

## HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPED JOHN IN HIS TIME OF NEED

When we first met John\*, he was exhausted, tearful and distraught. He walked into one of Anglicare Victoria's emergency relief centres after his car broke down just outside the building.

John had nowhere to live and had been sleeping in his car for the last two months after losing his job. It was his only shelter and transport to find work, and he had no idea how he was going to repair or move it. He was very anxious about being forced out of his car to live on the street.

John had recently moved to Melbourne from overseas and had no friends or family in Australia. He had nowhere to turn to. He told us that he was often tired and hungry, and had been struggling to stay warm over the colder months.



John

Thanks to the help of people like you, we were able to provide John with urgent roadside assistance which gave him access to a mechanic to come out and repair his car. Some of the volunteers at the centre gave John a hot drink and biscuits while he waited, and provided him with vouchers to use for food and petrol.

John was extremely appreciative of the level of support and help provided and relieved that he did not have to live on the street. A few weeks later, John came back to the centre to

tell us how grateful he was. Because of your kind donations, John was able to get his car back on the road and he has since managed to get a casual job.

It's thanks to our loyal donors and supporters that we can respond to people like John in their time of need.

*\*Names and images have been changed. John shared his story with Anglicare Victoria in June 2017.*



## KNITTING WITH KINDNESS

A blanket or scarf can often be much more than a simple item of clothing. For someone doing it rough this winter, it can mean warmth and comfort. It can mean someone cares.

The volunteers who spend hours knitting blankets, beanies, jumpers and scarves for the Anglicare Morwell office know this. In early May, the office was filled with knitted goods from loyal Anglicare Victoria supporters who had been very busy over the summer months. Just two months later, the pile is nearly gone.

A young father whose heater was broken was given a blanket. A group of school children who arrived shivering in shorts and t-shirts gratefully received a beanie and scarf each. One week later, they were still proudly wearing them. The women's refuge where women and children arrived with little or no warm clothes were provided with jumpers and blankets.

Thanks to the support of people like you, more Victorians were able to experience warmth and comfort this winter.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



It's been a busy few months for us here at Anglicare Victoria, with increasing demand for our services over the winter period. In this edition of *Imagine*, you can read about how your support helped save John in his time of need, learn the importance of

a simple knitted scarf for someone doing it rough, and read a letter from a parent who you helped connect with her daughter.

September also marks Foster Care Week and the start of our out-of-home care appeal. Anglicare Victoria is committed to providing nurturing homes for children and young people who are not able

to live with their families for a range of reasons. I do hope you can support this important appeal.

At this time of the year, I am particularly grateful for your generous donations to the vulnerable children, young people and families that need our help. On behalf of them, I want to thank you for your support, and your role in making a difference in our community.

**Paul McDonald**  
CEO Anglicare Victoria



## LIVE-IN MENTOR PROGRAM

Anglicare Victoria is looking for kind-hearted, passionate people, who can make a positive connection with young people and support them as they prepare to live independently. Our Live-In Mentor program gives young people living in state care the opportunity to live with positive, mature mentors who can teach them independent living skills, provide emotional support and help keep them connected to friends, family and the community.

Through our program, some of our most vulnerable young people have the opportunity to gain life experiences and it provides them a safe, stable environment in which to learn. By becoming a Live-In Mentor, you are able to create a positive impact on these young people and make a real difference. Live-In Mentors share a house provided by us with another mentor and two young people.

For more information, please call Rebecca Francis or Antoniette Bonaguro on 03 9293 8500.



Our annual Toy & Food Appeal is on again. By donating brand new toys or non-perishable food items you can ensure that every child in our care receives a gift this Christmas and every family we work with enjoys a wonderful meal together.

**Please call 1800 809 722 to get involved. Or visit: [anglicarevic.org.au](http://anglicarevic.org.au)**



## BEHIND THE SCENES: VOLUNTEER PROFILE

*Margaret Kelly has been a supporter of Anglicare Victoria for over 20 years. She was heavily involved in the previous Mission to Streets and Lanes, President of the former Camberwell Auxiliary, delegate to the Central Council of Auxiliaries and is currently a member of the Anglicare Victoria Partnership Group (AVPG) at Holy Trinity Kew.*

### How did you become involved in Anglicare Victoria?

I first became involved with Anglicare when it was first initiated, having been a member of the Mission to Streets and Lanes Auxiliary. Along with providing food parcels to the less fortunate in Fitzroy, I learnt about the rigorous procedure needed to become a foster carer and became interested to find out more.

As a member of the Auxiliary,



*Introducing Margaret*

I learnt about the vast number of programs and services that Anglicare run across the State. At our monthly meetings, we would invite a staff member who was involved with a particular program to speak to the group. It always amazed me to hear about the great variety of help Anglicare offers to people under stressful circumstances.

### What would you tell someone about why they should get involved with Anglicare Victoria?

Many times I have been asked 'What is Anglicare?' My answer usually goes something like this: Anglicare is the Social Services arm of the Anglican Church. I find it extremely well run and I am very happy to support it. What would you like to know?

I like to inspire people to take an interest in those less fortunate than themselves and to offer them the opportunity to participate in a practical way. Parishioners who are recently retired are often looking for some meaningful cause to support and are happy to help when asked.

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

My leisure time is spent reading, bushwalking regularly with friends, needlework, and golf. I also love catching up with my grandchildren's activities.

*If you wish to form an AVPG within your local parish or your local area or suburb, please contact us at [partnershipgroup@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:partnershipgroup@anglicarevic.org.au) or phone 9412 6133.*

## STUDENTS VOLUNTEER TO GIVE SWIMMING LESSONS

When Kardinia International College Year 12 student Sophie\* heard that the young refugee Lily\* whom she was mentoring did not know how to swim, she decided to help her learn.

