

# Our People, Our Stories

Spring 2023



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## Welcome

It's been an exciting time at Anglicare Victoria, with the recent launch of our new Team Better Tomorrows regular giving program.

Generous Victorians who are passionate about education can get behind Team Better Tomorrows with monthly donations that fit into their budgets and help more kids in out-of-home care access TEACHaR, our personalised tutoring program that helps young people stay in school and develop a love of learning. Their ongoing commitment means we can plan ahead and expand the program to as many vulnerable kids as possible, which is just fantastic.

The work we do wouldn't be possible without our donors, including the schools and businesses that support us by raising funds and collecting food and toys for our emergency relief programs. In this magazine, you'll read about the remarkable contribution the Brighton Grammar School community has made

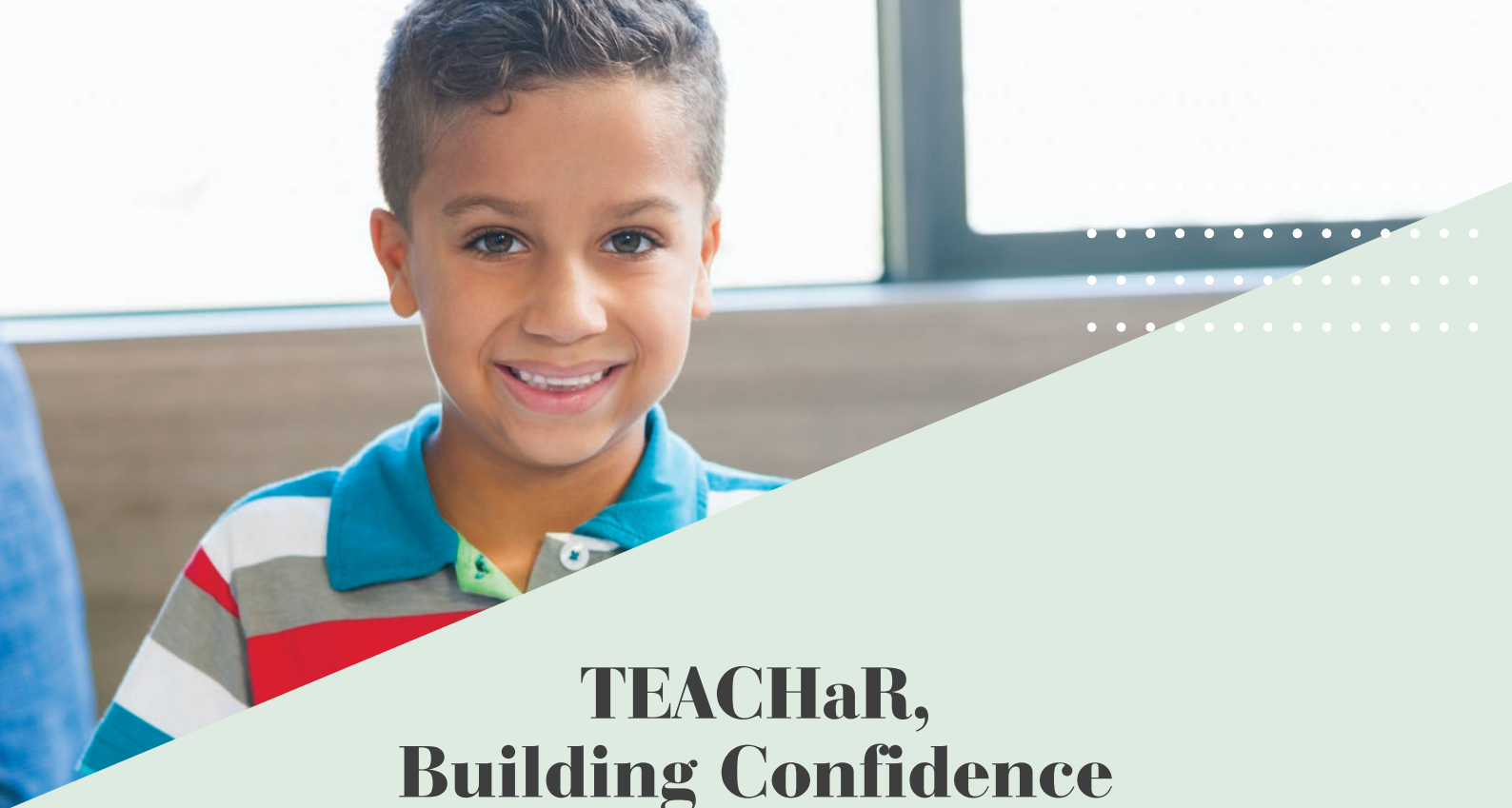
to Anglicare Victoria over the past 25 years – more than \$100,000 in cash donations and goods that have meant we can provide clients experiencing homelessness with hot meals and access to showers and laundry facilities at St Marks in Fitzroy.

