

APRIL 2023 | ISSUE NO.11

# PROVINCE OF ROSALIE RENDU



## NEWSLETTER



Incorporated  
works

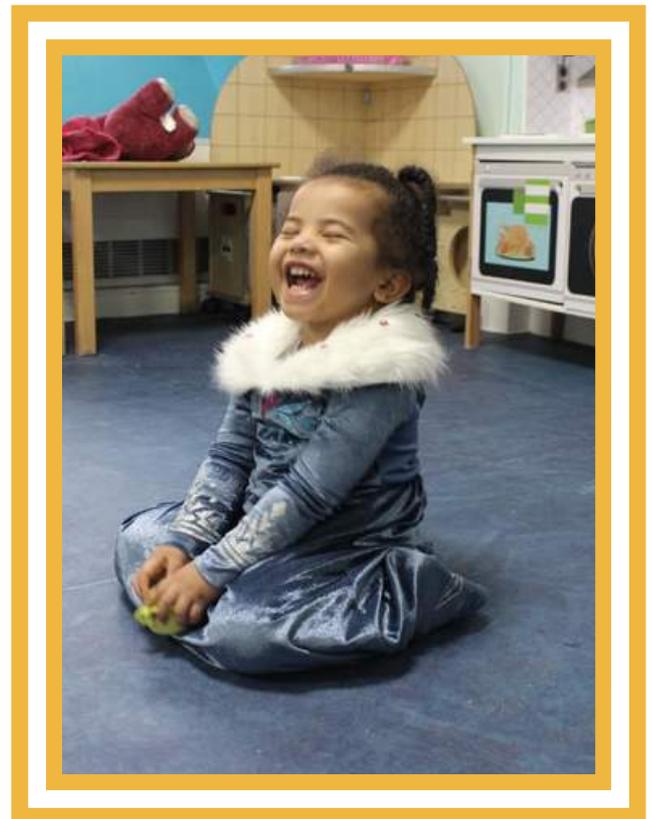


The Daughters of Charity  
of St Vincent de Paul Services

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# GREETINGS

## Sister Ellen Flynn

A year ago, Covid 19 was on the wane and life was slowly returning to normal. We all remember the impact of the previous two years of repeated restrictions and lockdowns on our lives, our projects, services and works. We will never forget the huge effort it took to be creative and inventive in an environment which threatened all of our activities. Throughout these years this Newsletter recorded the innovation, commitment and determination shown during this time and although the virus environment has not been eliminated, we are now living with it successfully.



Immediately I opened the pages of this edition of the Newsletter I was captivated by a sense of new life, new hope, and new growth - Resurrection! During the Easter season, we rejoice in all that urges us forward and the faith based values that sustain us.

For Christians, Jesus is risen from the dead and our mission is to witness to the new life and hope his Resurrection brings. On Easter night Christians have proclaimed that death is conquered in all its forms, symbolised by the newly lit Easter Candle as it is carried through the people gathered in the dark. The cantor sings:

*'This is the night when darkness is illuminated and the night is as clear as the day.'*

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## GREETINGS CONTINUED ...

The pages of this Newsletter do indeed give witness to life, light and hope! The wonder of a hope which has seen us through the dark times; the emergence of a brand new project in Glasgow in response to the local needs; the new life initiatives in 'Out There', St Vincent's Family Project and Seton Villa: these all bear witness to our Vincentian qualities as bringers of hope. Meanwhile Hutt Street Centre looks back on its 69-year history, drawing our attention to the fact that its services have never been more needed and St Mary's House of Welcome describes the living of its core values, one of which is hopefulness. I quote from them:

*'Hope gifts us with the vision to realise the potential in our lives, encourages us to achieve, and sustains us in difficult and challenging times.'*

Amen!

St Joseph's and St Catherine's celebrate their people. St Catherine's honours a devoted volunteer and St Joseph's gives thanks for the voices of the people they support

through the 10-year-old Board of Advisors. Vincentian Care Plus celebrates its staff and invites us to look forward to its new website, while Marillac Neurological Care Centre reflects on the importance of its pastoral care service. Finally, The Louise Project has a new programme significantly called 'Hopeful Future'!

