



# HOPE Newsletter

*Seeing People Transformed By Hope*

## Hope Food Drive 2018 Update

On Sunday 6th of May, a large group of

volunteers from St Thomas Church and six other partner churches in Whitehorse went out to collect food bags donated by people in the local community. The food was sorted and packed at two locations - St Thomas Burwood and St Mark's Forest Hill. We collected over 1,200 filled bags, enabling us to donate \$40,800 worth of food to six welfare agencies.

Thank you to everyone who's donated food or helped in any way to make the Food Drive happen. Thank you also to our sponsors - Budget Car Hire, Wheelton Philanthropy, Bendigo Bank - who have generously supported the campaign.

Here are some thank you notes from the agencies.

### St Vincents de Paul Society Bennettswood

Yesterday we received a generous quantity of food items collected by volunteers for the Whitehorse Hope Food Drive. The items we received will help many people who are experiencing hardship. On behalf of those people we help and of the members of our conference I sincerely thank you for your good works.

From Gil Muir, President of Bennettswood Conference

### St Mark's Community Centre Fitzroy (Anglicare)

Thank you to all from St Tom's Hope. I know it is a great program.

Two of my volunteers had only said to me on the morning of the delivery that the shelves were getting bare and that we did not have enough stock for any food parcels the following week. What perfect timing! Divine providence!

What perfect  
timing! Divine  
providence!

The food we received from St Tom's Hope will be used for our food parcels that we give out to our folk. It will also be used in our meals - we provide breakfast daily and lunch Monday to Friday. We try to make the best use of any food items given to us. Large items are used in meal preparation and smaller serves used in the food parcels.

As a Homeless Support service we do our best to support those with need, and meeting the basic need of hunger is something we can do, and with the support of organisations like St Tom's Hope it makes it that much easier when we have the resources to give away food or share meals with others.

From Louise Lang, Team Leader of Homeless Support Services





Hope for Whitehorse and Beyond has the church out among our neighbours, partnering together and fostering good will

### Uniting East Burwood Centre

It was too early to call it Christmas in July but it was certainly an amazing sight to see the truck roll up and all the boxes and bags of food, all for our people. Over 100 bags and boxes I think we counted. What a spirit of giving from our community. That feeling of giving was carried in those who arrived on the truck and diligently carried every item into our store. No standing room left once everything was packed away!

This will make such a difference to what we will be able to provide to our people and in times when things are tight for us it means our own funds can be used in other ways for people in need.

Thank you all for the work you have put into making this happen.

From Pamela Young, Senior Manager

Delivery to Uniting East Burwood



A boot full of Hope!



Delivery to Anglicare Box Hill



## From Jo Armstrong - English Classes Coordinator



I come to this role as an unworthy servant of the Lord's. I have had an association with St. Thomas' for about 8 years now. In fact, Jan Shattock came knocking at my door one day, inviting me to a service; and I thought "that's nice and local", and came along. Speaking of "local," I'm exactly that, having been born about a mile from Station Street and raised in Burwood. I became a secondary school Art teacher and after 10 years, decided to investigate mission, roaming the world for a year with YWAM. Somewhat restless upon my return, I went to teach at the Springvale detention centre, and volunteered as an English tutor with AMES in Adult Migrant Education. With much "water under the bridge", I now work part-time for the same AMES.

I come from a large Catholic family, and the upheavals of the 60's and 70's which were sweeping through that church at that time, witnessed my enthusiastic participation. We questioned everything: roamed the Churches, listened to dodgy preachers, attended rallies! This (unsurprisingly) led me to leave my home Church (St. Benedict's) and attend the lively "Dingley Anglican" for 8 years. My next leap, after a stint at Bible College, was to work for three years in Cairo with the Sudanese refugees.

The combination of an exciting, creative role there, and the beauty of the African culture, pretty-much ruined me for school-teaching on my return! It just wasn't the same, eating lunch by yourself, no dramas before lunch, no hilarious African behaviour... Restless after another seven years in an Art Room, I lurched out and began teaching ESL myself- first to Sudanese, and later to other nationalities; the training came later.

