

WANTED

CASH DONATIONS

FOOD

BLANKETS / BED LINEN

WARM JACKETS

LOTS OF PRAYERS



Lutheran Community Care

Pennies from Heaven

It's Saturday morning and I am at the local shopping centre trying to help people in my community who are struggling and who need food, clothing and our support.

I hear you saying "what can I do? The problem is so big. I wouldn't know where to begin!" But there is something that you and I can do.

Let me tell you what happened. Three or four from our local church had an idea. We decided to collect two cans of food from every person who worships regularly on a Sunday and then deliver the offering to Lutheran Community Care to help the people who need it the most.

Well that sounds easy enough, doesn't it? Our church is not very big in numbers, but when our can drive had finished we had collected 120 cans. This was a pretty good effort. When the cans were packed into three or four cartons, it just didn't seem enough.

The story continues – Someone suggested we take the pile of cans to the local supermarket and ask the shoppers to add to

the stack. Laughingly, we joked. "What can we do? We don't know where to begin?" But we decided to give it a try. First we approached the manager of the supermarket and once approval was gained we set up one Saturday morning. It wasn't long before things began to happen.

This is the point at which the Pennies from Heaven started to take shape.

We set up a modest display which included a few signs explaining that we were collecting cans in order to feed the poor. Shoppers were handed an explanatory note inviting them to buy just one extra can of food and to add it to the pile after they had been through the checkout.

Some people avoided us, but we were overwhelmed by the generosity of so many. Some of those that gave appeared to need our help, yet they gladly placed their one can on the ever growing pyramid. Are you waiting to hear the result?

Pennies from Heaven # 1

It took 3 1/2 trailer loads to deliver the food to Lutheran Community Care, but wait there's more!

Pennies from Heaven # 2

Two people came to church, for the first time, on the following Sunday. They had seen the display and had taken home a leaflet on "All about Jesus". The campaign "All about Jesus" had just started on TV.

We thought that we had set out to feed and clothe the poor, but we had also ended up enriched and encouraged by each other.

We had food for life and had witnessed to our community without even knowing it. Not bad for 3 hours' activity on a Saturday morning.

"What can I do? The problem is so big. I wouldn't know where to begin!"

That thought and fear is long gone and we can't wait to experience the blessings of hearing those pennies falling around us as we happily continue to do the Lord's work.

Story as told, with the names withheld, to ensure that privacy is maintained and the focus remains on the challenge and not the results or those involved.



*During
the winter
Appeal last
year*

Status Report—May 2006 The Cupboard is bare!

Our food stocks are completely depleted and we have been forced to buy food to meet the needs of the constant stream of those who knock at our door. The situation looks grim. We ask for your support, prayers and enthusiasm.

We **urgently** need cash donations to purchase food, or if you are local, donations of food can be delivered to 309 Prospect Rd Blair Athol.





What happens to all the food that you donate to Lutheran Community Care?

It becomes part of food parcels, which are given to people in need, by the Emergency Relief (ER) team. The people who receive this help live in the local area, receive Centrelink payments, and are facing some sort of crisis.



Sue Rourke, Emergency Relief Coordinator, with ER volunteer team member Coral Boesch.

Most of us, thank God, have never had to worry about where our next meal is coming from. Imagine if you did not know. How would you feel if you also had young children to feed?

There are many reasons why people find themselves without food to carry them through to their next Centrelink payment. Sheila is typical of some. 'I managed to pay all my bills, but I didn't have enough money left for food,' she says.

'Hope comes out of the depths of despair'

Some have never learned the life skills they need to cope. Some have mental illness. Others have lost their jobs, but still have payments to make. They find themselves in a downward spiral, with a sheaf of bills to pay. Financial Counselling is recommended to help them sort out their finances.

John had a gambling addiction which drained his finances. As well as giving him food, the ER counsellor phoned his electricity company, to arrange paying his account in instalments. She encouraged him to call the gambling helpline Break Even, there and then. She made the initial contact, put John on the phone, and he told the counsellor about his gambling problem. Some immediate help and a follow up appointment left John feeling much relieved.

Refugees often struggle to adjust to our western lifestyle. They have never before had regular money

coming in – nor have they had the responsibility for paying bills. For many it is a scary experience, so they come to Lutheran Community Care.

Family relationships also lead to crises. Jayne was forced to move from interstate because of a violent home situation. She had three children with a fourth due soon. She needed not only food, but clothing and bedding from the Care & Clothing shop next door.

Wanda is an indigenous grandmother. She was short of food because family members had come from the country to stay. She often had her grandchildren for extended periods, so it was difficult for her to manage on her pension. It was taken for granted that she would care for family members.

