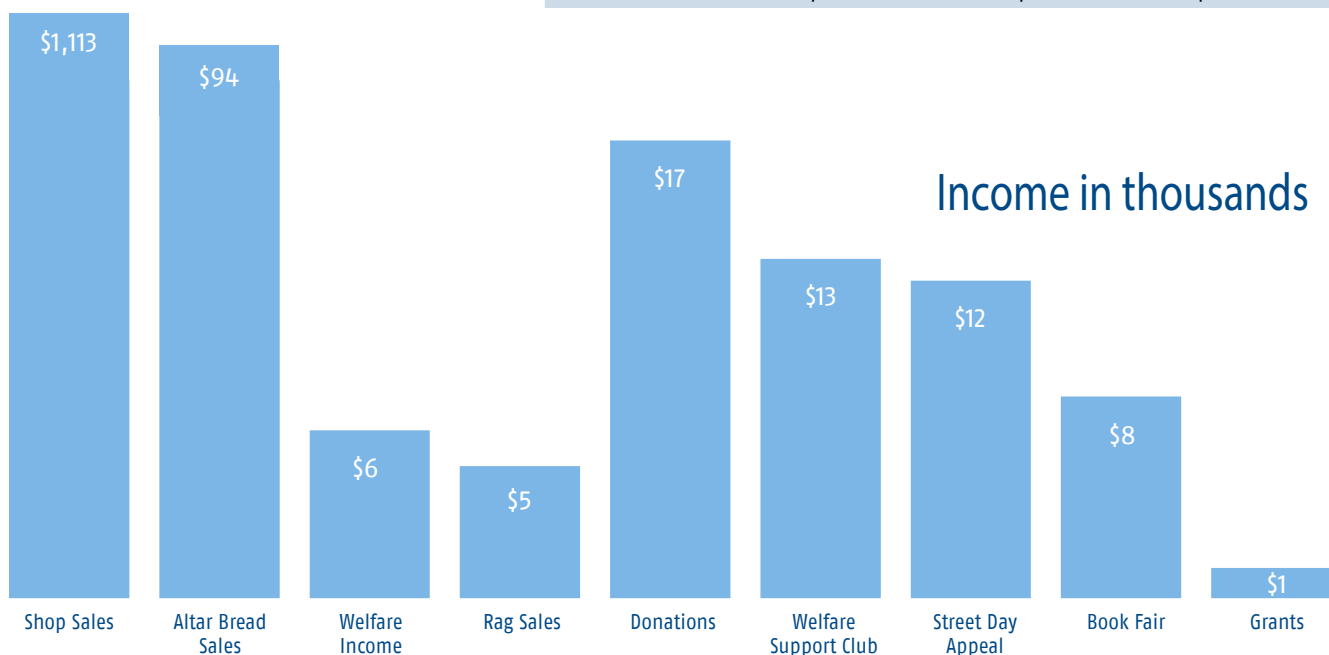
James Ring
City Conference President

Financial Review

It is important for every charity to keep good track of costs and expenditures and be transparent with the public as to how funds were used. As such, a financial review of the Society's accounts has been completed. A copy of the full set of accounts and Review are available from the Society's Manager/Secretary on request.

Here is a quick review for you (to the right).

Balance Sheet	2014-2015 (\$)	2013-2014 (\$)	Change (\$)
Total Assets	1,964,324.95	2,015,363.17	-51,038.22
Total Liabilities	65,095.12	34,737.02	30,358.10
Total Equity	1,899,299.83	1,980,626.15	-81,396.32
Net Income	-81,396.32	-19,559.13	-61,837.19



As you can see, we made a net loss of \$81,396.32 which is down further from last year's amount. The loss is incurred after depreciation of \$68,000, other donation income which is down \$27,000 on last year and welfare support provided to the people that we serve which is up nearly \$19,000 on last year.

Let's have a quick look at our income vs. our outgoings to make the picture a bit clearer (previous page).

A vast majority of our income is from our shops! This is really great for us as it means we are funded by generous shoppers and by the donation of goods (and in an effort to recycle, low quality items are sold as rags).

However, we have more than just that single income avenue. Our Altar Breads which employs individuals with intellectual disabilities serves the dual purpose of being a

special work (i.e. providing employment) as well as income for our other good works.

