



Hope!

Message from our Executive General Manager

It gives me great pleasure to offer a few opening remarks for this edition of the Parramatta Mission Newsletter. You will find an inspiring summary of current and recent events that have been undertaken by this organisation, these are all part of our continuing mission to push back against the tide of misfortune and disadvantage and in so doing, contribute to a fairer and more just society, providing a welcome and helping hand to those who are vulnerable in our community.

Look again at the banner at the top of this front page. The word "Hope" features in bold bright letters, that's it, that's what we are about. Praise God that we can find hope even in the most challenging circumstances. From our own hope we find the strength each day to work for the good of others!

With the Easter time reminder that there is life beyond our current situation, indeed life beyond the present earthly reality! Thank God for Easter, for Jesus and the hope of the eternal resurrection!

In this edition there is a significant focus on the "Rich Person Poor Person" dinner event. This is appropriate since it was such a successful event that really captured the essence of what Parramatta Mission seeks to do, I hope you find those reports and photos inspiring.

Your partnering with us in these services is vital, we appreciate the voluntary support of many people, financial donations and prayer. We are all in this together!

God bless!
Mark Newton

RPPP Dinner

The Rich Person Poor Person event was held on March 30th.

The event was an invitation to our community of corporates and supporters to experience a dinner with a difference. Each guest was allocated – by chance draw, to experience their evening from the perspective of either a "rich" person, or a "poor" person.

Our aim was to raise the funds necessary to launch the extension of our "Plus" services in Meals Plus. Money raised will go towards breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty for members of our community by assisting them through a specialised program that includes living skills, education and employment training.



Parramatta
Mission



uniting
church
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT



JAN, FEB, MAR '23

Your Impact

"Helping others is the secret sauce to a happy life"



Meals Served

15,534 hot meals were served during our breakfast and lunch services at Meals Plus.



Volunteer Hours

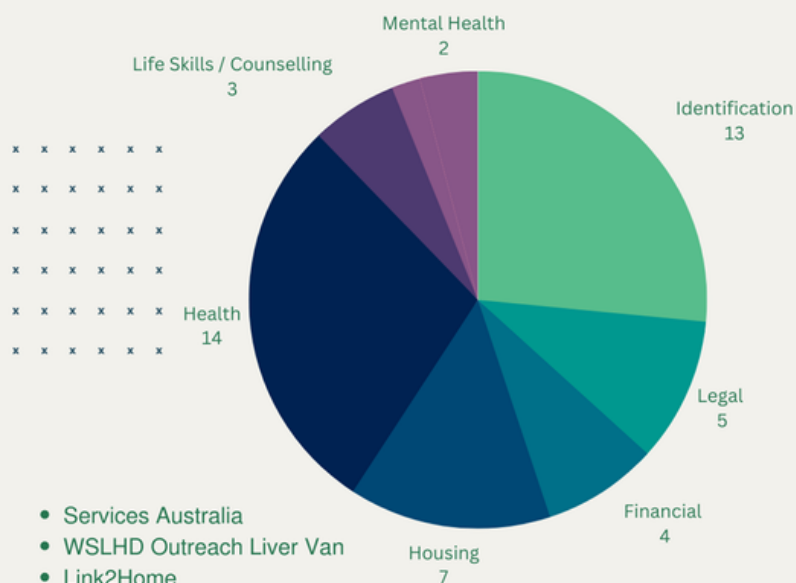
2,693

spent by our kind-hearted community.