Emma is being treated for depression. She has been crushed by events in her life: a child with cancer; a teenager 'off the rails'; sexual abuse in the family; and her own personal problems. She used to believe in God, she said, but where was he now? She hadn't hurt anyone – why was she being punished? The counsellor helped her with her physical needs, but also told her what God is doing for her (it was Easter time) and promised to pray for her.

You can see that your donations do help Lutheran Community Care as it shows God's love to hurting people.

Coral Boesch
ER Volunteer Team

Brrrr.... It's cold outside!

Are you thinking of supporting Lutheran Community Care this winter?
Why don't you arrange a special drive for food or donations as well as a display in the foyer?

from the Director's Desk



Colleen Fitzpatrick

Recently I have had time for reflection – a bit of a luxury really. The reason for this was that I was sitting with my mother during her last days and hours. It was a very precious time, as I was able to think about what Mum meant to me. Among these thoughts, I was very conscious of the other members of our extended family who were in contact with us during that time.

One of the things I really valued about Mum was her generosity. She always took requests for assistance to heart. Some of my earliest memories are of helping the local Red Cross team with catering at local weddings. Mum's jelly cakes and sundry other delicacies were her speciality.

Last year, the winter appeal caught Mum's eye. Whenever she went shopping, she would buy

a couple of extra cans of food to contribute to the collection at her church. She told me several times that "there was a good lot" of food for us to distribute. Helping those with less meant a lot to my mum.

I am thankful that my mum was not alone in her thinking. We need your help with our winter appeal. The food that is collected will assist people who are struggling to make ends meet. Donations that are made are important to us to help to maintain those services that we provide that are not funded elsewhere. These include the counselling service, some of our marriage education programs, the coordination of our emergency relief program and some of the refugee work that we do. We also use donations to fund some of our work in the Barossa.

I commend our Winter Appeal to you. We need and value your support for the work that we do. And I thank God that He moves in the hearts of so many of you to support our work so that we can do what He has called us to do.

"School Short Story" competition



From Monday 1st May until 16th June, the Lutheran schools' story-writing competition will be open to students of all ages. See what creative stories can be conjured up from just a few images and not more than 500 words. The winning entries will be accessible online. The top 5 entries will receive recognition and will be notified in writing before 30 June 2006.

Write a short story on helping others. Finish off this story ...
"I was down and almost out and didn't think things could get this bad, when"

Describe what you think their problems may have been and how you (in the story) are able to help. What benefits do you both receive? Remember, you can help anyone of any age, race or gender - there are no barriers.

Visit www.lccsa.org.au for full details - **Schools' Resource Kit**



In-memoriam

This year loving gifts, to help those in need and who are cared for by Lutheran Community Care, have been received in the memory of

Leanne Coventry • Ruth Molkentin • Frieda Wegener
Violet Zweck • Sam Pfeiffer

The Lord's peace to families and loved ones



Dedication of services in the Barossa Valley



Two years ago Lutheran Community Care began working with the churches and community in the Barossa Valley. As the services grew, so did their need for more office space and after many months of planning, fundraising and hard work the Christian Community Hub extended their building to include three new offices from which Lutheran Community Care can offer its services.

A week of celebration followed the official opening of the offices and on Wednesday 22 March 2006. Pastor Robert Voigt, District President of the Lutheran Church of Australia SA/NT and Colleen Fitzpatrick, Director of Lutheran Community Care, led a service of rededication for the work done from these offices and thanksgiving for the many volunteers who give of themselves and their time in service to the many needy people in our community.

God has certainly blessed the work done in the Barossa Valley and we pray these blessings continue.

At the opening Brian Hurn, Mayor of Barossa Council, said *"he was amazed by the work of so many wonderful people and the community was enriched by their efforts."*

Lutheran Community Care would like to acknowledge the generous support from local congregations, the many volunteers and the remarkable people who tirelessly fundraised to make this *step in faith* possible. Thanks also to Community Benefits SA for the grant which helped to make the building a reality.

For information on any service or if you would like to volunteer some time and talents, please contact **Lutheran Community Care** on 08 8563 1095.



Nayano goes to Canberra!

Canberra was the venue for the Asia Pacific Migrations workshops just before Christmas and Lutheran Community Care's Nayano Taylor-Neumann (pictured, 4th from left in centre row) presented a paper on democratic values.

It was about how, even though some of the refugee legislation passed by the federal government since 1999 went against human rights values, the actions of volunteers in Murray Bridge towards Afghan refugees resident in the town sustained those values.

Nayano said "it was a very rewarding experience and I am now writing a Masters thesis about what happened with refugees in Murray Bridge, through the University of New England".

Prayer Points

- For families who are struggling to keep warm - that they are able to pay their bills and maintain a healthy and comfortable lifestyle.
- For Lutheran Community Care's winter appeal – that people will open their hearts to support us in the work that we are called to do.
- For families who are new to our country – that they may feel welcome and included, and that they can make new friends as they settle in to their new homeland.



LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CARE

'Sharing the love of Christ - building caring communities'

EMERGENCY RELIEF

Emergency relief is provided to individuals and families who are in crisis. Relief comes via food parcels or food vouchers, clothing assistance and on occasions support with blankets and bedding, as well as other small household items.

Emergency relief provides immediate help to overcome an 'unforeseen' event. Relief may be financial or material, together with community information and / or referrals. Such support helps people rebuild their lives and re-establish their ability to be self-sufficient.



Lutheran Community Care
Winter Appeal 2006

Support the work of
Lutheran Community Care

Donate Now!

- Food
- Blankets
- Bed linen
- Cash donations

Details can be
downloaded from
our website:

www.lccsa.org.au



“ Feed the hungry
Shelter the homeless
Serve the poor
Homelessness is not a CRIME ”



winterSHOPPINGlist

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice • Pasta • Pasta sauce • Tomato sauce • Jam • Peanut Paste • Tea • Coffee • Milo • Long life milk • Vegemite <p>Cereal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Oats > Weetbix > Cornflakes > Rice Bubbles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sugar • Flour • Powdered Custard | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powdered Milk • Pasta Packs • Sultanas • Dried fruit • Salt • Packet meals <p>Canned Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soup • Chicken • Vegetable • Tomato • Pea & Ham • Pumpkin • Potato & Leek • Mushroom <p>Main meal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spaghetti • Baked Beans • Irish Stew • Steak & veg | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sausage & veg • Braised steak • Steak & onion • Ham • Vegetables • Corn • Peas • Fish > Tuna > Sardines > Salmon <p>Canned Fruit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apricots • Peaches • Pears • Fruit Salad • Pineapple <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toothpaste • Soap | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shampoo • Toothbrushes • Hair brushes • Laundry detergent • Household cleaners • Disposable nappies <p>Blankets</p> <p>Bed Linen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Bed sheets > Pillow cases <p>Towels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Bath > Hand <p>Warm Clothes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boys • Girls • Men and women • Jumpers • Coats |
|---|---|--|--|



Winter Appeal 2006

During the Winter Appeal, donations of cash, food, blankets and warm jackets are received to help those who are left out in the cold.

You can get involved in a variety of ways.



- Simply by making others aware
- Collecting food or cash donations
- Personal announcements during worship
- Putting a display in the foyer or hall — see if you can reach the ceiling
- Delivering food, clothes & blankets to Lutheran Community Care
- Involve youth or friendship groups
- Social events to raise donations
 - Concerts, dinners, teas



Can you inspire others to raise goods or funds for the WINTER APPEAL?



NEW donations options



RED comes to Lutheran Community Care
"Regular Electronic Donations" (Automatic direct debit)

You can provide sustained support for the work of Lutheran Community Care throughout the year with a recurring contribution. Your regular contribution (**RED - Regular Electronic Donation**) goes even further to support our life changing services and programs and you only have to sign up once!

Please note that when choosing to give in installments, your contribution will be deducted automatically from a specified account on an agreed date, at the frequency you choose.

Minimum contribution level is \$5.00.

Some conditions may apply, please read the terms & conditions and information sheet. Available at lccsa.org.au/donate/termsandconditions

Of course you can make a donation at any time using any one of the following methods.

• **BANKCARD • MASTERCARD • VISA**

- By phone 8269 9300
- By mail: **PO BOX 288 KILBURN SA 5084**
- In person: **309 Prospect Rd Blair Athol** or any one of our 15 locations
- By In-memoriam
- By bequests
- Through volunteering
- By collecting spare change
- On-line www.lccsa.org.au
- And **NOW** through **RED - Regular Electronic Donation**
(Automatic direct debit)

APPLY NOW

Donations can now be an automatic direct debit from your account at regular intervals

- **Fortnightly**
- **Monthly**
- **Quarterly**
- **Annually**
(once a year)

HOW TO APPLY
If you would like to become a regular donor, simply download an application form from www.lccsa.org.au or phone 8269 9300 and we will post the information to you

All gifts over \$2 are tax deductible

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just call us on 08 8269 9300 - email enquires@lccsa.org.au post PO Box 288 KILBURN SA 5084

We invite you to share with those who have less.

Please find enclosed my cheque/money order for \$ _____ UD/MAY 06

Please debit my credit card: Bankcard Mastercard Visa

Card No: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry date: _____ / _____

Name on card: (Mr, Miss, Ms, Mrs, Rev, Dr.)

Signature: _____

It is important for you to complete the following so we can send you your receipt

Name: (Mr, Miss, Ms, Mrs, Rev, Dr.) _____

Address: _____

Post Code _____

Please cut out and send to **Lutheran Community Care**, PO Box 288, KILBURN SA 5084

For on line donations visit: www.lccsa.org.au/donations