



Christ Church Mission Community Centre Annual Report 2023

Christ Church Mission Community Centre
14 Acland St, St Kilda, Victoria 3182

t: (03)9534 9250 w: www.ccm.org.au e: communitycentre@ccm.org.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Breaking records as we enter our 20th year

By now, we expected that demands for our services were returning to 2019 pre-Covid levels but nothing could be further from the truth. Demand has risen year by year and we ended the 2022/23 financial year handling, for the third year in a row, record demands for our services.

We're proud to be able to say that our staff and volunteers combining with our donors have been able to meet these demands. Our services and reputation are better known than ever. We send out waves of "thank you" to each of our staff, volunteers and donors. You will see them named in this report.

We start the next financial year by taking a few moments to look back on 20 years of achievement. But we will not be resting on our laurels as we know demands change and we have to be flexible to adapt to them.

We thank all of those who have played a part over the 20 years of our operations, plus the 4 years before that when the Centre was incorporated and the building was completed. We remember with appreciation the work of our Founder, Father Jim Minchin.

With a big thanks.

Geoffrey Court

President

What Christ Church Mission's Community Centre is about...

Christ Church Community Centre (St Kilda's Little Mission) is committed to creating an environment which is welcoming, inclusive and supportive for the diverse range of people and groups in our local community.

Recognising that poverty of resources and poverty of relationships can lead to social exclusion, the Centre offers opportunities for social interaction and personal growth, particularly through:

- Weekly free community meal
- Emergency support
- Volunteering opportunities
- Engagement in free or low-cost activities
- Community outreach

We are challenged to be the explicit social justice arm of Christ Church Parish.

PROGRAMS



EMERGENCY SUPPORT

Each week we have over 100 people attend the Centre, seeking emergency support and referral services. The interaction provides many of those who drop in with a positive social connection and assistance in accessing other means of support. Emergency support is available from Monday to Friday 10.30am – 2.30pm but often helping people outside of these hours.

Through our partnerships with Second Bite, Foodbank, Fare Share, Food Filled, Alex Makes Meals, Port Phillip Community Group, Pets of the Homeless, Pinchapoo and in addition to the kindness and generosity of Kedam Community, Toorak Ecumenical Churches and private donation we assist our community with four days' worth of meals. They can choose pantry goods, dairy products, vegetables, fruit and ready to go meals.

Our core funder for this program is the South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission.



OPEN HOUSE MEAL SERVICE

Our longest serving program, providing nourishment and social connection for our community.

Preparation for the Open House Meal program starts at midday Thursday. Food for our soup, main and dessert is collected from our Second Bite delivery as well as orders from our Foodbank collection. We have regular volunteers along with our students and teachers from Star of the Sea College (Gardenvale), who give us several hours helping with the preparation of a delicious, nutritious meal.

When the program commenced many years ago, we started with 4 diners and are now reaching 85 to 100 people per week. The community which comes into our dining room, takes a seat at our inclusive round dining tables enjoying a three-course meal; vegetarian soup served with a side of buttered bread, main meal either vegetarian or meat meal and delicious dessert, followed by tea or coffee. The community has the chance to chat with staff and volunteers as well as socialise with community neighbours. For the community members who have social anxiety, they get the opportunity to take the same meal with them. Everyone gets to also have the choice of selecting fruit, vegetables and loaf of bread, to take home.



PROGRAMS

WORK THIS WAY PROGRAM

Supported and in partnership with Port Phillip Community Group, this important program continues to support and train people during the school terms which makes it accessible for parents who are developing skills to return to the workforce as well as others who are keen to brush up a range of skills. New partners in the program, Oz Harvest, helped to increase the capacity and positive outcomes for the Work This Way cooking skills program.

Participants in both Cooking Skills and Gardening Basics courses, developed skills and knowledge through participating in the regular programs by preparing and enjoying a nutritious meal in social setting and enjoyed learning introductory gardening skills in our kitchen garden.

QUILTING

This group meets fortnightly to cut material into little pieces and then sew them back together again. Sounds crazy but what creative fun they have. The group develops and strengthens relationships among women in our neighbourhood. What amazing end quilts they produce.

GARDEN NOMADS



While many senior people prefer to stay in their own homes as long as possible, maintaining their environment becomes an impossible task. Our green fingered volunteers assist frail or disabled residents to maintain their gardens, which often also enables them to continue to live independently in the community and benefit from the regular social contact.



KITCHEN GARDEN

Our Kitchen Garden provides fresh local produce to support the community meal program and offers opportunities for garden enthusiasts and volunteers who enjoy the opportunity to commune with nature, develop skills, share experiences, knowledge and break down social barriers.



PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

SECOND BITE



Second Bite delivers vegetables, fruit produce, dairy, pantry goods and prepared meals to our community centre each week. With this delivery they not only support Christ Church Mission but other charities such as the Baptist Church in St Kilda, Sister Bridget, Brigidine Nuns, Asylum Seekers Program, Mind Australia, helping people with disabilities and other community centres.

This year we were excited to have their ambassador, volunteer board member, food critic Matt Preston visit us to speak about the benefits that Second Bite provides to our community.



Matt Preston with Christ Church Community Centre volunteer Josie Alexander during Coles SecondBite Winter Appeal launch at Christ Church Community Centre in St Kilda, Melbourne. Picture: Martin Keep/Coles



PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

STAR OF THE SEA COLLEGE - GARDENVALE

We are grateful for another year of the wonderful affiliation we have with the Star of the Sea College – Gardenvale.

Each week students from years 10 through to year 12, their parents and teachers attend the Centre to help prepare and serve the Open House Meal for our community.

As part of their community engagement training the students participate in all aspects of the Open House meal program, interacting with the regular diners and volunteers.

In addition, the school community supports the Emergency Relief program by regularly gathering and donating pantry items.

At Christmas the students created a special Christmas Card which they sold and proceeds were donated to the Open House Program.

The Relationship with Star of the Sea College is another example of how communities benefit from working together.



ELWOOD 3184 VOLUNTEER GROUP

The volunteers for this project are Elwood locals who live near to the bakery. Volunteers are recruited from the Elwood 3184 Community Facebook page, where there is always an overwhelming response with people eager to help out in their local community. Without the donations from Bakers Delight and our dedicated team of volunteers, this project would not be the success that it is today. Just knowing how much the bread is appreciated brings so much joy to our disadvantaged community and volunteers. Some of whom have been with us since the project began. In our volunteers WhatsApp group, we share warm stories of the community we meet as we unload the bread from our cars and take it into the mission – these messages are always bringing a smile to our faces as we know this small gesture of bread makes such a big difference.



PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

STUDENTS ON WORK PLACEMENT

We support students from Stotts College Melbourne with their 200 hours of placement which they need to complete as part of their Diploma or Bachelor of Community Services. Being involved with the Centre gives them the opportunity to experience the assistance we provide to the community. Students get involved in many of our programs and have the opportunity to help and interact with community members who seek assistance.



HOPE FOR TOMORROW

During the challenging days of Covid, we were heartened to find a tremendous outpouring of support in the various places where we volunteered. This led us to actively seek out areas in need, and we reached out to our friends on the streets to identify the community that would benefit most from our support. Ultimately, we found ourselves right here in St Kilda.

Our journey began over two years ago in a humble park one night, offering food to just two individuals in need. Within a month, we were serving up to 40 people and our impact kept expanding, eventually doubling.

As the cold winter set in, we realised that cooking and hosting outdoors in Melbourne's rain and cold temperatures wasn't feasible. In our quest to find a suitable nearby location, we received a recommendation for the Christ Church Community Centre. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to collaborate with them and it became our new home.

Elizabeth, Marie and the team have been amazing support to our cause and it is with their help that we've been able to continue our cause and passion. We are a self-funded group and are proud that our team has grown and now boasts an incredible group of 13 special individuals who travel from all over Victoria.



PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

FATHER BOB'S FOUNDATION

We thank Graham Collier and his volunteers, from Father Bob's Foundation (The Bob Squad). Graham is an amazing volunteer; he dedicates more hours than a normal working week to Father Bob's Foundation. With their own pantry and community to look after he also makes time to provide our Mission with extra items that are donated to Father Bob's Foundation. Their donations always come when we are in critical need to put something into our pantry or fridge



PORT PHILLIP COMMUNITY GROUP – SHARE THE FOOD

The aim of Share the Food was to provide food staples and essential items to the community facing hardship or isolation. Mark, Kim and the team from the Port Phillip Community Group have supplied us with crates of food each week, the one place we can go when our freezers are depleting meat products. We can pass it onto our community and to be able to provide for our Open House Meal.



VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER DANIEL

Hi, I'm Daniel, I have been volunteering at the Christ Church Community Centre, for well over 4 years. Prior to my volunteering, I was out of work and very sick, after having a few years of work I was not in a good position in life, I was living in a share house and had no direction. One day, I went to get a food parcel from CCM and I noticed that there was an opportunity to become a volunteer in their Garden Nomads group, they were helping with peoples gardening throughout the community, so I joined. I started in the nursery at the same time with Elaine, I had a background in this field of work and I loved being able to help.



