

SAMMY STAMP VOLUNTEERS HARD AT WORK

Do you like having a chat?
Do you enjoy meeting people?
Would you like to contribute to funding projects in Vic/Tas, Australia and beyond?
Do you have some available time on Thursdays?

If you answered yes to any, some or even all of those questions then volunteering with Sammy Stamp may be just the thing for you.

Sammy Stamp is the logo for the UCAF Special Needs Fund – Stamps, which provides grants for small projects not covered by other sources. Funds are raised by sale of used stamps, phone cards and Met tickets collected from churches, business houses and other organisations.

People are needed to assist with collecting, sorting, trimming, packaging or selling the stamps at the Uniting Church Centre, 130 Little Collins Street, each Thursday between 9.00am and 2.00pm.

Even if you have no knowledge in stamps you can quickly and easily learn to be a useful team member.

The fellowship and friendship is great.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting opportunity then contact Allan Clark on (03) 9557 1008.



Above: Sammy Stamp volunteers hard at work

YAYASAN DIDACHE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL OF LISADILA

David Price from Mornington Uniting Church recently visited this school in East Timor. The Project of building the new school is under the Didache Foundation of Protestant Church of East Timor and David reported that there are currently 37 students aged from 17-25 years old, including 9 women, the Principal Snr Matteus Salvador and three teachers, Jonni Marsmus, Snra Esther and Snra Saturnina Soares (Nina).

The school cost US\$150,000 to build because the construction teacher helped the students make their own bricks. With the opening of a new classroom the schools capacity will now be up to 120 by September 2008.

Thank you for the generosity of our SHARE donors who have given over \$30,000 since January 2008 to the Yayasan Didache Vocational School of Lisadila.



Above: David Price outside the school



Right: The new classroom

SHARE SNAPSHOTS

Spring 2008



Above: Clean-up efforts after earthquake in China

HEART WARMING RESPONSE TO PLIGHT OF BURMESE AND CHINESE PEOPLE

The generous response of Australian people to the SHARE Burma and China appeals has been heart warming. Since the appeals were launched in May over \$160,000 has been donated with Burma receiving \$106,882 and China \$54,680.

All donations are being sent through the ecumenical aid agency National Council of Churches; Christian World Service (CWS), which in turn is part of a large international effort of Action by Churches Together (ACT). All of the aid is distributed by reputable churches or church agencies, so that it gets to the people who need it most. ACT has an international appeal for \$5 million to respond, as churches, to the immense human need.

The overwhelming response to the cyclone in Burma has helped CWS provide emergency assistance to over 200,000 people. **Executive Director of Christian World Service, Alistair Gee says "Your contribution has allowed us to make a real difference in Myanmar. We sincerely thank you for acting swiftly and humanely".**

Donations have allowed their local partners on the ground in Myanmar to provide emergency drinking water, water purification tablets, temporary shelter, waterproof sheets, clothing, medicines, mosquito nets and food supplies. Through their dedicated partners that have mobilised an extensive aid effort, they have been able to direct donations to the areas most affected by this tragic natural disaster.

CWS is responding to the China Earthquake through ACT International's Chinese member, Amity Foundation to ensure that sufficient supplies of food, clean water, quilts, clothes, medicines and tents are provided immediately and effectively in the wake of this disaster. After this life-saving work has been provided, reconstruction will commence including the rehabilitation of housing and water.

The need is so great that help will be needed over many months. Tax deductible donations can be made through SHARE.

Free call 1800 060 543 or visit www.shareappeal.org.au



Above: Temporary housing is erected in Burma



Above: Devastation caused by Cyclone Nargis in Burma



Above: Earthquake victims receive aid



FROM THE DIRECTOR

The images of the devastation in China and Burma sent through from our partners, the National Council of Churches in Australia, remind us of the chaos in some families lives as they struggle to survive. Thank you to each and every donor who assisted us to raise and deliver now over \$160,000 towards these disasters.

