

Jesuit Social

Summer 2006/07



Services

Christmas Newsletter

Standing in solidarity with those in need, expressing a faith that promotes justice



★ Joy to the world and peace on earth ★



BRINGING VALUES HOME



I've just returned from a visit to the United States where I was invited to address the International Spirit at Work Conference in New York. Jesuit Social Services was one of four organisations to be recognised in this year's awards honouring companies that live out their values in their daily practice.

I saw and learnt about a range of ways people and local organisations are doing this in their settings – the large German cleaning company whose aim is to protect the environment by using only 'green' products; the Indian pharmaceutical company whose staff is comprised of more than 20% of the most marginalised people in their community, and strives to produce low cost medicines to treat a range of diseases including polio and HIV/AIDS; and the Jesuit Provinces that invest in companies whose policies they want to influence in order to improve human rights, impact on HIV/AIDS and protect the environment.

“ Ambulances dump patients discharged from hospital directly onto the street. It's disgraceful.”

In Los Angeles I visited a Jesuit parish in a severely disadvantaged suburb where people told me their stories: ten year old Stephanie killed by a stray bullet in a drive-by killing as she rode her bike; a family grieving Eddy, their young son locked up for life for one too many drug offences; and the church itself transformed each night into a shelter for homeless men who search for work - work that is underpaid; work that offers no protection if you get hurt - like for Ricky who'd injured his back lifting a heavy load and isn't eligible for medical assistance.

One evening I drove around skid row - street after street of tents and cardboard boxes sheltering thousands of homeless people. Ambulances dump patients discharged from hospital directly onto the street. It's a disgrace.

The dismantling of their juvenile justice system, the harsh punishments meted out to drug dependent people who commit offences, the discriminatory health system and the entrenching of an underclass of working poor, all form the back drop for these dehumanising skid row scenes.

Australia mimics the United States in many ways. But we need to take care. Is this what we want for our country?

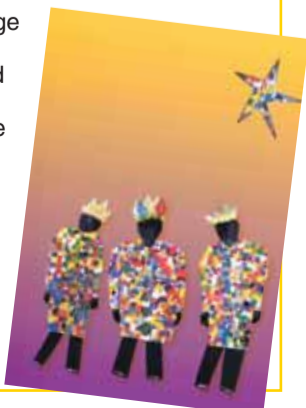
Decision makers in our government and bureaucracy who are responsible for making social policy that affects people's lives need to be very clear what values underpin their decisions and how this really impacts on people.

At Jesuit Social Service we know the consequences of poor policy. And we don't like it.

Julie Edwards, CEO

SPECIAL OFFER! CHRISTMAS CARD KIDS

Once again the Xavier College Burke Hall Mother's Association have organised for children to create Christmas cards as a way of reflecting on the meaning of Christmas with all funds from the sale of the cards coming to Jesuit Social Services. The young students from Early Years Centre 3+4 and prep to year 8 have made 10 delightful cards and you can order 12 cards for ONLY \$5.00! Tel: Lyn Pfeiffer on 0437 582516.



CAMPAGNING FOR A BETTER HOUSING DEAL FOR ALL

The word 'home' evokes strong emotions relating to permanence, self expression and identity, a safe haven and having a place to welcome those with whom we have a connection. "Houselessness" could never elicit the level of emotional and physical loss we associate with the term homelessness which is about much more than having a roof over one's head.

Not surprisingly many Australians retain a strong desire to own a home and achieve a sense of permanence and control over this critical aspect of their wellbeing. This aspiration is, however, becoming increasingly unattainable for many, particularly those on middle and low incomes. The decline in the rate of entry to home ownership has been apparent since the 1970s, particularly for people under 30 who are on low incomes. We have witnessed spiralling housing costs since the 1990s increasing more rapidly than household income. While prices are now steadying somewhat, interest rates are rising and many people remain in private rental because they have no option. Public and social housing choices, while limited and variable, do offer some security for those able to access this housing tenure, but supply is very limited.

