

Our People, Our Stories

Autumn 2025



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Welcome to the latest edition of **Our People, Our Stories.**

Welcome to another issue of Our People, Our Stories.

As this magazine goes to print, we're still celebrating our recent Toy Appeal, which brought so much joy to vulnerable kids last Christmas. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped make it such a success.

You'll also read about the amazing contributions from Convergint, a new corporate partner to Anglicare Victoria, and students at Mentone Grammar - both supporting our Toy and Food Appeals in generous and committed ways.

And Meg* features in this edition, a young mum who fled her violent partner and now wants to help others in need, and little Alice*, who has made incredible strides in her learning and development since moving in with Rachael*, one of our amazing foster carers.

I was so thrilled to read in our recent donor survey that an incredible 98 per cent of you are confident that we're putting your generous contributions to good use. The stories in this magazine are a testament to the impact those donations are having on the lives of Victorians in need, thanks to people like you.

Thank you for your continued support of Anglicare Victoria. Your kindness allows us to 'work for better' for all Victorians.

Paul McDonald
CEO Anglicare Victoria

*Names have been changed to protect privacy

Education

How TEACHaR gave Maddie her self confidence back.

Nine-year-old Maddie* was removed from her mother's care when she was just a toddler due to concerns for her welfare, and this affected her development and education. By the time she reached Grade 3 she was a year behind in reading and more than two years behind in writing and maths. She was reluctant to attend school, and when she did, she struggled to engage with her learning.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Maddie was able to work one-on-one with Brett, one of the Education Specialists in our TEACHaR program. A program designed to help vulnerable kids succeed at school, TEACHaR in 2023-24 saw 339 remarkable young people participate in the program across the state.

TEACHaR gave Maddie the chance to catch up with her peers. She worked one-on-one with Brett to build her skills in reading, writing and maths.



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"I really enjoy my sessions with Brett. We always have fun, and I really look forward to doing work in the staffroom with him" – Maddie, TEACHaR participant.

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Within just one year, Maddie was working at the expected level in reading and had caught up an incredible two-and-a-half years in maths! She also made strong progress with her writing, and her school attendance improved from 72 per cent to more than 95 per cent.

"Maddie's self-confidence, both academically and socially, has improved so much, which is reflected in her attendance," said Brett. "The TEACHaR Program allowed Maddie to build her numeracy and literacy skills. She really enjoyed the sessions and has made great progress!"

Now, Maddie is a happy, bubbly student who's eager to participate in class and always approaches her work with enthusiasm. Not only has she caught up to her classmates, she's also built strong relationships with her peers and teachers, and she's even teaching her younger brother to read.

TEACHaR
TRANSFORMING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT OF CHILDREN AT RISK

*Name has been changed to protect privacy

A strong sense of purpose

Mentone Grammar

Mentone Grammar takes great pride in its 102-year history and the impact that their community actions have made along the way.

Last year, students donated nearly 4,000 food items to our FoodBoost appeal, helping put meals on the table for vulnerable families across Victoria. Their generosity had an immediate impact - just a day before our scheduled collection at Mentone, our Warrnambool emergency relief program urgently reached out, desperate to restock their empty shelves. Thanks to Mentone Grammar, we were able to make that much - needed delivery, fast.

But the students didn't stop there! They also embraced our Christmas Toy Appeal with open hearts, donating an incredible 1,488 toys and gifts. (Yes, we counted every single one!)

In fact, they were so generous that our AV Aid Van couldn't fit everything in one trip - our volunteers had to double back for the rest!



Mentone Grammar attributes its success to a constant drive to 'be even better' in everything they do. At Anglicare Victoria, we know we are always #BetterTogether.

Would you like to make an impact on your local community like Mentone Grammar?

Penny Mitchell, our Relationship Manager School Partnerships would love to hear from you and develop a plan for your school to support Anglicare Victoria.

We need:



Toys for Christmas time



Christmas Food Hampers



Registration for food collections for Winter

Penny can be contacted on **0447 174 261** or via email at **partnerships@anglicarevic.org.au**



The gift of hope in their darkest times

Jenny*, 34, never imagined she'd need help from an organisation like Anglicare Victoria. But when her husband passed away, she became a single mum of four, struggling to care for her kids while also working through her own grief. Less than six months later, she found herself homeless after the property she'd rented for the past eight years was sold.

Jenny couldn't find a rental she could afford, so the family spent weeks living in budget hotels. The instability took a toll on them all, and Jenny's mental health suffered.