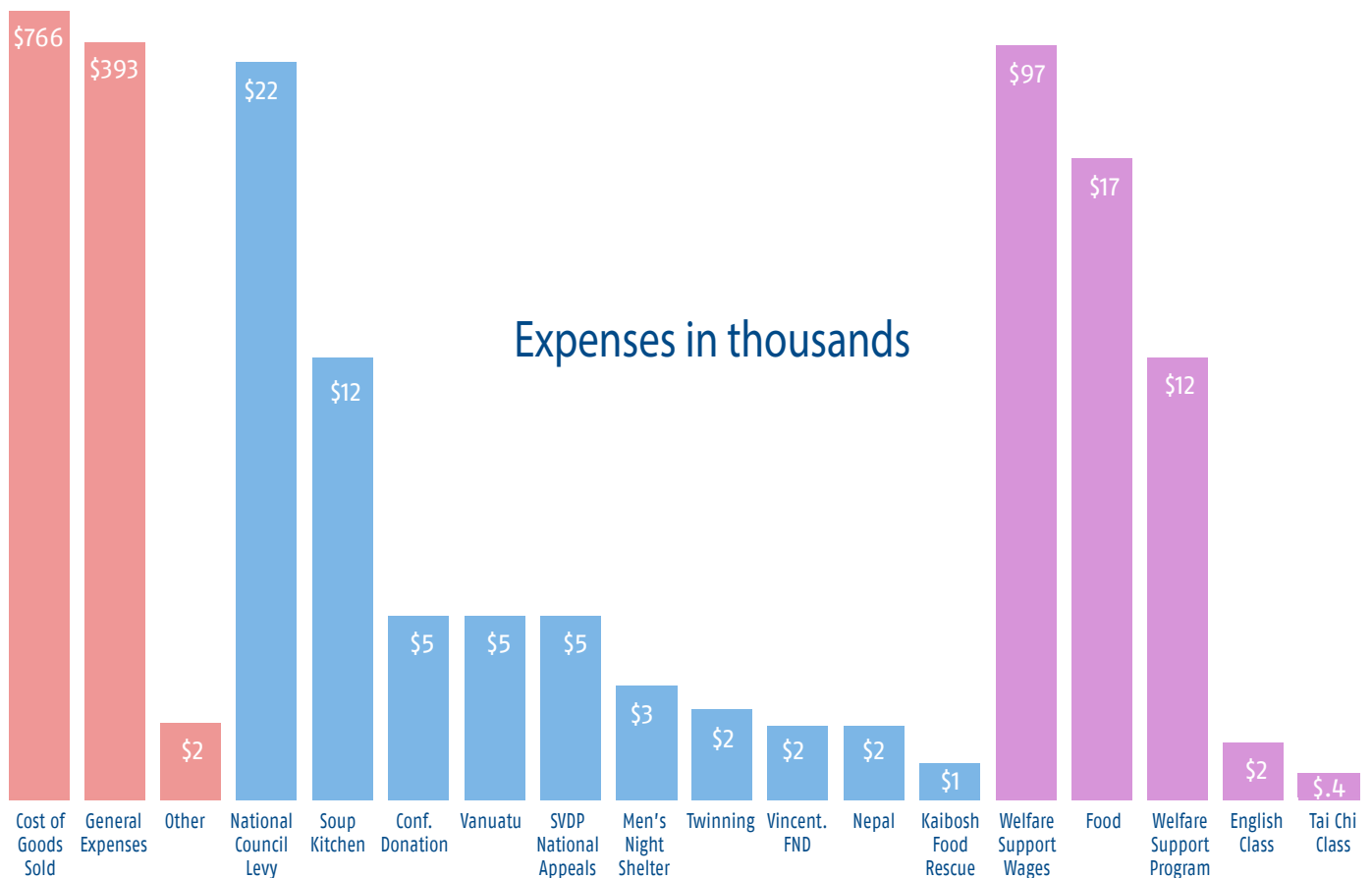
We also have several fundraising (and food raising) activities throughout the year which all go straight to welfare thanks to our shop income.

In particular the Street Day Appeal, Food bank Appeal and the Book Fair. We are so thankful for all the support we receive.

Thank you to all our volunteers (a few of whom appear here).



And now for our expenses...



You can see the red bars are the general costs of doing business. We have to pay rent on buildings, electricity and other such things in order to offer a drop in centre, as well as to run our shops.

The bars in blue are all times when we passed on money to other causes that we believe

strongly in. We love to work with other charities in our community and support each other whenever and wherever possible. We are in this together.

The last set of purple bars represents the money we spend on welfare, from the wages that must

be paid to provide that support to food for the hungry.

We hope this helps you better understand where your money goes when you shop at Vinnies or just feel like donating to a good cause. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Yes! I would like to make a donation to help those in need in Wellington

Please tick the amount you wish to donate:

- \$30 provides a food parcel for an individual
- \$50 provides a food parcel for a family
- \$100 provides a 'new home' food & toiletry pack

I wish to donate my own amount of \$

I wish to make a regular donation of \$

Donations over \$5 are tax deductible.