Thank you for your continued support of Anglicare Victoria. I hope you enjoy reading this magazine and hearing about some of the incredible things you have helped us achieve.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P McDonald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Paul McDonald  
CEO Anglicare Victoria





## TEACHaR, Building Confidence

When Jaxon\* joined our TEACHaR program he was in grade four but had fallen behind his peers in many subjects, and his confidence had suffered as a result.

The family had been through a lot, and family violence had impacted the children's learning. Jaxon's mum, Lauren\* had been doing her best to get some normality back into the family home, but school was proving to be incredibly challenging for the young boy.

Jaxon was referred to the TEACHaR program and paired with Anthony, one of our Education Specialists, to help him catch up and get back on track. Over 10 weeks, Anthony worked with Jaxon to

get him engaged with his learning and develop good routines, so that he could manage his time and achieve his goals.

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**“Anthony is a wonderful, patient and very caring teacher,” said Lauren\*, Jaxon’s mum. “He has helped Jaxon with his learning, and I’ve noticed a positive improvement in him.”**

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Since working with Anthony, the transformation in Jaxon's schoolwork has been extraordinary. His reading, writing and maths is getting better, and his speech and pronunciation has improved. He's developed a consistent routine, which is helping him get to school on time and get his homework done.

But the biggest difference Lauren has seen is in Jaxon's confidence. “Jaxon has gained trust in Anthony, which is also something that he needs,” she said, “It's helping him heal from what we have all been through.”

Now, Jaxon is thriving at home and at school, and Lauren couldn't be prouder.



# Changemakers

## Brighton Grammar School



Dating back as far as our records show, Brighton Grammar School has been a devoted supporter of Anglicare Victoria. In the last 25 years, the school has contributed over \$100,000 worth of essential supplies including food, toys & gifts, and much-needed cash donations.

As part of their Community Service program, Brighton Grammar School students are invited to “think beyond themselves” and embrace the idea of philanthropy in their day-to-day. Every student from Prep to Year 12 is involved.

One of their greatest initiatives is the “Ute Full of Food” fundraising food drives, when at the end of every term, a selection of boys from various year levels, make the pilgrimage to St Mark’s in Fitzroy to deliver non-perishable grocery items collected during the term. Nowadays, it’s actually a fully stocked van with volunteer students

helping load the van on campus and tirelessly unpacking the goods on arrival at St Mark’s.

The Community Centre at St Mark’s extends a helping hand to people experiencing both primary and secondary homelessness. With the support of donors like Brighton Grammar School, Anglicare Victoria offers vital resources including emergency relief, case management, hot meals, and access to essential facilities like showers and laundry services. These provisions are designed to not only address immediate needs but also to help restore a sense of dignity and stability to those who are struggling.

The story of Brighton Grammar School’s unwavering commitment to help people less fortunate than themselves, is not only heart-warming, but a testament to the power of education.

### Would your school like to be a changemaker like Brighton Grammar School?

Penny Mitchell, our Relationship Manager Corporate & School Partnerships would love to hear from you and develop a plan for your school to support Anglicare Victoria this coming Christmas, or in 2024.