"I'm in a situation I never could have imagined even a year ago. No home, no husband, no money, nothing to be happy about," Jenny said. "Honestly there have been times where I've thought I don't belong in this world."

Thankfully, Jenny heard about AV's emergency relief services, which are available at 16 locations across the state. At Jenny's first visit we supported her with a week's worth of food plus a supermarket gift card, bedding, and a coat.

Now, Jenny is taking steps to get support for her mental health. She's moved into social housing, and we helped organise a couch and beds for her new home.

Nearly 8000 Victorians like Jenny received urgent help with groceries, clothing, and medication at AV's emergency relief sites in 2023-24. Thanks to the kindness of our donors and volunteers we were able to provide them with a lifeline in their time of need.

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"I was really anxious to come in and find out if I was eligible for food relief, but you've made me feel really welcome... I'm so grateful to you guys!" – Jenny, emergency relief client

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*Name has been changed to protect privacy

Convergent Create “Wow”!



Convergent is built on a strong foundation of values and “a commitment to colleagues, customers, and communities”. Their annual Convergent Social Responsibility Day – when the company shuts down worldwide for a full, paid workday to serve local communities instead – is a perfect reflection of this ethos.

The Melbourne team quickly identified Anglicare Victoria as a perfect fit with their core values, especially as we opened our new toy store warehouse. A group of 50 Convergent colleagues jumped into action, assembling shelving, cleaning,

taking inventory, and also collecting and sorting toys for our annual appeal. They also generously installed new cameras, alarm system, and monitors to support our operations.

Inspired by the positive impact of their day, the team organised an office toy drive before Christmas. Special thanks go to Managing Director Dean Monaghan and his daughter Grace, who encouraged her school to join our Toy Appeal - Grace is certainly a future fundraising star!

By partnering with Anglicare Victoria, Convergent has created a lasting and meaningful impact on our community.

Would your business like to partner with Anglicare Victoria?

Penny Mitchell, our Partnerships Relationship Manager, would love to hear from you and develop a plan with your team to collaborate with Anglicare Victoria throughout the year.



Volunteer



Workplace Giving



Sponsor



Donate

NB: Volunteering opportunities are available every week of the year but can only accommodate small numbers of people at any one time. Talk to Penny about all ways you can support our programs. Penny can be contacted on 0447 174 261 or via email at partnerships@anglicarevic.org.au.

Laying the foundation for a healthy, happy childhood



Fostering better tomorrows

When 8-year-old Alice* was removed from her parents’ home, there were serious concerns about her development and ability to learn. She was unable to speak, could only eat pureed foods, and hadn’t yet been toilet trained.

Alice was placed in the care of Rachael*, a residential care worker and former teacher who had recently completed her foster carer training with Anglicare Victoria. Rachael said caring for a child with complex disabilities has been challenging, but she’s been pleasantly surprised how easily they have adapted to each other.

“She’s been kicking goals since she arrived. I’ve seen massive changes in her,” said Rachael. “We can walk to school together, and her anxieties around mealtime have improved out of sight.”

Thanks to Rachael’s care and support, Alice has begun to say words, is eating a healthy diet, and is learning to use the toilet.

The pair have formed a close bond, and Alice’s teachers are amazed at how far she’s come in such a short time.

“She’s very cuddly. And like any 8-year-old, she’s cheeky and full of mischief,” Rachael said. “She’s keeping me on my toes. I wouldn’t have her any other way!”

Last year 1643 children and young people lived in Out-of-Home Care with AV – some for a short time, others for several months or years. Our through their donations, supporters play a vital role in ensuring these children have access to the activities and experiences that form the basis of a happy, healthy childhood.

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“Having a safe place to stay really lays the foundation that gives a child a chance to thrive” – Rachael, foster carer
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Learn more about foster care here



*Names have been changed to protect privacy

Plan your legacy with love and purpose

Your Will is more than a legal document—it's a testament to your values, a way to care for those you love, and a means to shape the future. When planning your legacy, your family and loved ones should always come first. By ensuring their needs are prioritized, you can provide them with security and comfort.

Beyond your immediate circle, consider how you can extend your legacy by including a charitable gift in your Will. A gift of just 1% to Anglicare Victoria can help transform lives—providing support to vulnerable children, young people and families in our communities.

This small yet significant gesture leaves 99% of your estate to your loved ones while ensuring your values of compassion and care live on.