As years went by during my time at CCM, I became an all-rounder at the little mission, picking up food from other community outlets to stock our cupboards, so that we can help people in need with food parcels. Giving food parcels to people in need is a great feeling along with our community meal that is held every Thursday at the Centre, apart from this the little mission is a great advocate for Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholic Anonymous meetings that happen every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, this is a safe place for all whom need it. Also, once a month the community nursery and book sale is held on the 1st of every month and last but not least from the President, staff members to the newest volunteer, every person that is involved within the little mission is amazing. Thanks to all that have helped me along the way as I feel at home as a volunteer here at Christ Church Mission.

VOLUNTEER PETE

About 8 years ago my neighbour in our boarding house, invited me to come for a free meal at the community centre. There was a flyer asking for volunteers who like to cook, and before I knew it I was cooking every week. It's a great team and I enjoy contributing. I also help the church out with the monthly bookstall and the occasional sausage sizzle.



VOLUNTEER KIM

I would like to tell you about our local church community centre. I have been a volunteer for about a year. One of my residents in my apartment block introduced me to the centre, I really enjoy serving the meals on Thursday evenings. I find it gratifying to assist with feeding many hungry people. One-person last week was Fiona. She has severe difficulty with the shakes, she is unable to place any food in her mouth, I volunteered to help feed her and she was very happy that I did, we laughed and it was pleasant for the both of us. I feel that people like Fiona are sometimes overlooked because of other regular people who are more vocal and able bodied.





MEET NEW STAFF MEMBERS

PENNY MATTHEWS

I have been a St Kilda resident for many years and become passionate about the local community. St Kilda is my home. I started volunteering at Christ Church Mission in 2019 preparing meals for the Open House dinner. I have been involved in connecting with local neighbours and at the front door greeting the community on Thursday evenings. Spending most of my working life in finance, I decided it was time for a change and to give back more to those less fortunate. Volunteering here and at the Greeves St Opportunity Shop have given me this opportunity. This year in June, I was thrilled to join the team as Community and Engagement Coordinator. Volunteering can lead to a life change!



KIMBERLEY BROOKS

Kim is an example of how successful our pathways program is at Christ Church Mission.

Kim joined us as a Stott's College, Community Services student in October, 2022 where he completed his practical work placement. As a graduate he took on the position as a Volunteer and Program Worker where he was able to further his knowledge, skills and confidence.

Having had this experience, Kim has managed to secure his next steps in his career development and we wish him every success in his future endeavours.

Our relationship with Stotts College is another example of the many benefits gained through working in collaboration within the community services setting.



OUR AMAZING TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you to our staff who with our volunteers enable us to continue providing valuable support and services to the community.

Alex Vacharidis	Dushen Tissera	Kellie Bailey	Robyn Foy
Aimee Baybayon	Edward Small	Kerrie O'Sullivan	Rodrick & Deb Carmichael
Aine Lustig	Emma & Greg Newitt	Kim Valentine	Samnang Leng
Andrew Pope	Elise Aprea	Lesley Pianella	Samantha Arc
Andrea Taliana	Emily Millward	Lequyen Tong	Sandra Johnston
Anna Bennett	Geoffrey Court	Lillian Shegog	Serge Thomann
Anne Murphy	Georgia Alexander	Linda Downey	Sonia Song
Anita Collis	Graeme Godsman	Lindsay Jamieson	Star of the Sea College
Barry Reynolds	Hannah Bousfield	Liz Van Dort	Gardenvale
Brendan Elvey	Helen Bain	Luke Merkel	Stuart Baker
Charles Baird	Iain Dodds	Maree N'Daiye	Suanne Prager
Christopher Selleck	James McAlpine	Margaret Lindop	Syed Yahiya Ishaqi
Daniel Johnston	Jaqui Keating	Mark Degan	Tania A'beckett
David Barnard	Jennifer Stevens	Matthew Ripps	Taqi Ali
David Dawson	Jim Arter	Michael McLellan	Toffoletti
David Hughes	Jill Crawford	Michele Sholl	Tony Dinh
Derrick Clayton	Joanne Boyle	Nick Hutchins	Tony Rusciano
Dianne Hollis	Josie Alexander	Patrick Manning	Turi Hollis
Dianne Ramus	John Moran	Pauline O'Brien	Travis Earle
Dianne Thomas	Julie Armstrong	Penny Matthews	Tyrone Glewis
	Kaya Martin	Peter Turner	Valerie Lion
	Karen Avallone		Vicky Fletcher

OUR STAFF

The Centre is now open 5 days per week and our five staff members are employed for a total of 85 hours (2.2 full time equivalent). They bring a wide range of skills and experience from a broad range of working and life experience covering Community Welfare, Mental Illness, Social Engagement and Community Development to their relationship with our community.