We need:



Toys for Christmas time



Christmas Food Hampers



Registration for food collections for Winter 2024

Penny can be contacted on **0447 174 261** or via email at **[partnerships@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:partnerships@anglicarevic.org.au)**.



# Everyday is Different

## Emergency Relief

The rising cost of everyday essentials has meant that many new families have visited Anglicare Victoria's 16 emergency relief sites for assistance in 2023.

Staffed primarily by volunteers, these sites provide groceries, nappies, and petrol vouchers for those in need. They also provide gifts for children whose parents and carers can't afford birthday and Christmas presents.

One of these dedicated volunteers is Mona, who has been volunteering with the Anglicare Victoria team at Mission House, Fitzroy for almost ten years.

"Every day is different," Mona said, "We get a lot of donations from schools and parishes, so I count those and restock the shelves before the clients arrive."

For clients like Kelly\*, emergency relief has been a lifeline. "I was pretty much at zero, that's why I needed to access the service. It really helped us out, and not just financially. It was a tremendous relief," she said.

Kelly and our other emergency relief clients also benefit from vouchers to cover with the cost of prescription medication, and an onsite financial counselling service that can help them with bills and budgeting.

At the end of a busy shift, the smiles on clients' faces are proof positive of the difference the service is making in their lives. "It really helped our family get by every week," Kelly said. "It meant that we didn't have to go without."

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**"The need in the community is increasing because of the cost of living,"  
"We rely on the food, toys and pet food we receive from our donors.  
Without them we just couldn't continue."**

- Mona Anglicare Victoria Volunteer.







## Bullish About Giving Back

Every year Two Bulls/DEPT® organises a “DEPT Cares” Day, providing every employee with an opportunity to support local charities or businesses. The team at Two Bulls/DEPT® expressed their willingness to engage in a variety of activities, “... from gardening to document filing”, and requested volunteering opportunities throughout the month of July.

Two Bulls/DEPT® volunteers participated in one-off volunteering roles, primarily sorting toys, gifts and creating a stock inventory of donated goods, volunteering at our homeless breakfast program at St Peter’s, and by supporting Mission House with the distribution of food parcels. 16 volunteers were involved over five days in July, and Two Bulls/DEPT® made a generous donation to support Anglicare Victoria, as a result of their volunteering experience. This donation was in addition to the value of their volunteering contribution and is

a model of corporate social responsibility that not only encourages volunteering but recognises that charities rely on donations to do good works.

The collaboration with Two Bulls/DEPT® was a rewarding experience, and we look forward to the possibility of working together again for their Carers’ Day in the future. The support and contribution from their team made a positive impact on our programs and the communities we serve.



# Fostering Better Tomorrows

## Future Inspiration



When they became foster carers, Rebecca and her husband Stewart were surprised to find that welcoming additional kids to stay fitted so neatly into her family's life and routine.

"As a teacher I have strategies I use at school every day which help me manage situations that arise at home. Having a good idea of what behaviours are age-appropriate, as well as understanding that each child's learning and development needs are different, has also meant I've been able to better connect with each of our foster kids," Rebecca said.

After going through the accreditation and training process with Anglicare Victoria, the family began to take foster care placements, and they've never looked back.

For Rebecca, helping these vulnerable young people achieve their goals and dreams is a priceless reward, and one young boy in particular has made a lasting imprint on her heart.

"One of the young kids we fostered could not read or write and was displaying significant behaviour issues when he came to us.

Six months later we received his school report, and it was sensational. He was reading, writing, and attending school full-time. He showed me a book he'd written, he'd dedicated it to 'Bec, my hero'. It brought tears to my eyes," she said.

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**"That's what it's all about for us, letting each child know how amazing they are, and they can achieve anything they want in this world," Rebecca said.**

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Helping these children fulfil their dreams can be expensive, and foster carers only receive a small government payment to cover basic costs. Thanks to our Team Better Tomorrows supporters, carers like Rebecca can access funding to pay for activities such as football or dancing – meaning kids in out-of-home care don't have to miss out on the little things that happy childhood memories are made of.