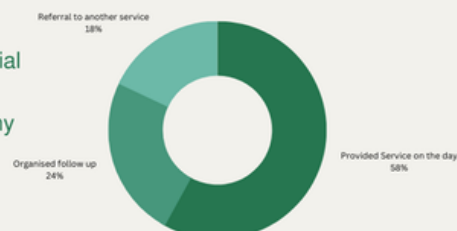


34 Males and 15 Females seeking assistance

Community Hub Day March '23



- Services Australia
- WSLHD Outreach Liver Van
- Link2Home
- Service NSW
- Uniting
- Parramatta Mission
- Commonwealth Psychosocial Support
- MoneyCare - Salvation Army
- Legal Aid
- DCJ Housing
- GambleAware
- Wesley Mission



*Dee has been a long-term resident of Parramatta and an on/off member of Our Meals plus community. A life full of challenges, she says, "some I did to myself and some I allowed to happen because I gave up any hope of a better life."

For years, she had believed she did not deserve a better life. She says, "I felt worthless, the judgement of others did not help my low self-esteem, I don't deserve to live". She was constantly referred to a junkie and excluded from the community, constantly in trouble with the Police and the community resulting in numerous periods of incarceration. Dee was not homeless; she somehow maintained her housing property. "Don't know how I did that - I was still using" she says.

After the death of her partner, she endured loneliness a truly silent killer that impacts physical and mental health. Later on, Dee would refer to that time as "really dark". Having missed a few years; but due to placement by the court into the drug court program that required her to do volunteer work in the community to avoid incarceration, Dee was placed in Meals Plus.

Though there were many "triggers here" she says and was reluctant to come - "How could I have faith(trust) in this place I know everybody here." Meals Plus as an inclusive community graciously welcomed her without judgement. She had been "6 months clean -mostly". We could all see glimpses of her determination to succeed.

After a settling in period Dee was assigned tasks. For three days a week - Dee is "the coffee lady". It has been over two years now; Dee has been a valued member of our meals plus volunteering team. Her goals to be drug free and a valuable member of the community have been achieved. But as Dee says, "temptation to use is always there but now I kick it- it don't kick me - I won't let it."

Dee now has been given the dignity she deserves. She now can draw from the community those services that she was excluded from for so long and give back to the community through her volunteering (which has continued long after the court requirement).

Dee says, "I have been given back the hope that I lost - today is better than yesterday and my sun will shine tomorrow." Dee was given a true sense of belonging by Meals plus which will last forever.



175 Hotel Westmead

Mark (EGM) says, "In addition to our Meals Plus services, our hospitality services operate the 175 Hotel and Wesley Apartments. These are not just ordinary accommodation services, our motto: "hospitality with heart" is a daily reality and under the leadership of our GM Hospitality, Cameron Westman, we deliver on that promise every day.

The majority of our guests at these facilities are current patients, or relatives of people undergoing major treatment at Westmead Hospital or Westmead Children's Hospital.

We hear so many testimonies and letters of appreciation, so we know that the services we provide really do make a difference at a critical time in people's lives."

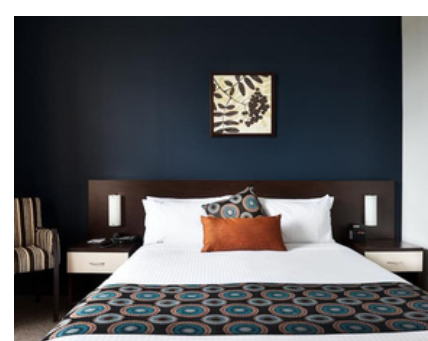
A New Name for our hotel...

You may soon notice that we have recently rebranded the hotel in Westmead, removing the one hotels and apartments name.

The look and feel will remain the same and the hospitality holds it's heartfelt delivery, there will be a slight change to the logo.

We are proud of the hotel and it's staff and the place it holds in Westmead, all of this will continue - "business as usual"

175
HOTEL
WESTMEAD



RICH PERSON POOR PERSON

FUNDRAISING DINNER

#RPPP Dinner

Some may call it an event, some may call it an experience, we'd like to call it awareness.

The Rich Person Poor Person Dinner as we'd like to believe was a SUCCESS last night!
Success = Awareness raised.