So I herald this edition of the Newsletter a truly Easter proclamation, full of new life and hope and I give thanks for all who make this possible in commitment, in generosity and in every small act of kindness. This world is still groaning under war, injustices, the effects of climate change, economic poverty, and many forms of darkness. Enjoy reading this Newsletter and rejoice that the light shines through in the Province of Rosalie Rendu!

*'Our human compassion binds us the one to the other – not in pity or patronisingly, but as human beings who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope.'*  
(Nelson Mandela)

STOP & BLETHER AT  
**THE LISTENING  
HEART**



## THE LISTENING HEART

On Tuesday 21st February 2023, The Listening Heart opened its doors for the very first time. Based in Parkhead, Glasgow, the new drop-in centre provides a listening and pastoral service and signposts people in the community to specialist sources of support.

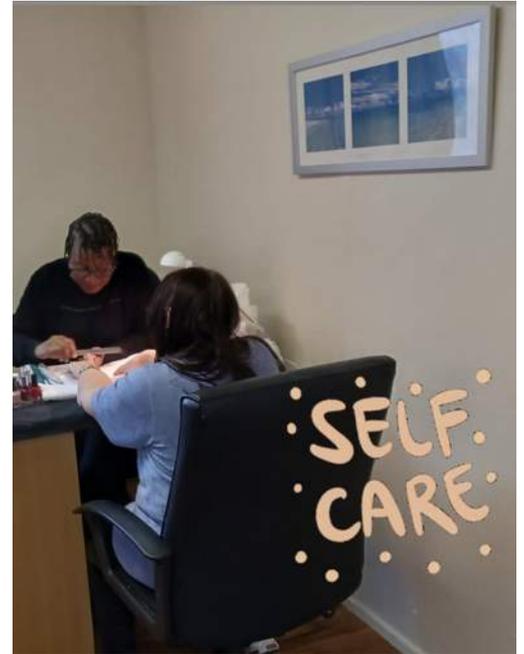
The project was established as a collaborative venture by the Daughters of Charity Mission Heart in Scotland. After a period of research and speaking with professionals and organisations in the area, such as doctors and schools, they found that many people had no one to talk to and therefore nowhere to go with their worries. Daughter of Charity Sister Maria Robb, who has been co-ordinating the new project, said:

*"We call this project The Listening Heart because we listen with our heart but without judging. When people carry burdens and they have nowhere to take them, the problems fester and then they become a huge issue, but a problem shared is a problem halved."*

The set-up and running of the project has required a range of areas of expertise, including practical, legal and financial responsibilities, which have been supported by the wider Vincentian Family, Daughters of Charity Services, local parishioners, local agencies, local clergy and many others.

Prior to the opening date, 12 volunteers took part at a Vincentian Values Today (VIVAT) training course at the new project. held by Daughter of Charity Sister Maureen Tinkler, where they gained context of our shared Vincentian values and the importance of providing a truly Vincentian service.

The Listening Heart has already welcomed in many people from the local area for a cup of tea and a chat. Assessment and evaluation of the project's services will be ongoing as volunteers gain greater insight into the needs of the community.



## OUT THERE

The services provided by Out There are well and truly back to running at a pre-covid pace as the team continues to support families of prisoners. With all major aspects of the charity's newly refurbished building complete, they are now working on improving accessibility within and around the building such as installing ramps and also creating new meeting spaces.

The charity has launched a new drop-in service called 'Family Days', which takes place on one Friday each month for families to come into the hub and receive emotional, peer and family support. Out There has

successfully held two Family Days so far with the number of attendees increasing each time.

In March, families supported by Out There enjoyed a well-being day at the charity where they had the opportunity to enjoy relaxation therapies including reflexology, massage and reiki. Self care promotes good mental health by reducing stress and anxiety, which can be vital for getting through difficult life experiences. It was also an opportunity for family members to take time for themselves when most of their time is taken up caring for others.