In the 1990s, the Federal Government devised a benchmark to define housing affordability 'stress' which is now commonly used. It sets a ceiling of 30% of gross income of households for housing costs. This has helped respective States ensure that public housing rentals remain within affordable levels. This benchmark has not however been applied to the private rental market, which is largely unregulated. Industry and census data from 1981-2001 reveals that among the poorest 40% of households, there has been a marked increase in the proportion paying more than 30% of income in housing costs.

“ Good, secure and affordable housing for everyone.”

Agencies like Jesuit Social Services understand the enabling role of stable housing in establishing pathways to a better life. Often the lack of secure and affordable housing is a key obstacle confronting the young people and vulnerable families we work with. For this reason Jesuit Social Services has joined with a number of other agencies in embarking on an Affordable Housing Alliance Campaign. The campaign's simple yet compelling message is "Good, secure and affordable housing for everyone."

This campaign grew out of collective concern about declining affordability, the lack of lower cost private rental - we believe there is a shortage of approximately 60,000 properties - and insufficient government commitment to public housing.

As this campaign gets underway, the results of a national survey reveal that Australians see access to housing as one of ten essentials to achieve fairness in Australia - along with human rights, welfare, education, environment, work, community, health and reconciliation. When participants were asked what requirements were necessary for an individual to have an acceptable standard of living, the highest number of responses related to housing and shelter. There is clearly agreement across the community that housing is fundamental to wellbeing.

This also demonstrates that when given the choice, Australians can and do articulate a vision of fairness that outlines the non-negotiables necessary to achieve this. The growing polarisation of those who have attained, or will attain, home ownership and those who will spend their lives in private rental housing is clearly an issue of fairness.

Jesuit Social Services welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Affordable Housing Campaign and to influence relevant policy debates. With the current Commonwealth State Housing Agreement coming to an end in 2008, it is indeed timely to lobby for a better housing deal for all Australians.

Anne Tuohy, Policy Officer

SPIRIT AT WORK AWARD

The International Spirit At Work (ISAW) Organization is the only global organization dedicated to honoring companies that have implemented explicit spiritual practices, policies or programs inside their organizations. Each year, ISAW's activities culminate in an Annual Awards Ceremony, drawing together hundreds of professionals from all corners of the globe. For the past 4 years, ISAW has recognized 23 distinguished companies ranging from The Body Shop, to Times of India, and to the ANZ Banking Group Ltd.



Fifth International Spirit at Work Award Honourees, l-r: Judi Neal (co-founder ISAW awards, author of Edgewalkers), Thomas Baggeler (Clean Service Power, Germany), Julie Edwards, CEO Jesuit Social Services, Phillip Hellmich (Search for Common Ground, Washington, DC), Father Joe Pereira (Nicholas Piramal, Ltd., India), John Renesch (co-founder of the ISAW awards, author of Getting to a Better Future).

CHRISTMAS YUMMIES!

Our Gateway Kitchen helps young people at risk obtain skills and experience in biscuit production, customer service and employment practices that will prepare them for further education and work. (see page 2)

Our renowned Abbotsford Biscuits are now available from Ludo in Sandringham, La Niche in Collingwood and Spoonful in Prahran as well as the monthly Slow Food Market at Abbotsford Convent (23rd December). In addition to our yummy biscuits we have a limited Christmas cake selection so get in early! Our order form is enclosed or go to www.jss.org.au



INSIDE



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Mr Osman makes his mark – one man makes a world of difference

Training for Life – RTO status gives our young people another chance

Artful Dodger makes good – young artist forges ahead

Making the Connexion – a student's insight

Make a New Year resolution you can keep – become a Community Partner

Trivia pursuit – fun and funds for the Brosnan Centre

Celebrating 30 Years in 2007 – heartfelt beginnings

ONE MAN MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Mr Abdurahman Osman is a delight to meet. Aged 62, he displays a wonderful calm and assurance that captures the heart and belies the traumas he has suffered. He fled Mogadishu in 1991 after a successful career as a bureaucrat working for the Somali Government. He spent almost three years in refugee camps before reaching New Zealand in 1994. He arrived in Melbourne in December 1998, taking a job as a security officer. Then in 2003 he made contact with Jesuit Social Services through the Vietnamese Welfare Resource Centre in Flemington and was impressed by all it was achieving. Mr Osman decided he should do something similar for his people, and formed the Somali Community In Victoria.