Sophie is one of several volunteers from the school that are part of The Homework Club Program at St Andrew's Anglican Church in Corio. The program began in 2010 when Geelong Grammar School and Kardinia International College asked staff and students to mentor and tutor school-aged children

from new Australian families. Anglicare Victoria supports the club and provides English language conversation, reading practice, homework help and any other support needed.

Sophie, who is a registered swimming teacher, was concerned for the safety of Lily and the other refugee children. She spoke to a fellow student and together they volunteered their time to offer swimming lessons to the Homework Club participants.

After a thorough process of presenting the idea to the school, determining numbers of interested learners, organising transport, and developing lesson plans; a four-week swimming course was born. Eight young students were able to take advantage of the swimming program, which proved to be a rewarding experience for all.

The Homework Club Program is one of 192 Parish Partnerships that Anglicare Victoria runs in partnership with a local parish to meet important local community needs. If you are interested in starting a parish partnership at your local parish, please contact us on 9412 6107.

*\*Names have been changed.*

# Yes Jack, I will help find a safe home for children like you.

## Donation Option

### Please accept my single gift of:

- ☐ \$30 can provide pyjamas, a toothbrush, and a toy for a child in an emergency placement
- ☐ \$75 can pay for a counselling session to help a child recover from abuse
- ☐ \$150 can cover a day's residential care for a child without a birth or foster family
- ☐ My choice of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Please accept my monthly gift of:

- ☐ \$20 can help a foster child join a community sports club
- ☐ \$80 can provide tutoring for a foster child
- ☐ My choice of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment Details

- ☐ **Cheque/Money Order enclosed**  
(made payable to: ANGLICARE VICTORIA)

### My details are

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please debit my credit card

- ☐ VISA    ☐ MASTERCARD    ☐ AMEX    ☐ DINERS

Card Number   - - - -   /   - - - -   /   - - - -   /   - - - -

Expiry   - -   /   - -

Card Holder's Name

Card Holder's Signature

- ☐ Please send me information about becoming a regular monthly giver
- ☐ Please send me information about leaving a Gift in my Will to Anglicare Victoria
- ☐ I have already left a Gift in my Will to Anglicare Victoria

### Please post to:

Paul McDonald, CEO of Anglicare Victoria  
PO Box 45 Abbotsford VIC 3067

### Alternatively you can:

Donate online at [www.anglicarevic.org.au](http://www.anglicarevic.org.au)  
Phone 1800 809 722 to donate

# THANK YOU

We value your privacy.  
Please contact us on 03 9412 6136  
to find out how we manage your  
personal information.

# Help find a safe home for children like Jack



**“When I first met Jack, it was unclear when he last ate. He had not spoken in months, and had not attended school for two years”**

**- Bridget, Anglicare Victoria Foster Carer**

Jack\* was nine years old when he was placed with one of Anglicare Victoria’s foster carers, Bridget\*. It was unclear when he had last eaten and he was extremely underweight and appeared ill.

Bridget recalls; “Jack didn’t speak at all when I first met him. It sounded like he had not spoken in months.”

Jack also had not been attending school regularly for the last two years. After a few weeks of living with Bridget, Jack had to be admitted to the hospital because he was not eating or drinking.

**“In the hospital, I sat by his side and rubbed his back and stroked his hair. I told him that he was loved and cared for.”**

I am happy to tell you that over the past six months, Jack has improved in leaps and bounds. With the ongoing encouragement of Bridget, Jack now enjoys eating nutritious meals. He has commenced at a new school which he is attending every day and has made friends.

While Jack is now on his way to a bright future, there are still many vulnerable children who need your help.

Please donate today to help find a safe home for more children like Jack.

*\*Names have been changed.*



## LETTER FROM A PARENT

Anglicare Victoria's Parenting Program for Parents with a Mental Illness incorporates learning how to manage a mental illness together with parenting skills. One of the participants of the program, Kate, has kindly shared her experience:

*Dear Friend,*

*Parenting is hard. Often parents report feelings of being overwhelmed and isolated. But when you have a mental illness, the issues feel like they are beyond your capabilities, and you become consumed with worrying about how you get through each day while being a supportive and present parent for your children.*

*When I was initially referred to*

*the program I was overwhelmed. Caring for three children with a range of medical and psychological issues, as well as my own mental illness and health; we were doing the best that we could. Anything else was a bonus.*

*The program is unique from any other that I knew of. I fully engaged with the facilitators and the other parents, and it helped me connect with my daughter for the first time. I began to realise that I wasn't alone. My situation wasn't unique. That parenting is hard in general and having a mental illness didn't define who I was as a parent. The group felt more like a parenting group, who were drawn together through our experiences with mental illnesses.*

*Thank you so much to the incredible Anglicare Victoria supporters who made this amazing program possible! I know that it will have a lifelong effect on my family. I feel more confident in my parenting, I feel more connected to my children, and I know that bad days don't define who I am as a parent.*

*Yours Sincerely,  
Kate.*

**Parenting Program for Parents with a Mental Illness** is just one of the many support programs that we offer parents, all thanks to the support of loyal donors like yourself. On behalf of Kate and other parents who your support has helped, we thank you.

## PRAYER POINTS

### **Prayer for those experiencing homelessness**

God of Compassion, your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus, whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross. We hold before you

those who are homeless and cold, especially in this bitter weather. Draw near and comfort them in spirit. Bless those who work to provide them with shelter, food and friendship. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.