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## OUT THERE CONTINUED ...

Staff at Out There recently took part in a workshop with Greater Manchester Poverty Action where they discussed some of the financial challenges faced by families supported by the charity, and how to best provide a comprehensive support service for those who need it.

Thanks to Cash for Kids, Out There was able to distribute supermarket vouchers to families to help support them with the cost of living over the Easter holidays. Out There also treated families to a trip to Pizza Hut over Easter, as well as a tour around Manchester City's stadium for excited fans among the group. Additionally, Out There was grateful to have been awarded a grant from the Diocese of Liverpool Council for Social Action to

continue its work with children and young people.

Last month, Mark Turnbull, CEO of Out There, met with the Daughters of Charity in Southport where he presented an update on the charity's work. Mark expressed his gratitude for the Daughters' continued support towards their work with families of prisoners.

Staff at the charity are now preparing for the final term of the academic year where they will be providing one-to-one support sessions in schools. They are also looking forward to a Coronation Family Gathering in May with the support of the St Vincent de Paul Society and National Lottery.



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# Hutt St Centre

end homelessness



## HUTT ST CENTRE

### **The growing need for support at Hutt St Centre**

On 7 March 2023, Hutt St Centre marked 69 years of supporting people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in South Australia. Sadly, this date also marked our busiest single day on record, with 165 people walking through our doors in search of support.

In 1954, three Sisters of the Daughters of Charity opened St Louise's House on the site where our Centre stands today. Relying on divine providence and the generosity of the people of Adelaide, the Sisters set about helping people experiencing homelessness, isolation and disadvantage in the community by providing hot tea and sandwiches from the laneway behind what is now Hutt St Centre.

Almost seven decades later, much has changed but we maintain our commitment to the values and work of our founding Sisters – providing a place of compassion and support, where people are empowered to rebuild their lives, rediscover their identity, and reconnect with those who love them. And the need for this support is only growing.

Recently released homelessness data from the 2021 Australian Census demonstrates a devastating growth in the number of people experiencing homelessness in South Australia.

Since the previous Census in 2016, the total number of people experiencing homelessness in South Australia has risen from 6,224 to 7,428 – a growth of 19.3%. Of particular concern are vulnerable population groups,

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## HUTT ST CENTRE CONTINUED ...

including women (up by 38.5%) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (up by 48.6%).

Prior to this data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the most comprehensive and current data we had on homeless populations in South Australia came from the 2016 Census – 7 years ago.

In that time, so much has changed that impacts people experiencing homelessness and the kinds of services they need, including: a global pandemic; a housing crisis; a national cost of living crisis; and devastating floods which have increased migration into Adelaide and put additional pressure on emergency accommodation providers.

The Census results represent a snapshot in time. While they are helpful for understanding trends in the homelessness sector, our own data shows an even greater increase in the need for support since 2021.

In the past year, we've seen a 27% increase in visits to access our essential health and

wellbeing supports – from 4,749 visits in Jan-Feb 2022 to 6,032 visits in Jan-Feb 2023.

Since 2021, the need for:

- material aid, like clothing and toiletries, grew by 111%
- hot showers grew by 112%
- laundry services grew by 54%
- nutritious meals grew by 29%
- and health check-ups grew by 8.3%.

Just like the Sisters in 1954, we rely on the generosity of South Australians to help us provide these vital services. We acknowledge the remarkable resilience of our founding Sisters and, like them, we are extremely grateful for the community that wraps around us and enables us to provide the life-changing help thousands of people turn to each year.

As long as there is a need for our services, we'll be here to offer a warm welcome and a helping hand. We look forward to next year when we will celebrate 70 years of helping people rebuild their lives on their journey to homefulness.



## ST JOSEPH'S

### Board of Advisors 10-year anniversary

St Joseph's has proudly celebrated 10 years of operating with a Board of Advisors.

Established in November 2022, the board is made up of a group of people who are supported by St Joseph's and who represent the voices and opinions of everyone who use its services.