# Your Will, Your Way

Writing a Will is a task many of us put off, but it's so important. Having an up-to-date legal Will helps you ensure that your loved ones are protected, and your wishes are respected. It's also an opportunity to support the causes that are close to your heart.

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Anne trained as a maths and music teacher, and she loved working with young people and inspiring them to dream big, as well as understanding the impact education can have on the lives of vulnerable young people.

After hearing about the work of Anglicare Victoria through her church, including us in her estate plans was the perfect opportunity. As a passionate teacher, one of our programs most touched her heart.

"In my life I felt that sometimes people get to a certain level of disadvantage in their life, they just cannot get out of it without some help," she said. "It made me think about how I could be generous to other people who needed it."

"When I was making my Will, I wanted to do something really worthwhile," Anne said.

"The thing that really caught my eye was Anglicare Victoria's TEACHaR program."

"I think that educational support for kids at risk can be such an important factor in their lives," she said. "The TEACHaR program makes so much sense to me. It's so important to give young people that extra help with education to give them the best chance for the future."

Please consider including Anglicare Victoria in your Will when you next update your estate plans.

## **When you remember us, we remember you.**

By remembering Anglicare Victoria in your Will, you're leaving a lasting and meaningful expression of your kindness and compassion.



Anne, along with other bequestors, we acknowledge this generosity as of our "Friends of Anglicare Victoria".

Visit Gifts in Wills - Anglicare Victoria to watch Anne's full story.

You can have a conversation in confidence about leaving a gift in your Will to Anglicare Victoria at any time. Please call **Mary Croxford** on **(03) 9412 6006**, or email **[giftsinwills@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:giftsinwills@anglicarevic.org.au)**.





# Towards a Brighter Future

## Empowering Families

Breaking the cycle of intergenerational disadvantage can be incredibly difficult, especially when you don't have any strong role models to guide you.

Molly\* was referred to Anglicare Victoria's Family Services because she was dealing with mental health issues and PTSD, and lacking confidence in her ability to parent her new baby.

As a 17-year-old first-time mum who had been in and out of child protection throughout her own life, Molly found it difficult to trust outsiders. Molly's case worker built up a strong relationship with her, getting to know her interests and her hopes and dreams for her baby.

Molly was determined that her baby would have a better start in life than she did, but she didn't know how to make that happen.

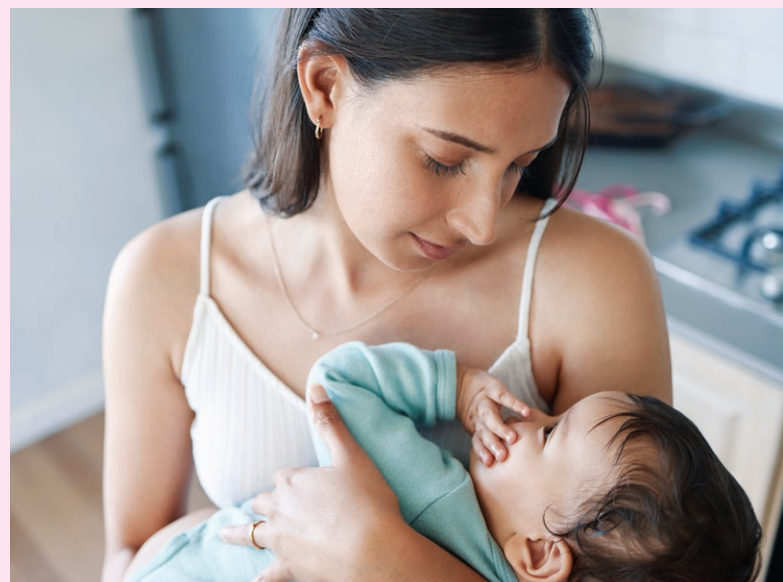
The case worker supported Molly to attend her Maternal and Child Health appointments, and they worked together to build good sleeping and feeding routines for Molly's baby.

Now, Molly's baby is thriving and meeting all her milestones. Molly is empowered in her parenting ability, and she feels confident that she can now care for her baby on her own, without our support.