A full house of generous community members filled the dining hall of Parramatta Mission to be a part of a dinner that they would have not witnessed before. A dinner that raised the much-needed awareness of the challenges our community faces and come out of it feeling grateful and motivated to do more but most importantly, a realisation that we have more than we think.

They say the easiest part is saying THANK YOU, but we find that difficult at times as the generosity of our community members take us so far, words are never enough.

Nonetheless, the night would have not been possible without the core blood of our organisation our amazing volunteers, our Gold Sponsor and supporter for years Wenty Leagues, our Bronze Sponsors CHRG & Ray White Commercial Western Sydney who have always come to the party when needed, the Parramatta Chamber of Commerce who never fail to go one-step further, Luke Hannan who kept the night alive, Dieter Weinand inspiring and challenging the room with thought, Joe & Regina from Riverside Cafe ensuring the Rich people are fed with a fine 3-course meal, the live Jazz band from our Congregations and more.

More because the list is never ending and so is our gratefulness and appreciation towards the Community. The Community that helps keep the heart of Parramatta beating ♥

Fine words shared by Paul Moussa - *"It's really the rich that are poor and the poor that are rich" which one are you?*



Awareness raised





#RPPP Dinner

With your help we can continue to Transform Lives, to provide Hope to those who come to us for help and to give opportunity for everyone in our community to be their best.

The night was extraordinary, our generous attendees contributing in raising \$49,821!

But, we need your help to raise the additional \$20,179 that will allow us to begin transforming the lives of more people in our community.

Our program will provide education, skills and intensive wrap-around services for those who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. We know that providing a roof over someone's head is often not enough, as they may be unable to maintain this without the skills and support structures required. The aim of the program is to support individuals on their journey to a safe, secure and positive future.

The rising cost of living and housing stress is putting pressure on more and more people. Your donation will ensure that we can assist those individuals to obtain employment, learn skills and participate actively in their community.

SCAN ME



Please donate generously, knowing you will be making a real difference in the lives of others. Thank you for your support and for being a part of a Community Transforming Lives, we look forward to implementing the program and sharing the stories of its success with you.

Looking for ways to support?



Corporate Volunteer Day

The best kind of team building experience with a touch of giving back to the community, to know more reach out to Mikhail at mikhail.chowdhary@parramattamission.org.au

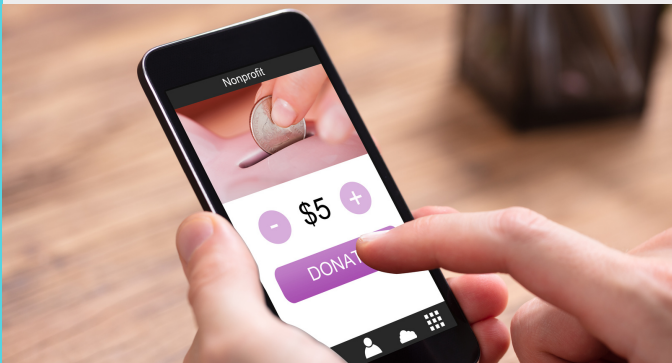
In-Kind Donations

If you've got clothes in good condition, want to put together a donation drive of pastas, toothbrushes, etc. or even have leftovers after an event, do reach out and see how best we can support the community at fundraising@parramattamission.org.au



Mission Mate

An amount of just \$50 a month will help feed one individual for a whole week, that's 10 meals for both breakfast and dinner. Help be the change we need today to see a better tomorrow, to become a regular giver follow this link parramattamission.org.au/donate/



Become a Volunteer

Our volunteers are the beating heart of our organisation. Not only do they sacrifice their time in giving back to the community, they do it with a smile! To know more, contact Chao at chao.zhou@parramattamission.org.au



School Programs

Our children are a reflection of the time we invest in them. They are our future and educating our youth is the best way we will ensure a sounding future for the next generation. To know more, contact Chao at chao.zhou@parramattamission.org.au



"The smallest act of Kindness, is worth more than the grandest intention" - Oscar Wilde