Manager – Elizabeth Rooney

Program and Volunteer Coordinator – Elaine Wilkinson (until April 2023)

and Kim Brooks (commenced January 2023 – August 2023)

Community and Engagement Coordinator – Penny Matthews (commenced May, 2023)

Community Engagement and Emergency Support Program – Marie Baker

Assistant Community Support Worker – Martin Prest

Our Community Centre is cared for by Jim Arter, Andrew Pope, Dianne Hollis and Peter Turner.

OUR FINANCES

Christ Church Mission Inc. operating as Christ Church Community Centre
Income & Expenditure for the year to 30 June 2023

Revenue		Expenditure	
Operating income (Grants, venue hire)	293,011	Staff and program expenses	228,613
Donations	21,277	Depreciation expense	70,699
Member's subscriptions	65	Administrative expenses	<u>45,724</u>
Investment returns	<u>21,639</u>		<u>345,036</u>
	<u>335,992</u>		
Surplus (loss) from ordinary activities	(9,044)		

This is an extract from the audited financial statement. Full financial statement is available on request.

OUR SUPPORTERS

We acknowledge with gratitude the support given in donations, gifts, grants and/or in-kind by those listed below and those who prefer to remain anonymous.

Individuals

Andy Cripps	Ed Small	Katrina Tull	Sophie Purvis	Tom Buchan
Anne Thornton	Lee Ousorren	Maree N'Diaye	Stella Beal	
Carmen Ayres	Erin Marsicovetere	Michael Wilson	Stephen Anderson	
Caroline Hogg	Fiona Dickinson	Michele Sholl	Sushma	
Dorothy Waterfield	Josephine McDermott	Naomi Rivers	Therese Lovejoy	

Organisations

Alcoholics Anonymous	Elwood St Kilda Learning Centre	Port Phillip Community Group
Aldi – St Kilda	Fare Share	Quest – St Kilda Alvaro Caceres
Alex Makes Meals	Father Bob's Outreach	Second Bite
Avalon	Foundation	South Melbourne Community
Bakers Delight - Elwood	Food Bank - Yarraville	Chest Inc.
Bunnings – Port Melbourne	Food Filled	South Port Uniting Church Parish
Caulfield South Community	Kedam Community	Mission
House	Mazon Australia	Star Health
Christ Church - St Kilda	Narcotics Anonymous	St Kilda/Elsternwick Baptist
Christ Church – South Yarra	Officeworks – South Yarra	Church
Coles Group	Pets of the Homeless	Temple Beth Israel
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	Pinchapoo Hygiene Products	Toorak Ecumenical Churches
		Opportunity Shop Inc

Other Funders

City of Port Phillip	Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Fund
Collier Charitable Fund	Palais Theatre – St Kilda
Commonwealth Bank	Perpetual Trustee Company Limited
Danks Trust	South Melbourne Community Chest
	Victorian State Government

Committee Of Management

Responsible for the overall governance of the Centre, the voluntary Committee includes:

Office Holders:	Geoffrey Court – President	Fr Turi Hollis	Deputy President
	Charles Baird – Treasurer	(ceased September, 2022)	
		Fr Craig D'Alton (appointed August, 2023)	
		Kerrie O'Sullivan – Secretary	
Members:	Derrick Clayton	Edward Small	Serge Thomann

You can be part of our work by...

- Donating non-perishable foods and toiletries. You can leave them at the Community Centre: 14 Acland Street, St Kilda, between 10.30am to 1.30pm Monday to Friday or give us a call on (03) 9534 9250.
- Donating \$2.00 or more which is tax-deductable.
You can donate online at: <https://www.givenow.com.au/cause1510>
- Volunteering -- especially for involvement in our Garden Nomads, Community Kitchen Garden and Open House Programs.
Express your interest to any of our staff – phone (03) 9534 9250 or email us at communitycentre@ccm.org.au
- Hiring our venue for your next function, workshop or Owner's Corporation meeting.
 - Liking our Facebook and Instagram pages to stay up to date with the latest news and events.
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/ChristChurchCommunityCentreStKilda>
 - Instagram: @ccmcommunitycentre
 - Website: www.ccm.org.au



WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT



Collier Charitable Fund



Parish Partnerships

Our ability to continue working in the community has been supported by South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission and the Anglican parish of St John's Toorak through the Toorak Opportunity Shop and the Toorak Ecumenical Council.

We continue to be thankful and challenged by their support!



HIRING OUR VENUE

Our facilities are a community resource available to hire. We have hosted gatherings ranging from celebration of life events through to workshops and Owner's Corporation meetings, with reduced rates for community groups.