Your legacy can bring hope to those in need while securing the future of the people you hold dear. Plan today to make a lasting difference.

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“At Anglicare Victoria, we’ve got one eye on the future – for generations to come. Your bequest supports our ability to provide positive outcomes for children, young people and families, now and into the future.”

– Vincent Bucci, Director, Finance and Business Services

Contact Elizabeth Veal, Future Giving Manager to discuss or progress your plans to include Anglicare Victoria in your estate plans on 03 9412 6020 or elizabeth.veal@anglicarevic.org.au

A gift in your Will of just 1% has the potential to **support** and **empower** generations of vulnerable children and families to **transform lives.**



Helping survivors rebuild their lives

Empowering Families

Meg* was a single mum and self-employed hairdresser, working hard to provide a safe, nurturing home for her three children, when she met Joe*. He seemed like a great guy at first. Meg didn't know he had mental health problems, or that he was abusing drugs and alcohol.

"About two months into the relationship I noticed a shift. The excitement turned into erratic, unpredictable behaviour," said Meg.

The relationship soon became violent, and although Meg did everything she could to encourage Joe to seek treatment, he refused. Meg's business suffered, and child protection became involved because the children's safety was at risk. That's when the family was referred to AV's Intensive Family Services program.

Meg's AV case worker supported her when she bravely confronted Joe in court.

She also helped Meg apply for funding to replace the salon equipment Joe had destroyed, and arranged therapy for Meg and the children so they could begin to heal.

Despite everything she's experienced, Meg is still determined to try to make a difference. She's been a guest speaker at her local community health service, and in the future, she hopes to study counselling, so she can help other families who are struggling.

AV's Family Services teams worked with 3753 families in 2023-24, helping them navigate challenges such as substance abuse, family violence, and mental health problems. Donations from our valued supporters allow case workers to provide families like Meg's with Christmas presents and food hampers, brightening their lives during their darkest times.

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"I was able to sit back, breathe, and take the time to understand what I'd been through," – Meg, family services client



Faith in Action: All Souls' Parish

We are profoundly grateful to the many Anglican parishes across Victoria whose steadfast support sustains our mission. We are acutely aware and deeply proud of the rich Anglican heritage on whose shoulders we stand.

Among these cherished allies, All Souls' Parish in Sandringham shines as a beacon of unwavering generosity and community spirit.

For over 50 years, All Souls has been a cornerstone of support for Anglicare Victoria. Through the dedication of its parishioners and the vibrant energy of the All Souls Opportunity Shop, this parish has raised more than \$130,000 to help us deliver critical services. But their impact goes beyond financial contributions. The Opportunity Shop has become a hub of community connection, mobilizing local support not just for Anglicare Victoria but also for other charities in need.



Under the inspiring leadership of Rev. Jeremy Watson, All Souls' Parish continues to flourish. In 2024, our Gift in Wills Ambassador, Leonie Bird, had the privilege of addressing the congregation during a Sunday service.

She shared heartfelt reflections on the vital partnership between Anglicare Victoria and Anglican parishes—a profound expression of God's love in action, through service, education, and advocacy.

For any not-for-profit organisation like ours, working with vulnerable children, young people, and families striving to reach their potential, community support is a lifeline—especially for programs that receive little or no government funding. Parishes like All Souls ensure that help is there when it's needed, offering hope and tangible assistance to those who need it the most.

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**

Thank You for Shaping Our Future Together

We sincerely thank all our donors who provided feedback in our 2024 annual survey. Your insights are invaluable, and we deeply appreciate your thoughtful feedback. Rest assured, we have listened carefully and are committed to integrating your suggestions into our fundraising efforts.



411 surveys completed



80% responded by mail



98% of donors feel 'heard by us'



20% either online or by phone

The top reasons why you support Anglicare Victoria



You believe we have a responsibility to help those less fortunate



You believe every child has the right to be safe and happy



You believe Anglicare Victoria's work makes a positive impact on children, young people and families every day

Anglicare Victoria services MOST important to our donors



Family and parenting support



Family violence protection



Emergency Relief



Out of home Care for children and young people

93% of donors support other charitable organisations including other faith-based or community organisations

88% told us that they feel they are a 'committed' donor of Anglicare Victoria

98% donors confirmed that they have confidence their donations are put to good use

10% of those who responded have either already included Anglicare Victoria in their Wills or intend to do when they next update their estate plans.

Together, we'll continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of the people who need us.

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 compassionate donors like you.

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 really makes a difference.



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

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