In 2004, the Somali Community formed an alliance with Jesuit Social Services, an alliance that has proved to be an ecumenical success. Mr Osman said it has opened doors and provided added credibility for his organisation, enabling it to advocate for his people and deliver services far beyond what it may have achieved alone.

“ He laughs when asked how a Muslim and a Catholic manage to get on so well. ”

Through this partnership Mr Osman has fulfilled his vision of education, soccer and recreation activities for young people through the help of youth workers funded by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

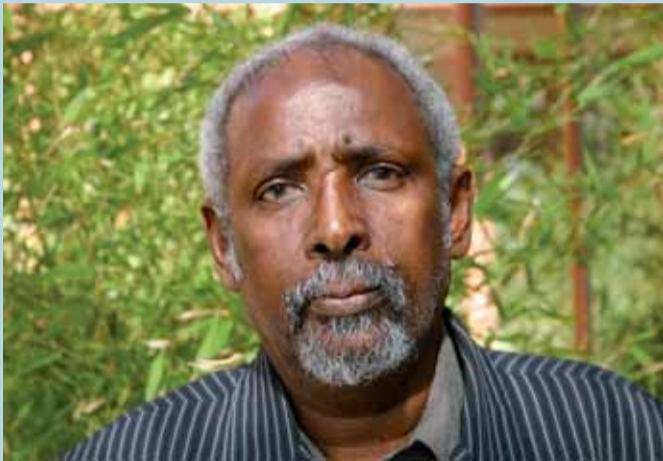
As with Jesuit Social Services, Mr Osman explains there is significant emphasis on the needs of young people, especially between the ages of 15-25 years. As elsewhere, this group battles with the issues of drugs and crime. Jesuit Social Services and the local community have worked successfully with police to reduce the tension between young people and police. Mr Osman also supports the United Somali Women's Association enabling them to set up sewing groups,

English language classes, health promotion activities, computer and cooking classes. As Mr Osman puts it, these groups help to break down the isolation so many women refugees encounter.

Other achievements include a pilot taxi service, a computer room where anyone can make contact with home over the internet, sporting activities and assistance to the elderly.

Since joining hands with Jesuit Social Services, the Somali Community in Victoria has expanded its operations to all African communities across five areas of Melbourne. These communities number well in excess of 45,000 people from all parts of the African continent.

It is clear Mr Osman's strategies to form close ties with other groups is working and achieving success for all manner of people. He laughs when asked how a Muslim and a Catholic manage to get on so well. His response is to point out that it is helping people that matters and both groups enjoy Ramadan and Christmas celebrations together.



Mr Osman received a Victorian Refugee Recognition Award for advocating for and helping the Somali community for many years. He continues to provide services for his community and for people from the Horn of African Communities by forging links with government and non-government agencies.

THANK YOU KERRY WALKER

Our Program Director Kerry Walker has been appointed inaugural Director of the Neighbourhood Justice Centre in Collingwood. The appointment is a tremendous tribute to Kerry's commitment to social justice. We will miss her bright personality and sharp wit!

MAKING THE CONNEXION – A STUDENT'S INSIGHT

Knowledge, professionalism, laughter and chocolate. The past five months at Connexions have provided me with an abundance of these things, comprising essential parts of the whole experience. At the beginning of my social work placement in June I was unsure what to expect, both from the work and from the culture of a small NGO. I have found the atmosphere relaxed yet professional, and have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this cohesive and highly supportive team. The work has been enjoyable and eye-opening in terms of the complexity of program participant needs and the function of different services in the welfare sector.

There have been many challenges along the way. From the logistical dilemmas of program participant transport to the provision of impromptu counselling, I have had various frustrations and “sink-or-swim” experiences, all of which provided me with excellent learning opportunities.