In line with Vincentian values, it has always been vitally important to St Joseph's that it provides wholly person-centred services and that the people it supports have a say in all aspects of the care they receive. The Board of Advisors has provided a decade-long opportunity for the people at St Joseph's to strategically guide the organisation and shape the charity's services according to their needs.

There are currently nine active members on the Board of Advisors. Members of the board regularly consult with the people who use St Joseph's services to ensure they have a chance to speak up on issues important to them. The board then meets on a monthly basis to discuss key areas of development or things they would like to address at Trustees' meetings. The board attends every Trustees' meeting where they guide and advise the Trustees on matters relating to the quality of care and support, and what they expect the



organisation to provide. Members of the Board of Advisors have developed a strong relationship with the Trustees and feel being able to fully participate in meetings demonstrates the respect and value their contribution makes to the organisation. *"Involvement is important – the organisation is about us so we should be included,"* said one member of the Board.

*"It is important to have a voice and say how we like to be supported,"* said another.

The people at St Joseph's marked the 10-year milestone with a celebratory event and cake. Looking into the future, St Joseph's plans to develop formal structures that will ensure the board is always a part of the organisation. Up until now, the board has run on goodwill by volunteers, but intentions are to assign specific roles and incorporate duties into job descriptions so that the voices of people supported by St Joseph's will always be heard.

## ST JOSEPH'S CONTINUED...

### Celebrations continue!

The Board of Advisors' anniversary wasn't the only milestone reached at St Joseph's. Stuart, who has been supported by St Joseph's since he was three years old, recently celebrated his 75th birthday. Katy, who came to St Joseph's when she was only months old, turned 60 last month and enjoyed a party. Other big birthdays celebrated include June from St Joseph's office (70), and Kitty (85) and Nicola (50) who are supported by St Joseph's.

A number of long-service awards have also been commended, including Mary McKechnie who celebrated 25 years at St Joseph's and Colette Clark and Sarah Cooke who both reached 40-year milestones. St Joseph's expresses its gratitude for the staff members' unwavering commitment that they have dedicated to the people of St Joseph's over the years.



### High standards of care

St Joseph's was delighted to receive a shining report from the Care Inspectorate, the leading care regulator in Scotland. St Joseph's achieved three grade 5s (very good) and one grade 4 (good) on a 6-point scale, which the team is extremely proud of. The regulators commented that the company's values are present and recognisable in the work taking place. They also commended St Joseph's new Outcomes Support Plan Framework as an example of best practice. The framework aims to make St Joseph's a more outcomes focussed organisation by streamlining information, making information more accessible and easier for staff to navigate, standardising their approach and ensuring that support plans detail personal outcomes and were strength based.

### A centenary on the horizon

The countdown is now on for the organisation's centenary in January 2024. To mark the occasion and celebrate all the support they have provided to people with a learning disability over the years, the team is already busy preparing its biggest fundraising event and party which it will take place next year.





## ST CATHERINE'S AGED CARE SERVICES

### **Gioconda's story**

Gioconda Augimeri is one of St. Catherine's Volunteers who has been volunteering for more than 10 years. Gioconda was born in Mosman, NSW, and is the youngest of five children. Her parents were of Italian heritage, and her father was a high-class shoemaker and shoe repairer who had a shop in Spit Junction in Mosman.

Gioconda's family all enjoyed learning music. Her brothers played the violin while she and her sisters played the piano. Gioconda eventually went on to learn to play church organs too. In her late twenties, Gioconda's late father came to her in a dream and told her to take up the flute. Gioconda was very fortunate and learned to play it quickly and eventually became a professional flautist.

