

April 2025

That's what we're about:
St John's Crisis Centre put
up some 400 meals and
shelter during the cyclone

SmileStyle Orthodontics
gives our clients something
to smile about.

And StreetSmarts helps
them to have a smart night's
sleep

Zonta Paradise Point
provides us with a load of
living essentials

Student Volunteers are one
of our major resources

Meet some of our regular helpers



Dianne Kozik, General Manager

Dianne's Discourse

Dear Friends,

Forty-three years ago, our founder, Joan Hancock, felt a call from God to feed the homeless in Surfers Paradise. It was a powerful message that changed the course of her life and the lives of so many others:

"... with the Drop-In Centre—the seed from which all other arms of the ministry grew, always responding to the needs of our clients."

"Do not just put your tithe—the money you are giving back to God—on the plate. Put yourself as well, as God wants all of you, not just your money. He wants a living relationship with you."

These words became the foundation for Joan's ministry and the beginning of what we now know as St John's Crisis Centre.

In Joan's own words, from her reflections on the history of St John's Drop-In Centre and Surfers Paradise Anglican Crisis Care Inc.:

"I retired on the 8th of January 2014, and these pages were written to record how our mighty God kept His hand on us, guided us, and met all our needs. It began in St John's Anglican Church on Hamilton Avenue, Surfers Paradise, with the Drop-In Centre—the seed from which all other arms of the ministry grew, always responding to the needs of our clients. Surfers Paradise Anglican Crisis Care Inc. (SPACC) became the umbrella under which they all found shelter—the Drop-In Centre, the Welfare Office, the Community Rental Scheme, the Men's Homes, and the Voluntary Home Support. Not being an author, this is not a detailed history, but rather a collection of wonderful reflections from a blessed 33 years."

Sadly, Joan passed away last month. Her passing is a significant loss to all who knew and loved her. But the legacy she leaves behind is a lasting testament to her faith, compassion, and unwavering commitment to serving those most in need in our community.

I feel incredibly grateful to have crossed paths with Joan. I still remember the day she spoke at my daughters' school assembly almost 20 years ago. Her

(Continued on page 2)

"The biggest misconception about the homeless is that they got themselves in the mess — let them get themselves out. Many people think they are simply lazy. I urge those to make a friend at a local mission and find out how wrong these assumptions are." — Ron Hall, British TV Personality

words stirred something in me. I returned to my comfortable life and realised how fortunate I was and how much I had to give. That moment inspired me to volunteer at St John's kitchen every Thursday. It was a humbling and eye-opening experience. Joan helped me understand how quickly life can change and how easily someone can fall into homelessness or hardship.

After five years as a volunteer, I was offered a role in administration at the Centre. Ten years later, I stepped into the role of General Manager. That one school assembly set me on a path I could never have imagined, and I'm honoured to carry on the work Joan began all those years ago.

Joan's family, friends, and so many in the community will miss her dearly. But her spirit lives on in the work we do every day, and in our lives, we continue to touch through the foundation she built with love and faith.

With heartfelt thanks,

Dianne Kozik
General Manager, St John's Crisis Centre

St John's CC put up some 400 meals and shelter during the cyclone

When, cyclone Alfred hit the Gold Coast last month, St John's Crisis Centre (SJCC) staff and volunteers rolled their sleeves up to supply over 500 meals, 55 donated by Oz Harvest and the balance by SnapFresh (see last month's newsletter), that were delivered to the homeless evacuation centre in Southport. The homeless shelter provided around 100 people seeking food and shelter, of which 44 slept at the centre and another 44 received food, showers and clean clothing. Here is again a superb example of cooperation between various organisations, both commercial and faith based.

Watch out for next month's newsletter for a full article about the wonderful support by various organisations.

Congratulations to all—well done!



Terri from OzHarvest prepares meals donated



Peter packs up donated meals

A clean shave can make a world of difference

By Kim (staff member)

For those experiencing homelessness or facing crisis situations, access to basic hygiene essentials can make a world of difference. That's why St John's Crisis Centre and [Gold Coast Youth Services](#) have come together to supply razors for individuals in need—giving them the dignity to clean up for job interviews, court hearings, or simply to feel fresh and confident.

A clean shave might seem small, but for someone living on the streets, it can be the difference between being seen and being overlooked, between self-respect and despair. It's more than a razor—it's an opportunity.

We're grateful for this partnership and for the chance to support those in our community who need it most. If you'd like to contribute or learn more about how you can help, reach out to us!



SmileStyle Orthodontics makes children smile ... and not a drill in sight!



Recently, Scott took delivery of a load of donated presents, delivered by **Rebecca Kopyeykin** (picture right) from [SmileStyle Orthodontics](#), destined for our blessing cupboard for children's birthdays and special events to alleviate the families' financial stress.

Thank you, SmileStyle!

There is more than one way to create a beautiful smile!

StreetSmart donates bedding

[StreetSmart Australia](#) have provided us with bedding sets to distribute to our clients which has been extremely helpful especially after the impacts of the Cyclone. **Thank you, StreetSmart!**



WHAT WE NEED NOW:

With the growing number of people sleeping rough in our community, we need tarps (to keep dry when sleeping) and small travel packs with shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and deodorant.

WHAT WE ALWAYS NEED:

Small sunscreens, insect repellent, nonperishable food, especially meals in a can

Zonta Paradise Point provides essentials

The [Zonta Club of Paradise Point](#) is dedicated to building a better world for women and girls through advocacy and service projects. As part of our 2025 initiatives, we are proud to support St John's Crisis Centre Surfers Paradise, a non-denominational charity providing essential assistance (food, clothing, and other essential services) to women, children, and families in need. This year, our club has committed to donating \$600 worth of clothing and goods three times, ensuring those facing hardship have access to vital resources. Through projects like this, we continue to take action, making a meaningful impact in our community and advancing Zonta's mission.

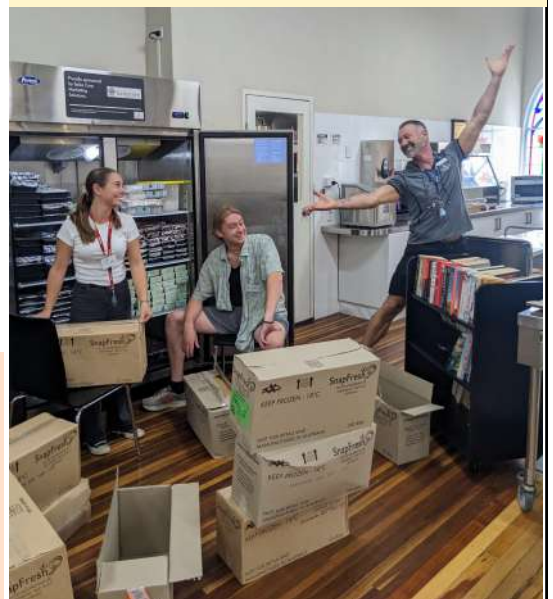
Photo right: The first donation. Zonta member Ros Scott (left,) with Di, one of our volunteers and a Board Member. **Thank you, Zonta!**



Our Student Volunteers make a real difference



Clockwise, from above: Students assist Scott to sort food parcels, Scott is hamming it up with Griffith University students Joe and Erika, and in bottom photo the two of them working on their final year of social work degrees



"My students often ask me, 'What is sociology?' And I tell them, 'It's the study of the way in which human beings are shaped by things that they don't see.'"

Sam Richards,

Co-Founder, World in Conversation Center for Public Diplomacy