Immediately on top of these disaster appeals for immediate international support, we had our SHARE Winter Appeal supporting those in need in our own neighbourhoods. When we asked Rene Ploegmakers, the Financial Counselling & Emergency Relief Manager from Broadmeadows UnitingCare, to write the appeal letter telling his experiences of the financial stress local families are suffering, how he copes with the workload everyday but not being able to help many, he was honest in how he saw the current economic climate and its effects on the poor. We have had a great response from our generous donors and a great response from Rene himself, "it has been a wonderful experience for me - a deep confirmation of what I believe in! And great to get that feedback from a range of people about the words spoken". Our sincere thanks to our many donors and to our 7330 volunteers and 4100 staff (like Rene) who deliver various early childhood, aged and community services to over 350,000 people annually in Victoria and Tasmania.

Some of the \$1 million plus dollars we raise each year is distributed in SHARE Grants to agencies throughout Victoria and Tasmania and these are highlighted on Page 5. Thanks to our volunteers on the various committees who assisted us in the allocation process. At SHARE we are inspired by the wonderful work being done by so many in hundreds of communities.

Thanks again,

David Hickey,
Director of Appeals

BEYOND THE SMOKE UPDATE



Many of our donors will remember reading about the book *Beyond the Smoke* in the Autumn 2007 edition of SHARE Snapshots. SHARE helped fund this book which commemorated the Deep Lead and Mt Lubra fires with amazing images and stories of fire, destruction and recovery.

Beyond the Smoke was launched in March 2007 and has been very well received, with its moving stories and graphic yet hopeful images. 5,000 copies were printed and to date 3,500 have been sold. The book provides tourists with the opportunity to get a glimpse of what it is like to experience a huge bushfire. Profits from the book are being shared between local recovery projects (30%), and SHARE (70%) for drought and emergency relief in other communities.

When reflecting upon the bushfires and publication of *Beyond the Smoke* Margo Sietsma, editor and committee convenor said, "The last two years have been a bit of a roller coaster. The first year saw lots of action with working bees, government initiatives, most welcome help in many ways. Then things settled down to plain hard tiring work. Now, finally, many of us are starting to look forward again with new energy and hope. Having the support from SHARE which enabled us to produce a quality book to commemorate this huge event in our lives and bring some light and colour into people's lives was so encouraging".

Copies of *Beyond the Smoke* can be purchased from the UniChurch Bookshop for \$32.95. For details call (03) 9251 5291.

SHARE COMMUNITY APPEAL

130 Lt Collins Street, Melbourne 3000

p: 03 9251 5251 f: (03) 9251 5491

FreeCall 1800 060 543

e: info@shareappeal.org.au

w: www.shareappeal.org.au

P.S. Recycle this newsletter by passing it on to family and friends !

Deductible Gift Recipient

The SHARE Community Appeal is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under Subdivision 30-15 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. All donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Endorsement as an income tax exempt charitable entity

The SHARE Community Appeal is endorsed as an income tax exempt charitable entity under Subdivision 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

THE CALL TO LIFELINE I WILL NEVER FORGET

A TRUE STORY, AS TOLD TO A LIFELINE BALLARAT STAFF MEMBER



"I was at the end of my tether when I rang Lifeline that night. It was about 11:30pm and my son, who had been a great concern for me for many years, had finally convinced me of his intention to take his own life. I had nowhere else to turn. Lifeline was my last resort.

The counsellor was wonderful. I will never forget the sound of his voice. He was calm and reassuring. He listened while I told him my whole story. I remember him saying that whatever happened, it would not be my fault and that I shouldn't blame myself. I have always remembered that part. What a weight lifted at that moment. I hadn't realised how much I was feeling responsible for my son's actions and for the way he was. He gave me some ways of seeing through the issues and some ideas about how to talk to my son.

He also warned me that people who talk about ending their lives often do just that. In that sense the counsellor was straight up front with me. My son's death at his own hand was something I needed to be prepared for. I have often thought about that call to Lifeline and of how much it helped at that time and in the years since. I also regret that I didn't ring back to say "thank you" in the weeks following, so that the counsellor would know how much he had helped me.

It's strange the way life works out sometimes. By some quirk of fate, a friend of mine encouraged me to go to a Lifeline Information Night and to consider becoming a Lifeline Telephone Counsellor myself. So here I find myself, a Lifeline TC, hopefully helping others in the way I was helped on that night, many years ago.

My son is still with us. He has a serious illness now, so the talks around life and death are again in the forefront. It reminds me so much of that time many years ago when I made that call to Lifeline.