When Gioconda's eldest brother's health was deteriorating, she was forced to find somewhere safe where he would be cared for. She found a vacancy at Bethany, a home at St Catherine's, and was able to move him in. When the Diversional Therapist at St Catherine's found out that Gioconda played music, she asked her if she could come to play and entertain her brother as well as the other residents. It was an unforgettable experience, as Gioconda stated. From that moment, Gioconda organised some other musical friends to play at St Catherine's too, including a male singer and her adopted sister who also plays the flute. The group encourages the residents to sing well-known songs. Gioconda said: *"We all feel honored to share a variety of music and we absolutely love being committed to volunteer work at Bethany. Being volunteers is a true blessing in our lives and is wonderfully fulfilling and rewarding. We look forward to continuing our volunteer work in the future."*



## ST VINCENT'S FAMILY PROJECT

It has been a busy start to the year at St Vincent's Family Project (SVFP), with the number of families supported by the charity almost back to pre-pandemic levels. SVFP welcomed 112 new families in 2022, helping them with everything from healthy living education to more complex needs and child development.

Front-line support has been a major focus at the project since Christmas, including crèche, 1-2-1 therapy and helping individuals with social housing needs. One lady who is supported by the project had fled her country as a victim of domestic violence. Despite having lived and built connections in London for some time, the government offered her social housing north of the country, far away from anyone she knew. SVFP helped the lady request a home closer

to her support system and she was delighted that her application was successful.

The project has continued to build partnerships with external organisations to support families through the cost-of-living-crisis and provide essential items, such as food bank vouchers and nappies. They were also delighted to welcome a representative from Real Nappies for London who visited the centre to explain the benefits of reusable nappies to parents, which everyone enjoyed.

SVFP has successfully completed another Parenting Programme, building confidence and stronger bonds between parents and children. Additionally, staff continue to provide therapy for parents a couple of times each week, as well as work with local schools to provide creative arts therapy for children. SVFP has seen an increasing demand for therapy, but they are pleased more people are recognising their mental health needs and feel comfortable enough to ask for support.

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## SVFP CONTINUED ...

SVFP was recently happy to hear that the government will be expanding childcare eligibility and hours, which is something the project called for on the Daughters of Charity Services podcast last year. This change will make a big difference to parents who could not go back to work due to unaffordable childcare costs.

Over the Easter half term, SVFP will be putting on a range of events for young families to enjoy, and are even hosting an Easter party. Staff will also be working on community outreach to help more families find the project and get the support they need.





*Faces of St. Mary's House of Welcome*

## ST MARY'S HOUSE OF WELCOME

### **Our strategy and values in practice**

The Board have been working with management to review our strategic intent and refresh our Purpose Statement. As a work of the Daughters of Charity we have refreshed or purpose statement to being:

*St. Mary's House of Welcome is a safe place of welcome where people are nourished, experience belonging and are supported to be nourished.*

In February 2023, the staff participated in a workshop to review our values and the actions that would demonstrate ways to live

our values in everyday actions and a way that we can talk about how we work to peers and service users/NDIS participants:

**Respect** - Each person is a unique creation of God. Respect is a building block to authentic relationships and engendering of hope. In action:

- We respect the rights of every person
- We respect that each person has a voice and the right to be heard
- We are inclusive in our attitudes to each person without prejudice or favouritism
- We respect each person's right to informed consent and give them necessary information regarding programs and services
- We acknowledge each person's right to accept or decline services or programs

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## SMHOW CONTINUED ...

- We speak respectfully to, and about, our Community Service Users/NDIS Participants » Our Community Service Users/NDIS Participants are the central focus of all that we do.

**Relationships** - Relationships are essential for building trust and are a basis for wellbeing and spiritual fulfilment. In action:

- We relate with each person in a spirit of mutuality, honesty and openness
- We act with transparency in our relationships, procedures and processes in order to respond most effectively to the needs of our Community Service Users/NDIS Participants
- We work with our Community Service Users/NDIS Participants in a spirit of trust and optimism so that they may be empowered to achieve their full potential
- We collaborate with clients to co-create our services
- We address challenging behaviours with an attitude of compassion and fairness
- We actively seek to partner with others who share our mission to support those who are homeless, disadvantaged and socially isolated.

