

MISSION STATEMENT

Christian Community Aid strengthens the life of the people in the communities it serves through effective and relevant programs based on its Christian heritage of reaching out to all who are in need.

EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

INVITES YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS



- TO: Fashion Parade by Robyn Hunter of North Ryde
AT: Uniting Church Hall, 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood
ON: Tuesday 26 May, 2009
AT: 10.00am for Devonshire Tea - then the Parade - then shopping time
Donation: \$8.00 - includes Devonshire Tea

Proceeds to Eastwood Christian Community Aid Service

We look forward to you joining with us

- RSVP: no later than 21 May, 2009
PHONE: Thelma Pearson, 9874 2928



I enclose a donation of \$ _____ for Christian Community Aid.
Name: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr):
Address:

12 Lakeside Road EASTWOOD NSW 2122 Phone: 9858 3222
2 Dickson Avenue WEST RYDE NSW 2114 Phone: 9858 1377
Email: administration @ccas.org.au
Website: www.ccas.org.au

Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible. Official receipts will be posted.



April 2009

Virginia U.S.A.



“I and my sister send this money from our pocket money for your community. My grandparents like your work a lot”.

Sonali and Sachin

We were delighted to receive this letter from little Sonali aged seven and her twin brother Sachin posted all the way from Virginia, USA.

It is generosity like this that makes working within Christian Community Aid so fulfilling and to hear that our community care services are helping others.

Each donation from far and wide enables us at Christian Community Aid to continue to support people like Sonali and Sachin’s grandparents.

GOING PLACES - BUS TRIPS

The Monday “companionship, food and great fun” bus outings are more popular than ever. Destinations so far this year have included Brooklyn on the Hawkesbury River, Brighton-Le-Sands and Mona Vale.

As the booking lists for these Monday bus outings have been filling up quickly and often there is a waiting list for each trip, Christian Community Aid has decided to trial an extra bus. Over a three month period we will be testing demand for this initiative. The trial period will begin in May.

The extra outings will take place once a month on a Thursday and will be to the same destination as the Monday outing of that same week.



Clients will only be able to book for one of these outings in the same week. If a booking is made for the Monday outing then clients cannot book to attend the repeat outing on the Thursday of that week. If these repeat outings prove popular then they will become part of our permanent program.

To confirm your booking please phone our Eastwood Office on 9858 3222 during business hours.

FINANCIAL COUNSELLING - Appointments Available Day or Evening

The Christian Community Aid Financial Counselling Service is located at 2 Dickson Avenue, West Ryde.

Financial counselling is a free, confidential service available to anyone experiencing some type of financial problem. Financial counsellors are able to fully assess the financial situation of the client and provide information and options to address the problem. Each client is assessed to suit their individual needs and a budget can be prepared. Financial counsellors can negotiate, advocate and mediate on behalf of their client, with creditors or other agencies. Ongoing appointments and support are available.

There are fourteen Financial counsellors working in the program. Clients wishing to make an appointment can usually be seen within two weeks of booking. Last year the program saw four hundred new clients as well as working with ongoing clients.

Client Story: Kate (not her real name) is a retired lady living with her husband in the local area. They receive the aged pension. Kate had a family member who asked for financial help and promised to pay her back. Kate obtained several credit cards to use for this purpose but the family member did not honour her promise and Kate was struggling to pay the required minimum monthly amounts on the credit cards. When Kate came to see us the financial counsellor worked out a budget which determined what she could afford to pay creditors. The financial counsellor then contacted each creditor explaining the financial circumstances of the client and the limited payment the client would be able to make on a regular basis. Each creditor realised the dilemma Kate was facing and agreed to waive certain fees and charges so that the debt could be repaid in an affordable way.

SHORT BUS OUTINGS

ARE... you looking for something interesting to do on Thursdays?
DO... you enjoy outings, except a whole day is too long?

Christian Community Aid has organised an exciting new schedule of "short bus outings" where you can combine a little travel with lunch, laughter and entertainment. For more information phone 9858 3222. People of all ages are welcome!



23 April... lunch at Carlingford Bowling Club with a visit to Swanes Nursery
14 May... take in a performance of "Rat Pack Rendezvous" at Northmead



Profile of a Volunteer VIVIEN HARRIS

Born in 1976, Vivien attended the Hong Kong Deaf High School as she is profoundly deaf. In 1999 while visiting many of her relatives who live in Sydney, even though Vivien had learnt the Hong Kong sign language, she took the opportunity to learn the AUSLAN (Australian Sign Language).

During that same year, whilst attending the Deaf Mass Service which was held in a church in Flemington, Vivien met Steven Harris who is also profoundly deaf. In 2005 Vivien and Steven married in St Michael Church, Meadowbank and now call Dundas Valley home. Steven works as an Architectural Draftsman while studying for his second Diploma in Architectural Technology.

Vivien and Steven take great pleasure in travelling and have had many unforgettable road trips in their Commodore. They have travelled as far north as Bundaberg in Queensland and have made plans to repeat their journey next time travelling as far as Cairns. Their travel plans also include visits to Longreach and Broken Hill, and if their Commodore lasts, they one day hope to explore Melbourne then continue on to Tasmania.

Vivien is very keen on computers and has completed her certificate of Business Administration along with an Information Technology and Film Production course. *"I enjoy working on the computer and am becoming more skilled in graphic design using Adobe Photoshop, Microsoft Publisher and Power Point. I also enjoy working in Word, Access, Excel and MYOB".*

Vivien joined Christian Community Aid as a volunteer in May last year, to gain more experience and confidence in an office environment. Vivien's main task is to manage the food that is donated, stocking the cupboard, checking the dates and packing in date order and categories for easy access when other volunteers put together food parcels. She also helps in the office with word processing, photo copying, compiling volunteer packs along with general office duties. Vivien's hope is to one day get a paid job in office work.

"Vivien is a great asset in the office, she comes once a week and is reliable and diligent in her work, always finishing off a task regardless of the time. We have learnt to communicate quite well with "our kind of signing" as well as keeping a log and writing notes to each other. She is cheerful and has a good sense of humour. It is a great pleasure having her here and wish her well for the future...."