I feel the privilege of now being a part of an organisation that helps so many people in their hour of need. I wonder how many other people have a story like mine, of that one call to Lifeline that they will never forget."

Call Lifeline Ballarat on 13 11 14

Your donations to the SHARE Community Appeal help fund Lifeline Ballarat. They recently received a SHARE grant of \$12,000 towards their vital work, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Above: Carrum rowers practicing their paces

CONGRATULATIONS CARRUM CONNECT ROWERS!

'Carrum Connect Rowers' took home three medals at the Australian Indoor Rowing Championships in Caulfield in October 2006. The team won both the female and male events in the 2000m and four minute trial races. This feat is made even more impressive by the fact that all six rowers in the team have an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI).

Through the support of Wesley Mission Melbourne and a SHARE grant, the members of 'Carrum Connect Rowers' have been integrated into the Carrum Rowing Club, based at the National Water Sports Centre. Through this partnership they have built friendships with other club members who share similar interests, and as a result of practice and regular race meets this group of individuals has successfully won medals at state and national championships.

'Carrum Connect Rowers' aims to assist people who are isolated in the community to pursue an activity of their interest, provide opportunities for people with disabilities to be linked into local sporting clubs and assist them to socialise with others with similar interests and recreational pursuits. It also provides the opportunity for people with disabilities to compete in mainstream and adaptive rowing events and enables them to learn how to function as a team and develop the confidence and skills to pursue other opportunities in their community.



Above: Proudly showing off their medals



Above: Ben and Belle enjoy a quiet moment



Above: Building a relationship

HORSES FOR HOPE

UnitingCare Cutting Edge has developed an innovative program which enables people with serious issues of fear or mistrust to build a relationship of trust with an abused horse.

With the help of SHARE and UnitingCare Pancake Day funding UnitingCare Cutting Edge has developed the *Horses for Hope* program. Located at a property close to Shepparton this unique program has brought about profound changes in many people with troubles and challenges of their own.

Working with a scary animal to overcome its fear encourages *Horses for Hope* participants to reflect on their own issues relating to fear or mistrust and to find ways to overcome them.

'Ben', a troubled 13 year old boy who had suffered from feelings of fear at the hands of his father had a transformational experience when he participated in *Horses for Hope*. He attended a one off group program in which he experienced powerful moments of connection and reflection as he worked with the program leaders to assist a horse go through a process from initially fearing him, to trusting and connecting with him.

UnitingCare's client services manager Colin Emonson said 'The Horses for Hope' program resulted in an emotional and ground breaking session with Ben's family and enabled them to see other issues differently and confront them in a unique and powerful way. It made a difference for this boy and his family".

Programs are provided for a range of groups and individuals from 9 years old through to adults, including an anger management program for grade five primary school students, a full day program for young people who care for mentally ill parents, a half day session for young people who have dropped out of mainstream schooling and ongoing individual sessions for a 13 year old diagnosed with social phobia who has missed two years of school.

***Horses for Hope* is a unique program that UnitingCare Cutting Edge is committed to continuing to develop. Phone SHARE for more information on 1800 060 543.**

MEN'S MEANDERINGS

Those living with a mental illness can feel isolated from the rest of the community. With this in mind, SHARE has funded a program at St Kilda Parish Mission that is providing a friendly and supportive environment for local men living with a mental illness.

The *Men's Meanderings* project aims to build connections between groups of men with mental illness who are feeling very isolated. The project involves a series of activities, culminating in a 3 night holiday to a destination of the group's choice within Victoria.

'Bill' is in his 40's and has a mental illness and has been attending *Men's Meanderings* for the past two years. From the outset Bill was excited to be part of this project. He not only participated with enthusiasm in the activities involved but he showed leadership and initiative in planning the events and establishing expectations and rules for activities and the group.

For Bill, the highlight of the group's holiday to Queenscliff was the sharing of life stories by the men in a safe and comfortable environment. They learnt a great deal more about each other and the highs and lows of their life journeys. Bill showed a gift for validating, supporting and encouraging others in this process. He also showed a terrific capacity for working and upon returning from Queenscliff has secured part time work as a dishwasher.

A holiday is something not even contemplated by people like Bill therefore the opportunity to share a break from the routine of a life full of difficulties had an enormous impact. Like others involved, he continues to talk glowingly of the *Men's Meanderings* project and its benefits.