**Welcoming** - Each person is a unique creation of God. Respect is a building block to authentic relationships and engendering of hope. In action:

- We work to ensure everyone who comes to our door experiences a place of welcome, while prioritising our resources to those Community Service Users/ NDIS Participants who are most at risk
- We create a community where everyone is respected and valued
- We provide quality facilities and programs which lead to enjoyable experiences and feeling of belonging
- We strive to provide a safe and harmonious space for all community and team members
- We adopt a non-judgemental approach in all our services.

**Hopefulness** - Hope gifts us with the vision to realise the potential in our lives, encourages us to achieve, and sustains us in difficult and challenging times. In action:

- We focus on programs and activities which enhance self-esteem and self-actualisation
- We aim to provide programs and services which respond to the individual needs of our Community Service Users/NDIS Participants
- We provide purposeful, individualised and group support, and work towards realistic outcomes for our Community Service Users/NDIS Participants
- We focus on developing harmony and shared purpose in all we do
- We share the hope that each day our Community Service Users/NDIS Participants will leave St Mary's House of Welcome with renewed sense of hope and purpose.

**Responsiveness** - Responsiveness is a Gospel imperative which pursues positive social change and challenges us to reflect on and evaluate what we do. In action:

- St Mary's House of Welcome is committed to adapting and changing our service delivery whenever necessary to best serve our Community Service Users/NDIS Participants and meet broader social needs » We encourage evidence-based innovation
- We respond appropriately to the personal and cultural needs of our Community Service Users/NDIS Participants in our programs and activities
- We have consultative procedures in place so that Community Service Users/ NDIS Participants voices can be heard by Board and Management
- We focus on continuous quality improvement through accreditation processes.

These values are now incorporated in our practice Governance Framework.

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## SMHOW CONTINUED ...

### **New Board members**

We are very pleased to welcome three new directors as they join our Board:

Deborah Fewster: An executive Leader in Social Purpose Organisations Government and Stakeholder Relations with experience in Reputation Management, Strategic Communications, Media Relations, Issues and Crisis Management, Strategy, Public Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns, trusted advisor to Boards and CEOs and an experienced Board Director.

Leanne Lewis: An executive member of Sacred Heart Mission and experience in people and mission and strategy and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Reuben Langkamp: An executive in quality, safeguarding and Practice Manager in a Disability Service and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

### **Corporate Services**

We are very pleased to advise the State Government has confirmed a further four years funding of our social inclusion mental health services from 2023 financial year. We also have received a one-off grant of \$120K for building and maintenance.

### **Client stories**

It is wonderful to share stories of our homeless service users being housed for periods over Easter as we work to longer accommodation supports.

We hope you had a joyous Easter break and wish you the joy of life and a calling to go out and share these gifts with others as the reason for our hopefulness.

As we started with some of the faces of St. Mary's House of Welcome, we end with the tools of social inclusion and responsiveness – our sleeping swags and a picture of one of our zucchinis grown in our community garden.





# Vincentian Care Plus

We make your HOME CARE difference



## VINCENTIAN CARE PLUS

Vincentian Care Plus (VCP) is delighted to be sponsoring two new care full-time staff from overseas, and will soon be welcoming a third, thanks to a new government measure that supports international recruitment within the adult social care sector in the UK. The initiative aims to address the workforce challenges faced by the sector, including lack of care staff and recruitment. Cathy Naigow, Registered Manager at VCP, said the new measure has assisted the company greatly and that the new care workers have already added so much value to the team. Now that the team is growing, the charity is actively seeking funding to resume their befriending service, which has been a core principle of VCP since its beginning.

Despite the sector's challenges, the team has continued to work very hard to meet services users' every need. In fact, even family members of staff have volunteered their time to help during busy periods. VCP partnered with a local Waitrose to treat services users to a three-course meal and non-alcoholic beverages over Christmas, and some parents of staff members offered to deliver the meals to services users, which everyone was very grateful for. As a thank you to care workers for their commitment, and to help motivate staff, VCP is officially acknowledging a 'Carer of the month' by rewarding the titleholder with a £50 voucher.