Specific challenges include the ability to remain calm in the face of confronting behaviours and avoid taking such things personally. I have been able to see how standard textbook approaches are inappropriate for dealing with complex and traumatised young people - for example a simple choice of words can either alienate or engage them. Although the initial engagement phase can take weeks of unreturned phone calls and missed appointments, hanging in there is the key - positive helping relationships are developed over time.

It has been a pleasure to work at Connexions, to engage with the young people and to learn from the professional and empathic approach of the staff.

Elaine Howard, Social Work student

TRAINING PAYS OFF

In July 2006 Jesuit Social Services became a Registered Training Organisation allowing us to offer accredited training and issue Statements of Attainment for units of competency successfully completed by program participants. The units of competency are for the Visual Arts Craft and Design, the Outdoor Recreation, the Metal and Engineering, the Business Services and the Community Services Training Packages. Because the individual units of competency are nationally recognized, they will provide credit toward any qualification throughout Australia that contain this unit of competency. Statements of Attainment have already been completed by a number of young people and two trainees in the Gateway Kitchen have begun working towards their Certificate 2 in Kitchen Operations, which is endorsed by the William Angliss College.



Move over Jamie Oliver! I-r Maryanne Nelson, Lucy Wilson, Christine Foster (Volunteer) Chef Loretta Sartori and Dale Coffey

SUPPORT AFTER SUICIDE AWARDED INCREASED FUNDING

Support After Support, a program of Jesuit Social Services, is a bereavement support service developed specifically for those bereaved by suicide. Funded under the National Suicide Prevention Strategy (NSPS), Department of Health and Ageing, the two year pilot program provided a range of initiatives including:

- Counselling to adults, children, young people and families bereaved by suicide
- A support group program for adults
- Education to health, welfare and education professionals on the unique issues and experiences faced by those bereaved by suicide.

In October 2006 we were delighted to receive news that, due to the success of these interventions, the program would receive funding for the next three years to expand these activities. We will continue with the abovementioned programs and expand them to service Metropolitan Melbourne. We also plan to:

- Develop and facilitate group programs for suicide bereaved children and young people
- Train workers in existing agencies to facilitate group work programs for suicide bereaved adults, children and young people
- Offer this training to communities and agencies in rural and regional Victoria
- Provide secondary consultation, information and written resources to the bereaved and professionals across Victoria
- Develop a comprehensive suicide bereavement website that will include information and resources for the bereaved and a range of professionals.

We are committed to providing services to a group of people who are often left on their own to deal with a particularly difficult and intense bereavement experience.



Thanks to the generosity of international landscaper Paul Bangay and local suppliers, the Brosnan Centre and its program participants now enjoy a delightful courtyard, recreation and reflection area.

The National Trust paid \$800 for this sculpture, titled 'Brianiac', created by a young Gateway participant for the Melbourne Fringe Festival's Dialogue Exhibition in October 2006. The Artful Dodgers Studios Exhibition at the old Melbourne City Watch House included paintings, photographs, digital images, stencils, sculpture, installations, puppetry, video and live and recorded music.



ARTFUL DODGER FORGES AHEAD



Artist Michael Porter came to Jesuit Social Services' Gateway Program after finding himself 'a bit lost, with no job, not a lot to do and no place to put my creativity'. He was invited to join the Rudder Mentoring Program, which mentors young artists so they can go on to share their skills. After completing the program he taught a wax modelling workshop for bronze casting at the Artful Dodgers Studios with his fellow students exhibiting their finished work in the recent Dialogue Exhibition at the Old Melbourne Watch House.

"After Art School, I was struggling and Artful Dodgers Studio helped me find my way.

I was introduced to this place by a friend and I met Jeff (Stewart) and I joined up with the Rudder Mentoring Program. Jeff was mentoring me and he was a very good person to have, very inviting. He was a very good person to work with because he is interested in similar things to me - art

Personally for me, the encouragement was the best thing and the opportunity to have that encouragement. I think I have been often quite unconfident about myself and so that was one of the things that was the most helpful.