St Kilda Mission Drop-In Centre recently received a SHARE grant of \$15,000 to continue their efforts for the people of St Kilda.

SHARE COMMUNITY APPEAL GRANTS 2007/08

Emergency Relief \$186,530

1. UnitingCare Geelong	\$15,880
2. UnitingCare Wodonga	\$15,000
3. Upper Hume Community Health Service	\$9,000
4. UnitingCare Ballarat Parish Mission	\$25,000
5. Bendigo UnitingCare Outreach	\$26,000
6. Wesley Mission Melbourne – Footscray Outreach	\$5,000
7. UnitingCare Sunshine Mission	\$13,000
8. Broadmeadows UnitingCare	\$12,000
9. Healesville Interchurch Community Care	\$6,650
10. Eastern Emergency Relief Network	\$20,000
11. LinC Yarra Valley	\$7,000
12. UnitingCare Church of All Nations	\$15,000
13. Christian Emergency Food Centre	\$7,000

Meals Programs \$76,500

1. UnitingCare Ballarat Parish Mission	\$18,000
2. St Andrew's Uniting Church – Mildura	\$2,000
3. Echuca Moama Uniting Church	\$2,500
4. Prahran Mission	\$15,000
5. St Kilda Parish Mission	\$15,000
6. Warrnambool Uniting Church	\$5,000
7. Connections	\$12,000
8. UnitingCare Community Options	\$7,000

Child and Family \$65,000

1. UnitingCare Geelong	\$15,000
2. Wimmera UnitingCare	\$15,000
3. Remote Family Services UnitingCare	\$10,000
4. Footscray Uniting Church Central Parish	\$25,000

Community Support \$172,300

1. UnitingCare Wesley Centre for Life Enrichment	\$15,000
2. Lifeline Ballarat	\$12,000
3. Wimmera UnitingCare	\$5,000
4. Bendigo Family & Financial Services Inc	\$8,500
5. Broadmeadows UnitingCare	\$10,000
6. UnitingCare Sunshine Mission	\$10,000
7. UnitingCare East Burwood Centre	\$14,000
8. Hotham Mission	\$15,000
9. Lort Smith Animal Hospital	\$10,000
10. Warrnambool Uniting Church	\$8,800
11. The Asylum Seekers Centre	\$10,000
12. Creative Ministries Arts Fund	\$9,000
13. Kilmany UnitingCare – Orbest Counselling	\$5,000
14. Kildonan UnitingCare	\$20,000
15. UnitingCare Community Options	\$10,000
16. UnitingCare Bridgewater & Gagebrook	\$10,000

Disability Services \$45,400

1. UnitingCare Community Options	\$4,800
2. Wesley Mission Melbourne	\$7,250
3. Wimmera UnitingCare	\$28,350
4. Taroon Housing Group – Down Syndrome Association of Tasmania	\$5,000

Youth Services \$43,845

1. UnitingCare Cutting Edge	\$30,000
2. Centre Against Sexual Assault	\$3,845
3. Open House Christian Involvement Centre	\$10,000

Drought Relief \$5,000

1. Wimmera UnitingCare	\$5,000
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TOTAL GRANTS \$594,575

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT THESE WONDERFUL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS.

CITY EXPERIENCE FOR RURAL STUDENTS

“On behalf of the Year 11 students and their families at Hopetoun Secondary College, I would sincerely like to thank you and all the generous donors to the SHARE Community Appeal Drought Fund for the generous donation towards the cost of their transition trip to Melbourne in June. Without this generous support many of the students would not have been able to participate, as the majority of families attending this school are from farming backgrounds and have been experiencing poor seasons for a number of years”.

Margaret Burdett, Year 11 Coordinator, who was delighted SHARE's Drought Relief Fund was able to support the trip.



Hopetoun students at Ormond College in Melbourne

For students from small rural communities, contemplating moving to study or work in the city can be a daunting thought.

But for year 11 students from Hopetoun Secondary College – many of whom had never visited Melbourne before - this transition was made a little less scary when they spent a week in the city in June.

The trip was an opportunity for the students – most of whom live on drought affected farms - to become oriented with the city, familiarise themselves with public transport and visit educational institutions.

