

Volunteer NEWSLETTER

March, 2023 / No. 8

Volunteering with Pride

At Parramatta Mission, we are constantly giving to a community transforming lives, as we are ourselves transformed along this on journey of becoming. Looking back these past few weeks, it is amazing how much we have achieved. Let's be **proud** of our team and of ourselves! Together we are a force for good and for life. I understand many of you are too humble to accept that praise, but it is true.

Just look at our last community hub day in February. We had so many services here during a visit by students from Pennant Hills High School and also by Andrew Charlton MP. Meals, support and learning, all in one place - like the community centre that Parramatta deserves. Andrew later said, "this dedication to the local community is what makes Parramatta Mission the beating heart of the city." I am sure so many in our community thought the same.

What an honour it is to be working with you all!



Major March Event: Rich Person/Poor Person Dinner

We have a major ticketed event coming on Thursday, 30th March, and we need your help to pull it off!

For the event, we will have guests seated randomly at tables where some of them will be served well-prepared dinners while others will simply have dinners the same as people doing it rough, like our usual guests. We hope the event will be a platform for sincere conversations from where deeper empathetic connections can be formed.

We will need a team of 15-20 volunteers for the evening from 5pm to 9pm to assist with setting up, food preparation and serving. If you can help, please let me know by phone or by email
chao.zhou@parramattamission.org.au.

New way to get hampers

In the past 6 months, the number of hampers we gave out practically doubled. To make sure that people are actually getting what they need specifically, we are bringing back the appointment and referral based hamper service model.

So if someone is in need of a support hamper pack, kindly direct them to make an appointment by calling (02) 9891 2277 or direct them to Paul.

JOIN US FOR A

RICH PERSON POOR PERSON

FUNDRAISING DINNER

Thursday, March 30, 2023
6.00 PM - 8.30 PM

PM DINING HALL, PARRAMATTA MISSION, 119 MACQUAIRE ST.



 Parramatta Mission  uniting church in Australia  Meals Plus



History Has Its Eyes On Us

February Assembly

On 28th February, 938 community leaders came together in a public assembly to meet with NSW Treasurer, Matt Kean and Shadow Treasurer, Daniel Mookhey. Also in attendance included: Jenny Leong, MP (Greens), Lord Mayor Cr Donna Davis, and Dr Hugh McDermott, MP.

In that assembly, we shared our stories and negotiated with our politicians in a frank conversation for commitments to change, with focus on costs of living, rental support and climate actions, to support our shared vision of a better city for all of us.

At the time of writing, the wins from the assembly are already flowing through, particularly with the bipartisan commitment to end “no-ground” eviction in NSW – a policy change sought after for decades. We hope more good things will flow from this meeting.



"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

— Margaret J. Wheatley

International Women's Day High Tea

International Women's Day is celebrated annually on 8 March as a global day focusing on the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women.

On Saturday, 4 March, Parramatta Mission hosted a celebration of International Women's Day right here at the Fellowship Centre. Close to 40 guests attended the event, and the feedback were incredibly positive.

Let us all give a huge thank you to **Sue Rogoimuri** for organising such an amazing and meaningful event!

Also a big shoutout to **Prem**, who gave her whole Saturday to support the event.



Update on Activities for Volunteers!

And Sue does even more! Her Saturday group is so much fun! Every Saturday from 10am to noon, you can join her and other Friends of the Community to connect and create something beautiful!

We have very limited uptakes on Tuesday journaling session and the Friday game session, so I might put them on hold for now and have some consultation with you all about what really works for you in terms of time, dates and activities. In the meantime, I will give the games to Sue for breaks between breakfast and lunch.

From the week starting 13th March, we will introduce new afternoon programs from 2 to 4pm, starting with Tuesday arts activities.



*From the
Fundraising
Team...*

The fundraising team would like to acknowledge the great work of our volunteers and the valuable contribution that you make to the operations of our services. We regularly send out newsletters with updates from Parramatta Mission and also our appeals at certain times of the year.

If you would prefer to be taken off the mailing list for these things please email fundraising@parramattamission.org.au and let us know.

PM in Eastwood

You might know our friends from Tzu Chi Eastwood who always came through on Wednesday with their delivery of vegetarian meals. They had a New Year celebration event earlier in February, where Paul even gave a speech!



National Volunteering Conference 2023 - Future is now

During the 2023 National Volunteering Conference at Canberra, a new national strategy for was launched to support a national volunteering framework going forward. This is all a bit mouthful, and what it means is that we can expect more public recognition and resources to go towards improving the volunteering experience in the future.





The Quiet Spot.

A man bought a new house that came with a 100-year-old lychee tree in the backyard. On his friend's suggestion, he consulted with a famous fengshui master from a big city to see if the location was auspicious.

The two met for lunch, then they headed for the new house in the man's car. Along the way, whenever another car tried to overtake him, he would let them.

The master observed, "you are a patient driver indeed." To which the man replied, "they may be in a hurry with something urgent, and I don't want to cause them delay."

Approaching narrow street, the man slowed down. A child suddenly ran out of an alleyway in front. The man hit the break as the laughing child ran pass. Then the man waited. Moments later, another child came out of the same alleyway, chasing the first child. Only then did the man start moving again.

Where you are,
there is...

The master observed, "how did you know there was another child behind?" To which the man replied, "children chase each other often – he looked too happy to be just playing by himself."

Arriving at the man's house, they saw some birds taking off from behind the house. The man paused in his steps and said apologetically, "sorry, master, it's best that we wait a while."

The master asked why, surprised. To which the man replied, "some children may be in the backyard climbing my lychee tree to steal some fruits. If we go in now, one of them may be startled and fall – we can wait a little to avoid that."

Pausing for a moment in deep thoughts, the master said, "let us return - I have seen all I needed to see." Now the man was surprised and asked why. The master said, with a knowing smile:

"wherever **you** are, there will be good fortune."



Thank you

From everyone on the Parramatta Mission team, we hope you stay healthy and happy always! Please accept our sincerest thanks from us to you, for all that you have done and are doing, forever grateful.