They just sort of helped me more or less with the motivation to look for work. I mean. I was a little bit negative about work. I was sort of intimidated by Centrelink and all the words. I think because I struggle with reading and writing.

So I rang a teacher from school who ran a sculpture foundry. He gave me a job at the foundry and I'm learning something every day, which is brilliant you know? And I'm getting dirty - it makes me feel like I have really earned a wage. I wouldn't have done it if I didn't have a bit of help and a bit of encouragement. And I would also like to make my own work in the future and this gives me the skills to do it.

After working (at the foundry) for a while, Jeff invited me to come back and run a sculpture class and do some wax modelling with some of the other artists here.

Doing the sculpture class just made me feel like I am worthy of being a teacher because I can do it and I've got something to give.

I have taken up an offer to have an exhibition... next year in March at the City Lights Gallery which is something special."

Michael Porter



Rudder Mentoring Project participant Michael Porter with a bronze sculpture made when he returned to the Studios to teach other young people. The aim of the Artful Dodgers Studios is to increase the capacity of at risk young adults for social connection and economic participation by helping them develop skills and abilities in their fields of interest.

NEED A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION THAT YOU CAN KEEP? – BECOME A COMMUNITY PARTNER

"If you want to make a difference, then this is an organization you should support.

Jesuit Social Services are advocates for the most marginalised people in our society and direct their work towards providing ongoing, practical assistance and solutions. They constantly bring issues to the public notice and then do something about it, while inviting others to join their cause. I believe that Australia can do a lot better for marginalised people and as I have been an admirer of Jesuit Social Services and the work they do for some time, the Community Partner Program was an ideal opportunity for me to pledge my support."

Community Partner John Fogarty, Hampton

John Fogarty, former Family Court Judge and Community Partner.

During his 22 years on the Bench, Judge Fogarty played a pivotal role in the development of family law and child support reforms and was awarded the Australia medal in 1992 in recognition of his work.



COMMUNITY PARTNER REWARDS:



- Easy to participate! Once your direct debit or visa payment is set up, we require no further action
- Spread your donation over 12 months ... and it's fully tax deductible
- This convenient way of giving also saves us money as it reduces our administration costs
- Opportunities to visit programs first hand and really see how your support is being used to help create a more equal society

Here's what you need to do:

Simply complete and return the Community Partner Pledge Form and commit to making a monthly contribution for the next 12 months. One-off donations and bequests are invaluable, however regular funding throughout the year enables us to commit to ongoing support of those most in need.



COMMUNITY PARTNER PLEDGE

Yes! I would like to become a Community Partner by making a monthly contribution to Jesuit Social Services.

<p>Please deduct</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$200</p> <p>or please nominate amount</p> <p>\$</p> <p>per month from my credit card</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express</p> <p>No: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>Expiry Date:.....Signature:</p> <p>Surname</p> <p>Given name/s</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>.....Postcode:.....</p> <p>Telephone:Email</p>	<p>OR direct debit my account</p> <p>Account name.....</p> <p>BSB.....A/C no</p> <p>Bank.....Branch</p> <p>Surname</p> <p>Given name/s.....</p> <p>Address:.....</p> <p>.....Postcode:.....</p>
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THANK YOU. YOUR GIFT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN 2007

On our 30th anniversary next year it is appropriate that we return to our beginnings and reflect on our journey and those we have accompanied and who have accompanied us.

Remembering and finding meaning in our past is crucial to understanding where our future lies. In 1975, Pedro Arrupe S.J., the then Superior General of the Society of Jesus, called on Jesuits all over the world to live their faith through the promotion of justice. He urged them to make a commitment to "work with others toward the dismantling of unjust social structures so that the weak, the oppressed, the marginalised of this world may be set free."

Answering that call to action, Jesuit Social Services had its beginnings in 1977, when Peter Norden S.J. opened Four Flats in Hawthorn – a hostel for young men just released from prison.

One could not imagine a more marginalised group than those young people who were helped by Four Flats, now known as the Brosnan Centre. They were exposed to the most brutalising, dehumanising and belittling experiences while in prison and Fr. Peter saw this work as "a choice to work against those influences which kill the human spirit".