Trip highlights included learning how to navigate the public transport system, visiting tafe and universities, Circus Oz, Melbourne Aquarium and a tour of Telstra Dome. It was a fun, educational and informative time for all and the new skills and experiences acquired on the trip will help the students in the future.

BEECHWORTH – A CARING COMMUNITY

Mary, a 78 year old widow and long term resident of Beechworth, was a recipient of the Beechworth Welfare Committee's Emergency Relief Project which received SHARE funding. Mary's daughter who lived in Melbourne had mental health issues and was regularly hospitalised with acute psychotic episodes. Mary was unable to visit her daughter due to financial hardship. Mary's 50 year old son who suffered from depression and alcohol dependency lived with her and became physically and verbally abusive at times. Mary regularly had to give her son her pension money.

The project aims to assist individuals and families that experience hardship and are seeking financial and material relief. After being diagnosed with depression and arthritis Mary was encouraged to attend an older adult's exercise program and spoke with the Community Health worker about her situation. Mary eventually accepted support via food vouchers and clothing from the opportunity shop. She was also referred to the Family Violence worker and the Alcohol & Other Drug support program, and learnt how to understand her son's issues and manage her own safety through this support. The BCSC was able to provide a rail voucher to enable her to visit her daughter and she has since been able to arrange shared travel with a new friend.

Mary has expressed her gratitude for the support she has received saying "Knowing that this is my community that cares enough about me to offer these services, makes me feel not so alone for the first time in many years. I believed life was not worth living and now I have friends and feel useful. I also have a 'safe' house I can stay in when things get tough".

The Beechworth Welfare Committee recently received a SHARE grant of \$9,000 to continue their efforts for the residents of Beechworth and Upper Hume region.



YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE WIMMERA 'RISK IT'

For young people who leave school at a young age without any employment prospects, the future can seem bleak. When that young person lives in a drought-stricken community, the opportunities to find employment are even slimmer.

The *Risk It* Youth Literacy Program, funded by SHARE, is run weekly at the Horsham TAFE College. The program reaches out to young people in the Wimmera Region who are not attending school, have literacy problems and are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

When *Risk It* is completed, participating students have the opportunity to complete their Certificate II and continue their education at the Horsham TAFE.

The initiative of Wimmera UnitingCare, *Risk It* is a turning point for many young people – from which they go on to improve their education, employment and housing outcomes, within their own community.

WELCOME JESS!

Jessica Butcher commenced as the Schools Development Coordinator with the SHARE Appeal in April. Jess's role is to develop a schools strategy, building upon successful national and state programs now in place, and to provide challenging and inspiring philanthropic educational programs. Jess has been involved in delivering international aid and completed an internship in Inter-faith Dialogue and Water Management in Central Java. She designed an inter faith dialogue exposure tour and lead an interdenominational tour to Indonesia in June 2008.



A GIFT IN LIEU

Can't decide what to give the person who has everything? Are you having a birthday party and would like to give guests the opportunity to help you celebrate by supporting a worthy cause? Make a donation to the SHARE Appeal in lieu of a birthday present and we will send a card acknowledging your donation to your friend/family member. Call us on (03) 9251 5251 or email info@shareappeal.org.au and we will send you donation coupons that can be distributed to guests.



SHARE ON-LINE

Visit SHARE's brand new website at www.shareappeal.org.au. It includes information on all our programs, and the ability to donate on-line. We would love to hear your feedback, if you have any comments or suggestions about the website please email them to info@shareappeal.org.au.

YES! I WANT TO HELP!

Office Use _____

(Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr/Rev), First Name Surname..... (Please Print)

Address

P/Code Phone..... Email.....

I wish to make a contribution to the SHARE Community Appeal.

- I enclose my cheque/money order for \$.....
- Please debit my Mastercard Visa

Name on Card

Number

Please send me information about:

- Going on a SHARE Tour
- Volunteering
- Making a bequest
- I would like to receive an annual report

Expiry Date /

A **once-off** contribution of \$.....

I **want** to join the SHARE club and make a regular contribution of \$ every (1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 6 / 12) month(s) (please circle) until further written notice.

The first month I want this deduction to be made is.....

I would like to buy a UnitingCare DVD for \$15 (includes postage)

Date / /

Signature