And finally, VCP's is excited to be launching its brand new website very soon, so keep your eyes peeled over the coming months!



**the marillac**  
neurological  
care centre



## THE MARILLAC NEUROLOGICAL CARE CENTRE

The Marillac started the new year by welcoming two trainee seminarians, Hugo and Paul, who have been studying in Valladolid Spain. The young men visited the centre for three weeks where they immersed themselves in group activities and built great relationships with the residents, bringing humour and an openness as they discussed their vocations. Hugo and Paul integrated with the team so well that they were very missed once they returned back to Spain to continue their studies.

Residents at the Marillac were treated to entertainers on Burns Night and St Patrick's Day to celebrate the occasions. A performer, Clayton, gave an excellent show at the latter and had many of the residents and staff singing and dancing along to some lively Irish tunes. The families of new residents expressed how much they had enjoyed the afternoon, too.

In the build up to Easter, residents were busy on art projects, decorating the centre's boards with spring flowers and painting Easter eggs to hang on the walls. They also enjoyed making Easter rice crispy cakes and an exciting Easter Egg hunt.

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## THE MARILLAC CONTINUED ...



### Fundraising appreciation

The photo on the left is Gordon Rolfe and his wife, Sarah, who is a resident at the Marillac. Gordon often joins Sarah for various activities at the centre. Last September, the company Gordon works for, Avignon Capital, kindly raised £13,520 for the Marillac at a Charity Gala. The Marillac sends a heartfelt thanks to Gordon and everyone at Avignon Capital for their kindness and efforts.

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### Pastoral Care at The Marillac

*By Sister Rosalie Crowley*

During my usual walkabout and visits, I have spent some time on St Vincent's Unit, where I met with two residents, whom I had met the first day they came to the Marillac. I could not believe the progress they have made in such a short time. I congratulated the staff on the love and care they had given these residents and how amazed I was to see this progress in just six weeks. We do of course include the other disciplines in this progress like the Activity Team, Physiotherapy, and Speech & Language Therapy. I also met with the families the following day and they too agreed and were delighted with the progress their loved ones had made. It does your heart good to see this progress and is of course the name for which the Marillac has been known for.

I spent some time, supporting staff following the death of residents and in particular a painful period where relationships had broken down. As we know the pain and guilt of

residents loved ones in their grief following a death often hit out at staff, and this is difficult not to take personally as I know the hard work and sensitivity that goes into the day-to-day work on the Units. On this occasion, I was asked to prepare a Memorial Service to honour those we had lost during the year. Many staff along with some residents attended the service.

Paul Dixon our CEO, welcomed everyone, and sent condolences and sympathies to the families and staff, of those we have loved and lost. On behalf of the Management Team and Board of Trustees, Paul acknowledged the wonderful care and sensitivity staff give to families and residents whilst working tirelessly on the units. Following the Service, I received wonderful feedback from staff, saying they felt valued and re-assured, this was great to hear as morale had been low currently.

I feel really inspired by what I observe on my day-to-day visits to the Units, but I am sad to hear from the residents and families that so many have to move on due to lack of funding as they feel their loved ones could benefit from a few more months.

## SETON VILLA

Seton Villa is delighted to share that its builder, Academy Construction and Development, has handed over two new Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) houses in Marsfield, on time and on budget. This brings the total to six, with only one more to go!

The residents of Koorong Street were delighted to move into their Spruce Cottage home on 21 March 2023 and receive their key from Academy Director, Ronnie Beaini, who now considers himself to be part of the Seton family! They celebrated together with a meal on their new dining table.

The following week, residents of Menzies Road moved into their new Daffodil Cottage. Elena was so excited at the front door, and Cathy claimed the nearest lounge chair as her own!



Lynn, pictured below, was also very chuffed to laze on the new blue lounge in front of the television.



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## SETON VILLA CONTINUED...

Other exciting news is Seton Villa was approached by a group of families from the Ryde Area Supported Accommodation for Intellectually Disabled (RASAID) Committee earlier this year to consider taking over the Supported Independent Living (SIL) service for their 15 family members with intellectual disability from the incumbent disability provider. These residents, both male and female, live in cluster accommodation managed by a Community Housing Provider – Evolve Housing.

