



St. Merkorious Charity

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At St. Merkorious Charity, we assist the less fortunate to relieve them of the misery that builds up when hunger consumes every waking moment with thoughts of desperation and futility. Our program opens the way for people to realise that they are not forgotten, and that someone cares enough to visit them, talk to them, and support them in their time of need.



A word from the Founder

It has been an extremely busy yet rewarding few months at St. Merkorious Charity. We have had many initiatives leading up to Christmas and to begin the new year. We have tried our hardest to continue to spread God's love during this important spiritual time through assistance with food and household hamper items to all our clients, as well as the opportunity to feel the joy of Christmas. It was especially a blessing to see children excited to receive new toys and feel the true spirit of Christmas. **Paula Nicolas, Founder and President.**

Fairfield Christmas Concert - Monday 18th of December

Our 2018 Fairfield Christmas Concert was a huge success with hundreds of guests attending. It was a pleasure to have Mr Guy Zangari, Member for Fairfield as our guest of honour on the day. Mr. Zangari met with members of the community and assisted in distributing Christmas hampers. We hope we can maintain an ongoing relationship with him to further assist the Fairfield community.





**St. Merkorious staff,
Patricia Pous- SSI Team
leader of Fairfield and
Liverpool Teams, Mr. Guy
Zangari, MP, and Board
Member Colette Assaf at
the Christmas Concert.**



Fairfield MP- Mr. Guy Zangari addressing the audience.

Montessori Academy Christmas Appeal

Montessori Academy helped us tremendously this Christmas by collecting non-perishable goods at each Centre location. This was supported by the parents of the preschool students who donated many generous gifts. The drive resulted in large amounts of pantry items and tinned cans that were used to make hampers distributed to our client families over the Christmas period.



Volunteer “Thank You” Morning Tea

This morning tea was our say of rewarding our hard working volunteers for their services. We know it was a busy time for everyone leading up to Christmas, so thank you to the ladies that attended.

“There is no better way
to thank God for your
sight than by giving a
helping hand to
someone in the dark”
- Helen Keller



Strathfield Council Toy Drive

Loyal supporter of St. Merkorious, Jodi McKay, Member for Strathfield ran a successful toy drive in her local community. We distributed the items to churches and families with young children who were over the moon with the donations.



Thank you Jodi for your ongoing support.

Hamper Packing and Distribution Nights

We had multiple hamper packing nights where our friends and family came together with food and household essentials to prepare hundred's of hampers. These hampers were then distributed via Jesus Cares, St. John Melkite Church and St. Paul's Mission with the help of our volunteers.



It was encouraging to see young and old members of the community rolling up their sleeves and helping out on these nights. Prior to distributing the hampers we celebrated Mass, enjoyed a meal together, carols were sung then the highlight of the night was the distribution of hampers to the grateful awaiting recipients.

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Over 1000 hampers
being prepared for
the homeless.





**DISTRIBUTING
TO VARIOUS
CHURCHES**

Burwood Council Christmas Party - Thursday 7th of December

Mayor John Faker and Burwood Council were kind enough to collect toy and food hampers from the guests that attended on the evening. The contributions were very generous and brought a joy to our clients and their children.



Thank you to our Committee members and supporters who attended the successful evening with a great atmosphere and delicious catering.

Pizza Night - Friday 15th of February

Our very own Rosa Hanna, Advisory Board Member on the St. Merkorious Committee, held a ladies "Pizza Night" where all proceeds from the evening's raffle and entry fee were donated to our Charity as well as Jesus Cares and COPTS- both equally deserving. We thank Rosa and her husband for all their efforts and offering their home to hold such a wonderful event.



Baking Day - Friday 16th of February

We were fortunate enough to have the talented Mrs. Huguette Azzi lead our baking day. Huguette kindly donated her time and ingredients as she shared her baking knowledge and secrets. Thank you to all the volunteers who came along and assisted with the mass production of cakes and cupcakes.





The scrumptious treats were distributed to families we assist and Fairfield community members that attend our weekly Monday service.

Jodi McKay - Friday 8th of February

Jodi McKay Member of Strathfield has very generously provided us with a \$20,000 grant for a commercial dishwasher and other quipment required for our growing sevicees. We thank Jodi, her assistant and our Board Members for being present for the special day. We hope to further strengthen our relationship with Jodi and her Council as we work together to make a difference in the community.





Meeting with PAYCE Foundation - Tuesday 20th of February

PAYCE have played an integral role in our growth and development as a charity. In the past, in addition to being a major sponsor, they have provided us with our St. Merkorious food van that is constantly on the road delivering to our clients. They have also donated highly qualified Chef Shane for mentoring our kitchen staff on ways to improve our operations and efficiency.

During their visit to the centre, the potential for a collabtion was discussed involving training for disadvantaged youth. We look forward to working together with PAYCE Foundation in the near future.



Fairfield Service and Fairfield Hub

Both our Fairfield services continue to be a hit with the hall at capacity every Monday. Hairdressers, second hand clothing, homeware/ kitchenware and toys are available on the day for the community to take home.

If you would like to donate secondhand clothing, furniture and electronics or volunteer for the day, please contact us on 0478 760 450.

We appreciate the compassion and generosity you have demonstrated through your kind donations.



Thank you to Montana
from Hair By Montana and
Sonia Chidiac
for donating their
hairdressing services.

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