Struggling parents like Molly also benefit from our baby packs containing bottles, nappies and bath products, which are paid for by our generous donors.

With the cost of living rising rapidly these packs help fill the gaps in the family budget, taking the pressure off vulnerable mums and dads while they get back on track.

Recently, Molly told her case worker that she feels very proud of herself – which is the biggest success we could hope for.



# Faith in Action

## A Century of Giving

It is our greatest pleasure to highlight the goodness, generosity and tenacity of Anglican parishes. St Luke's Vermont has been supporting children and families in need for almost 100 years.

As a parish group, they have supported our emergency and annual appeals, along with emergency relief and family services programs in the Eastern region. As with so many parishes, there have been sausage sizzles, luncheons, garden parties, Christmas card sales and other activities along the way.

St Luke's Auxiliary and St Luke's Partnership Group member Joan Nethercote recounted on several occasions, attending auxiliary meetings as a child, sat on her mother's knee. Later in life, Joan opened her expansive garden and home to host visitors, again to raise funds for Anglicare.

Her contribution to fundraising and social activities organised by St Luke's partnership group was prolific, as were so many other notable members over the past almost 100 years.

Cheryl Buckland, who along with Rosie Freeman have been fundraising and socialising with this group for more than 50 years, noted 'the way we support has changed considerably over the years.

We used to hold luncheons for volunteers and staff alike at the Lilydale office. They were delighted to come along and be looked after as our guest, which was an absolute pleasure to reward them for their selfless giving of time and skills for their clients."

Another significant opportunity to give back was the Christmas shop where clients (along with their assigned caseworker) were given an appointment to 'shop' for gifts to give their children, providing them with a real shopping experience.

Like so many Anglican churches, St Luke's sold Christmas cards in aid of Anglicare Victoria both in their church foyer and at church meetings.

St Luke's Vermont, continue their support for Anglicare Victoria through fundraising activities in their community, knowing that their partnership delivers impact and outcomes for vulnerable children and families. Anglicare Victoria was recently invited to speak about community issues at a men's community breakfast, humbly hosted by St Luke's in Vermont.



AVPG St Luke's Committee members at work in the kitchen.

### We're here to help.

If your parish would like to raise funds or have an event to support Anglicare Victoria, please call us on **1800 809 722** or email [giving@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:giving@anglicarevic.org.au)



# Community in Action

## Giving Back



### Friends and family fundraise for Lucy's Legacy

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The work we do at Anglicare Victoria is only possible thanks to the generosity of our donors and the community.

Recently Anglicare Victoria was contacted by a remarkable young woman named Chloe (pictured, left), hoping to partner with us for a fundraising event, to honour her friend, Lucy McDonald. Lucy passed away just ten months after her cancer diagnosis, and Chloe was determined to celebrate her life by raising money in support of a cause close to Lucy's heart.

Lucy loved life and is remembered for her compassionate nature and her passion for teaching. On doing research, Lucy's Mum, Mon (pictured, right) felt Anglicare Victoria aligned perfectly with Lucy's unwavering dedication to helping children and young people in need.

A black-tie gala dinner was held for over 100 of Lucy's friends and family, with generous donations collected via "handing around the hat", raffles, and a silent

auction on the night. Anglicare Victoria was privileged to be invited and give a short presentation about our work.

The event was a huge success, raising an amazing \$4,600 to help support our programs.

Fundraising events or regular donations help us achieve better tomorrows for Victorian families. Chloe is hoping to make it an annual event, so that Lucy's legacy has a lasting impact on young people in Victoria.

If you'd like to support Anglicare Victoria either by donating or holding a fundraising event, please get in touch with the Fundraising team to find out how you can help.



# Get Involved for Better Tomorrows

In order to provide a range of support services to help disadvantaged Victorians to rise above their difficulties, we rely on the generosity of volunteers and supporters.

Thanks to the various skills, efforts and donations of our volunteers and supporters, we're able to make significant change in the lives of vulnerable Victorians.

Your support can really make a difference.



**Scan the QR code to find out how you can get involved and lend your support.**

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS



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