This opportunity aligned with Seton Villa's strategic intent to grow in scale and provide support to both females and males with a disability. The proximity to Seton Villa's existing homes was an additional bonus!

After extensive negotiations with the previous provider to gather appropriate documentation to complete due diligence, we assumed responsibility for the new service on 3 April 2023. This was indeed a fabulous achievement for Seton Villa and leverages its core business expertise to deliver a high quality SIL service – much to the appreciation of the RASAID families. This acquisition will result in an additional \$3m of NDIS revenue and a further 30 staff to Seton Villa's workforce.



# THE LOUISE PROJECT

## **Generational Poverty**

In 2013 the Daughters of Charity founded The Space in Govanhill, one of the most impoverished and ethnically diverse neighbourhoods in Scotland. In 2017 The Louise Project was formed, of which The Space continues to be an initiative.

During the past 10 years The Space has provided a place where families are safe to be vulnerable, a place where they are listened to, a place where aspirations are nurtured and where hope is tangible as lives improve.

As the project has grown so have we wrestled with the reality as we watch clever children born to poor adults go onto become poor adults who then have clever children who also go onto become poor adults... and so the cycle of generational poverty continues.

The Louise Project is focussed on developing a pathway that offers families the opportunity to break the cycle of generational poverty. This pathway is called Model for Enablement: The Vincentian Way, and it is a relational model based on five well researched and comprehensive programmes of holistic support:

- Community Drop-in
- Community Integration
- Building Better Futures
- Building Community
- Hopeful Futures

Following an extensive evaluation last summer, we identified a gap in the model as we became aware of more barriers that prevented people from living a full life and, in response, we have developed our latest programme, Hopeful Futures, which we will pilot this year.

Hopeful Futures focuses on the essential skills, knowledge and understanding and self-awareness required for adulthood and participation in UK society. Sessions will focus on Systems (e.g. taxation), Education (why it is important and finding opportunities), Finances (savings, credit cards), Hygiene, Health, Relationship Boundaries and the Causes and Consequences of Poverty. A great deal of this knowledge and understanding is acquired during primary and secondary education or from parents, but as many of the families have little or no experience of education so much of this learning is absent.

We have already identified two partners who will work alongside us in the delivery of Hopeful Futures. City of Glasgow College will deliver sessions on systems, and participants have already gained essential skills and knowledge, such as how to read a pay slip is and what the laundry symbols on clothing labels mean.

We have partnered with Mellow Parenting to develop a bespoke program for the Roma community and we will deliver sessions on parenting, relationships, health, and hygiene. We are excited by the potential of Hopeful Futures and as the programs of support work cumulatively, so the capacity of participants is developed with each level of engagement.

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## THE LOUISE PROJECT CONTINUED ...

It is our hope that together the programs will better equip people to become informed, self-determining citizens capable of bringing about

transformation in their own life and the life of the community and thereby break the cycle of generational poverty.

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### **The best food from our countries**

The Louise Project is set to launch a cookbook in May, developed by the women supported by the project. The book contains recipes from a range of nationalities including Romanian Roma, Slovakian Roma, Syrian and more. The women have enjoyed sharing recipes from their different cultures and fittingly named the book "The best food from our countries." Even the illustrations throughout the book were designed by one of the project's talented students. The cookbook will be available to purchase for £5 and all proceeds will be donated to the project.

### **New beginnings, new roles**

Congratulations to Ellie Surmajova who has officially been appointed Project Manager at The Louise Project. Ellie started working at the project nearly two and a half years ago as a Welfare Benefit Worker and has made a tremendous impact on the lives of those she has supported. Coming from an ethnic minority background herself, Ellie has a personal passion for breaking down barriers and helping marginalised and disadvantaged people successfully integrate into society. We are excited for Ellie as she takes on this new role and continues to help the women of Govanhill flourish.