Jesuit Social Services has gone on to respond to changing need and times and to provide a wide range of services in areas addiction, mental illness, long-term unemployment and entrenched social disadvantage.

As part of our remembering, we are producing a book that will bring together many memories of our journey. This book will provide a series of snapshots of our thirty years - including places, people, events, struggles and successes that have informed who we are and will continue to shape our vision.

The great advantage of capturing these memories at this point in our history is that most people who are part of our story are still available to share their experiences and contribute to our future directions.

INVITATION TO SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

Early next year we are holding a series of conversations to elicit the stories and memories from people who have been involved with Jesuit Social Services over the years. Based around themes, rather than a chronological account, we are looking for your thoughts and experiences. If you would like to be part of these conversations or have documents, photos or simply stories you would like to share, please contact Jo Dunin on (03) 9427 7388 or email jo.dunin@jss.org.au.



l-r: Fr Pat Mullins SJ, Alex Firmager, Sue Ellis, Fr Peter Norden SJ outside Four Flats 1977

IN THE PURSUIT OF TRIVIA FOR BROSNAN CENTRE

Friday 20th October was an unseasonably cold night but this did not dampen the spirits of the organising committee or the enthusiastic trivia devotees who attended the Brosnan Centre's inaugural Trivia Night in Garnett Hall at Xavier Preparatory School, Burke Hall. Over 200 people were entertained with a night of mind bending tricky questions and games. Great prizes were awarded to winners throughout the night, plus a raffle, a silent auction and a live auction provided plenty of opportunities for people to dig deep into their pockets for a chance to snap up some fantastic items donated for the evening.

On arrival guests were treated to a tasting of award winning wines donated by Sevenhill Winery, the Jesuit winery in the Clare Valley, South Australia. Beautiful food prepared by Loretta Sartori and her trainees from the Gateway Kitchen was served throughout the night. Our guests told us it was the best trivia night they had ever attended!

The evening raised over \$12,000; a fantastic result for our hard working committee led by Brosnan Centre volunteer, Annie Bugeja. Special thanks go to Paul Caine of Paul Caine Real Estate and Annie and Laurie Bugeja for their generous financial support for the evening. Take note, this is now an annual event . **Put 19th October 2007 in your diary now!**

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY – 5TH DECEMBER 2006

Like many agencies throughout the world, we could not survive without the commitment, dedication and support of our volunteers. We cannot say often enough how we sincerely appreciate all the efforts of our volunteers: from our Board members to our envelope stuffing regulars to those at the front line in our programs sharing their expertise and heart. This year all our volunteers will receive a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their spirit of giving and invaluable support to Jesuit Social Services.



Gateway Kitchen volunteers packing biscuits for Christmas Orders l-r: Ann Ryan, Anna Keating, Jo Caleo, Ann Mulcahy (Volunteer Coordinator), Noel Bayliss and Ann Fontaine

30TH ANNIVERSARY MASS

To begin our year of celebrating our 30 years of service, on Sunday 18th February the Jesuit Provincial Mark Raper SJ will celebrate Mass with Peter Norden SJ at 5.30pm at St Ignatius Parish, Church St. Richmond followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

Yes! I would like to support the Jesuit Social Services Christmas Appeal 2006.

Please tick donation amount

- \$50
 \$100
 \$250
 \$500
 \$1,000
 My choice
 \$.....

Please make your donation payable to Jesuit Social Services Christmas Appeal

Cheque enclosed OR VISA MasterCard

No:

Expiry Date:.....Signature:.....

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms.....

Address:.....

FIRST NAME (S) SURNAME
Postcode:.....

Telephone: Home.....Work.....

Please send me details on:

- remembering Jesuit Social Services in my Will
 joining the Jesuit Volunteer program
 please send me information about the ATO Workplace Giving Program.



Jesuit Social Services
 PO Box 271 Richmond, 3121
 Tel: 03 9427 7388 Fax: 03 9427 1819
 Website: www.jss.org.au