Please post this form to:

St Vincent de Paul Society Wellington Area,
PO Box 7319, Newtown, Wellington 6242

Name

Address

.....

.....

Method of payment:

- Cheque
- Credit Card: Master Card Visa (please tick)

Name on card

Expiry date

Signature

Make cheques payable to St Vincent de Paul Society Inc.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY WELLINGTON

Thank you for your Support

Thank you so much to our Benefactors

We would like to thank everyone who donated anonymously and to everyone who brought donations to our op-shops. We are only able to help because of your generosity. Below are some of our many benefactors. Thank you.

Aine McCoy	Don D'Souza	John Egan & Angela McGill	Mary Devine	Rev Eric Urlich
AJM & CA Legge	DP Smith	John Joseph Carroll Foundation	Maureen Folan	RFV Ritchie
Alan Sadd	Dr John L Sarfati	John Kennedy-Good	Maureen O'Meeghan	Robert Swan
Ann Hodson	E Bradford	Jonathan Moore	Michael Coup	Roma Parker
Anne Hartley	E&M Porter	K C Little	Mike Keenan	Ronald Fayle
Anne Manley	EA Ng	K Wong	Miss Lower	RT & JE Weston
Antoinette Mezgec	Eddie Borich	Kate Fortune	MJ Gilligan	RT & JE Weston
Audrey Ashley-Jones	Elizabeth Barr	Kathleen & Stephen Kuzmicich	MJ Van Der Aa	Ryan R P
AW & ML Brockway	Erina Harding	Kathryn Graham	MM McCarthy	Salem Wakem Trust
B & C Hill	Errol Fogarty	Kerr G.B.	Moyra Pearce	Samuel Marsden College
Barbara Domican	Estate Len Maxim	Kevin Taylor	N Colin McLeod	Sir Patrick & Lady Mahoney
Barney Scully	Fr Austin	Ladies Auxilliary, Island Bay Parish	N J Clulee	SJ Chhotu
Beverley Telfar	Frank Pearson	Leonard Maxim	Neazor DPOMBT	Society of Mary
Bill & Pauline Courtney	G F Pereira	Lorraine & Rick Christie	Newstalk ZB	Spark Foundation (GiveALittle)
Bill Cooney	G H Slocombe	Lucia Keller	Nigel Prince	Sports Development NZ - Marist T Meacham
Boyd Klap	G Narayan	Lucy S B	Noeline Gannaway	St Annes Parish
Brian Coulter	Gary Parsons	M A Northmore	P Collier	St Catherine's College
Brian Mahoney	Girdhari Naryan	M Devine	P J Walsh & K W Roper	St Mary's College
Bruce Fraser	Glenys Balir	M F O'Shaughnessey	P M Keenan	St Patricks College, Kilbirnie
C F Coate	GW Hargreaves	M Fairburn	Pam Ormsby Ball	Susan Price
C M Kiddy	Helen Fisher	M Keenan	Patricia Morrisen	Theresa Dwyer
Carmel Fahy	HM & JD Hawkins	MA & TM Walsh	Patrick McHugo	TJ Feeney
Chris Blanch	I&E MacDonald	MA Lampard	Pauline O'Sullivan	TM Walsh
Chris Blanch	IBM New Zealand Ltd	Malcolm Woods	Peter & Josephine Lawrence	TP & AR Arbuckle
CJE Kempster	J E Kebbell	Margaret Shepherd	Peter Aston	V & J Lenting
Collin Post	J L Rossbotham	Margaret West	Peter Spearman	V G Nunns
D J Kerr	J R Breen	Mario Barnao	Philip Davidson	Veronica Gould
David Corcoran	J W Ellis	Marist Messenger	PJ & ML Gresham	Yvonne Curtis
Diana Garmonsway	J&G D'Ath	Mark Horton	PR & FM Meech	
Diana Holden	Jeremy Commons	Mary Ann Spillane	R Blattner	
DK & EF Matheson	JF Knowles	Mary C Smith	R F de Silva	
DK & JA Beavis	Joanna Delahunty		Ralph Tonks	
DN Jennings	John & Sue Peacock		Ray Ritchie	
Domenico Zame				



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY WELLINGTON

Helping the needy in Wellington since 1908

Ozanam House 207 Riddiford Street, Newtown
PO Box 7319 Wellington 6242 New Zealand

Phone 04-389 7122 0800 VINNIES
admin.svdp@xtra.co.nz www.vinnies-wellington.org.nz

Charities Commission registration CC36604