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DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? CONSIDER THE SAMARITANS MENTOR PROGRAM.



One of our residents, Tegan, recently received an award for her advocacy in preventing domestic violence against children.

Samaritans Student Accommodation provides young people with supported accommodation and employment opportunities whilst engaged with education. More than one resident has identified that school and support services do little to prepare young people for life in the real world.

In recognition of this need we have introduced the complementary Samaritans Mentor Program. The role of the mentor is to build a significant relationship with the young person based on trust and respect. We see mentors as pivotal in building confidence and self-esteem and providing

For more information visit www.samaritans.org.au



guidance, friendship, advice and motivation. Each mentor and young person is carefully matched to ensure an enduring relationship 'fit'.

Why not consider becoming a mentor?

We are looking for people who are:

- Aged 30 or older
- Able to share at least one hour a fortnight with their mentee
- Positive, caring and prepared to share their skills and knowledge

2015 WINTER APPEAL: EARLY LAUNCH IN RESPONSE TO APRIL'S NATURAL DISASTER

Following April's extreme weather it was with a sense of urgency that Samaritans brought forward the launch of the 2015 Winter Appeal.

Samaritans annual Winter Appeal usually launches in May to coincide with the extra demands and needs in the community during the winter months.

Each month Samaritans provides more than 1,000 families with emergency assistance and relief and we often see a rise in demand in winter months when electricity bills increase and local families struggle.

Emergency Relief services aim to assist people of the Hunter who are experiencing

hardship with food parcels, financial assistance such as the payment of household bills or grocery vouchers, advocacy with debtors and no-interest loan schemes.

April's natural disaster has added significant pressure to those in our community in need, and more people have turned to support services like Samaritans.

In most regions in which Samaritans works, it is the largest distributor of welfare support for emergency assistance. Whilst our hub is located at Bruncker Road, Broadmeadow there are Emergency Relief centres throughout the region in: East Maitland, Toronto, Cessnock, the Central Coast and in Taree.



This winter, more than ever, there are many local families in need. For more information about the 2015 Winter Appeal or to donate visit: www.samaritans.org.au or fill in the slip overleaf.

OFFERING REAL-LIFE WORKS SKILLS

Jonathan is never happier than when it's Monday. Through the Samaritans Supported Independence Program (SIP) Jonathan has been learning real-life work skills.

Jonathan can walk and weight bear, but due to cerebral palsy he finds his wheelchair offers greater mobility. With some modifications to his wheelchair Jonathan is able to both prepare and serve café style food. Jonathan makes a great coffee and every Monday he

can be found preparing coffee, barista style, and whipping up a storm.

SIP operates on the Central Coast and aims to support people living with a disability to build daily independent living skills. The program is flexible and tailored to each individual's needs. As Jonathan says: **"Samaritans has offered me so many wonderful opportunities."**

It's a pleasure to work with you Jonathan!



Johnathan has been supported by Samaritans to learn skills in a café setting.

To find out more about our disability services and how we can support participants in the NDIS visit www.samaritans.org.au/ndis



A WORD FROM CEC

In the last few months the nation has focused its attention briefly on the Federal Government's annual budget; but there are serious issues facing Australian society which demand more long term planning.

Key issues include:

Families and Children

Family life has changed significantly over the past 20 years and will continue to change. With most parents expected to be in the workplace, children spend considerable time each week attending child care and preschool. We have found that children benefit from

these group activities with other children and early learning centres provide excellent educational opportunities for 2-5 year olds. This early learning time is as important as primary school but planning and funding of this stage of education is woefully inadequate.

Children from vulnerable families particularly need access to these centres as well as support from their parents in the challenging role of bringing up children. Child welfare in NSW will continue to be in crisis until we recognise the need to invest in education and support to children, particularly those growing up in vulnerable families.

Housing

A second key issue is the lack of affordable housing. This needs to be urgently

addressed at both State and Federal levels of government. In former times, cheaper housing was available in major urban / city centres with more affluent people living in the suburbs. With the closure of regional manufacturing centres, most jobs nowadays are knowledge based and located in the CBDs of our major cities. This is where more successful people want to live, buying up and renovating the cheaper housing and leaving low income renters with nowhere to go.

We need to find a way to encourage investment in low cost housing and this can no longer be left to market forces. We urgently need new government policy and incentives in this area or we will never overcome the homelessness crisis in Australia.

CONSIDER LEAVING A LIVING LEGACY



Connections talks with Virginia Wheeler, Samaritans Donor Liaison Consultant, about leaving a Bequest to Samaritans:

What is a Bequest?

Quite simply, a bequest is a donation that you leave after your death. We see it as a living legacy that allows you to continue your support of your favourite charities after death.

Are there different types of Bequests?

Bequests are very personal. Some people choose to nominate a specific amount of

money or a specific bequest. Many people choose to leave 1%-2% of their Estate to beneficiaries with whom they have a connection, such as Samaritans.

How do I make a Bequest?

Making a bequest is easy. If you have not already made a Will, simply ensure details of your bequest are included in the documentation. If you have a current Will, a solicitor can add a simple Codicil that includes details of your bequest.

For more information about Bequests visit www.samaritans.org.au/bequests or call 1300 656 336.

SAMARITANS CELEBRATES NEW HOME FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY



Above, Deputy Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Cr Wendy Harrison, Samaritans Chairperson, Bishop Peter Stuart and resident, Ralph cut the ribbon to officially open this wonderful new residence.

Thursday, May 21, saw Samaritans and the local community gathering to celebrate the Opening and Blessing of 'Serenity House' – a Samaritans home for people living with a disability.

SAMARITANS – TAKING ACTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Violence against women is a serious problem in Australia with, on average, one woman killed every week over a 12 month period as a result of intimate partner violence. It's confronting to recognise that domestic and family violence is the main cause of homelessness for women and their children in Australia.

In recognition of these statistics, and in the hope of eliminating domestic violence, Samaritans is working to become accredited through the White Ribbon Australia Workplace Accreditation Program. This accreditation promotes quality and accountability and recognises the integrity of our whole organisation in relation to upholding equality standards.

November 25 is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, with a white ribbon as its iconic symbol.

2015/2016 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS AVAILABLE



The latest Entertainment Books are now available in book or digital membership for the Newcastle/Hunter/Central Coast. Full of great bargains, 20% of each sale goes directly to Samaritans fundraising. You will be supporting us whilst enjoying great bargains. Don't miss out!

To order go to www.samaritans.org.au or call 1300 656 336.

Want to keep up to date with Samaritans news and events?

Join our email list!
www.samaritans.org.au

www.facebook.com/SamaritansFoundation

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2015 WINTER APPEAL

Just \$25 can make a difference.

Please give what you can at www.samaritans.org.au/donate

phone 1300 656 336 or post to PO Box 366, HRMC NSW 2310

Samaritans needs your help... to help locals in need.

Mr Mrs Ms Other | Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

I would like to donate: \$25 \$50 \$70 Other: \$ _____

Enclosed is my: Cheque Money Order MasterCard Visa

Card No.

Credit Card deduction: Once Only Monthly Quarterly

Signature: _____ Expiry Date: _____ / _____

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. A receipt for your generous donation will be mailed to you. Cheques should be made payable to: **Samaritans Foundation**. Thank you. I have previously donated to Samaritans. Please contact me with information on how to make a Bequest.