### Prayer Points for English Classes at St Tom's

I do hope that this season of leadership sees our outreach into the migrant and student community develop. We have fluctuating attendance from about 13 to about 25.

One prayer point would be that the attendance stabilises, that people really commit.

Another is to support our faithful and wonderful team of teachers. Each week, they get out of bed on their Saturday and come here to labour in Christ's vineyard. Please pray for them. They are trying to bring in a Harvest. The outreach of English Classes gives many opportunities to share the ethos of our faith in action and in service. It can connect people and welcome them. We really covet your intercession for this ministry.

### Kids Hope FAQs

Have you ever contemplated being a Kids Hope mentor? Here are some frequently asked questions about volunteering as a mentor, answered by our Kids Hope Coordinator Clare Gogerly.



#### **How much prep time is required each week to get ready for a session?**

Most of our Mentors find that you don't need much prep time. Some like to bring in crafts or games from home that they think are suitable. Sometimes depending what you're planning to do for your hour you might need to get to the school a little before your session to set up (say if you were going to do some cooking), but generally it's not needed.

#### **I work. Can I choose the day and time of the mentoring session?**

Yes the mentor day and hour is chosen by the mentor himself/herself, as you are the one giving up your

time. I personally had to change my time slightly as my Mentee often came in late so the teacher asked me if I could come after recess.

### **Can I choose whether I mentor a boy or a girl?**

The school is usually the one that decides who to pair you up with, however if you feel you would be better with a particular gender you can specify your preference to myself.

### **Can I use the school's facilities and materials e.g. board games, art supplies, or do I need to bring my own materials?**

We have a Kids Hope cupboard in the Chaplain's office which has games and pencils. Suzanne the Chaplain has books we can use as well. Some Mentors like to bring things from home to share with the kids.

### **I would like to try out being a mentor. If I sign up, how long am I committed for?**

You are committed to serve for a year. This is to form a connection and a stable relationship with your child. Quite often the children we are mentoring have had lack of commitment from adults and it normally takes a long time to build trust, that's why we commit to a year so that the child doesn't lose that trust.

The Kids Hope program is about establishing a connection within our community and is a very rewarding program. There will be days when you feel like you have made an impact and others when you wonder why you have been paired up with your child, but no matter the day you have had, you ARE making an IMPACT on that small child's life.

We are looking for more mentors and emergency mentors. If you would like to join us in this great program, please contact Clare Gogerly at [kids\\_hope@sttoms.org](mailto:kids_hope@sttoms.org)

## **COACH Community Mentoring**

St Tom's Hope is seeking expressions of interest from potential volunteers for COACH Family Mentoring.

### **What is COACH?**

COACH is a community strengthening program that aims to empower disadvantaged children, young people and families and build resilience in individuals through one-to-one mentoring. COACH stands for Creating Opportunities And Casting Hope.

COACH has a proven track record of bringing about transformation and aims to break the cycle of generational poverty and family breakdown. It also works well with young people, children and ex-offenders.

A COACH mentor is a friend with purpose, offering practical help and mentoring towards life goals. These goals include education, employment, training, improved mental health, reduction in addictive habits, financial management, housing, family cohesion, decrease in social isolation, and improved physical and emotional wellbeing. Mentoring is a way to bring out the best in people and help them make use of their own resources. It also promotes individual responsibility and builds community cohesion.

More information can be found online at <https://coachnetwork.org/>

### **Interested?**

All potential mentors go through a thorough selection and matching process, and fourteen hours of mentor training with ongoing training and troubleshooting. If you would like to find out more, please email [hope@sttoms.org](mailto:hope@sttoms.org)

Give Hope - St Tom's Hope relies on generous support



### Bank Deposit

Account Name: St Tom's Hope LTD  
BSB: 633-000  
Account number: 159591023



### Credit or Debit Card

Go to  
[www.sttomshope.org/donate](http://www.sttomshope.org/donate)



Check out the wrap of our 2018 Hope for  
Whitehorse and Beyond Food Drive

<https://youtu.be/l105UMhYTj8>

