

# Bethlehem House

SERVICES FOR  
THE HOMELESS

WE HAVE WORKED IN  
COLLABORATION WITH THE  
TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT  
TO BE ABLE TO INCREASE THE  
NUMBER OF MEN WE CAN  
ASSIST FROM 23 TO 50. WE  
ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS  
OF CONSOLIDATING THESE  
PLANS FURTHER TO INCREASE  
ACCOMMODATION TO 100 MEN.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022

[BETHLEHEMHOUSE.ORG.AU](https://bethlehemhouse.org.au)

Bethlehem House



St Vincent de Paul Society  
TASMANIA  
*good works*

# EXECUTIVE MANAGER REPORT

**“MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH BETHLEHEM HOUSE OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS AND I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR WORK. I LOOK FORWARD TO LEADING US INTO THE START OF THE NEXT 50 YEARS – A NEW BEGINNING AND AN EXCITING FUTURE.”**

- Ian Robertson, Executive Manager

**“BETHLEHEM HOUSE SAVED MY LIFE. I FIRST USED THE SERVICE AT BETHLEHEM HOUSE AT 17 YEARS OF AGE AND HAVE BEEN STAYING WITH THEM ON AND OFF THROUGHOUT MY LIFE, I'M NOW 63. THE STAFF HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR ME, THEY HAVE GIVEN ME THE CLOSEST THING I'VE HAD TO A HOME AND A FAMILY AND I APPRECIATE THAT VERY MUCH. WITHOUT BETHLEHEM HOUSE I'D PROBABLY BE DEAD OR IN PRISON.”**

- Resident – Bethlehem House.

This anniversary year – Bethlehem House’s 50th year of operation – has brought about more big changes. The first being the reintegration of Bethlehem House into the St Vincent de Paul fold. The transition happened under the guidance of the Society’s CEO, Lara Alexander, who has since moved onto a new role as an MP. I am looking forward to welcoming and working with the new CEO, Heather Kent. While the reintegration is not complete, and much work is yet to be done, the benefits of the new arrangement are already apparent.

We saw the closure of Hallam House, which has begun its redesign, and refurbishment back to transitional accommodation for men to assist with their reintegration plan.

We are in the process of consolidating plans for the New Bethlehem House in collaboration with the Tasmanian Government and are delighted to be able to increase the numbers of the men we can assist from 23 to 50. This will run alongside 272 Murray Street, a long-term shelter for homeless men which Bethlehem House manage on behalf of the Tasmanian Government. The construction of the New Bethlehem House is well underway with major advancements witnessed weekly. We also have exciting plans for the existing Bethlehem House site, which will be announced at a later date, and for a new Bethlehem House in the North of Tasmania.

The pandemic has not missed us with most, but not all staff, contracting the virus. We also battled a major outbreak amongst our residents. It was our diligence and good work that brought it under control, a fact recognised and praised by Public Health Tasmania. I am very proud of the way our team has managed all that has been asked of them over this period of time. Not just the recent changes but also many significant challenges.

We have seen several staff leave, and new ones join the staff. Further recruitment will take place as we restructure ready for the move in July 2023 to the New Bethlehem House. We will be joining current practices with new operational concepts, to include planning and reintegration, rehabilitation, and social works, whilst developing a strong innovative partnership approach with other agencies.

Many people have been involved with Bethlehem House over the last 50 years and I would like to acknowledge their work. I look forward to leading us into the start of the next 50 years – a new beginning and an exciting future.



EXECUTIVE MANAGER



## DONATIONS

**"THE SWEETEST DONATION SHOUT OUT,  
GOES TO QUEENS PASTRIES AND THEIR  
ASSOCIATED SHOPS, FOR ALL THE FINE  
GOODIES, WHICH THE RESIDENTS JUST LOVE"**

Every year we are lucky enough to be supported by some very generous donors. Whether it be a one-off donation or one of our many weekly donors, each donation will touch every resident in some way. Even in these hard times of the global pandemic, it must be said that the community of Hobart has been overwhelmingly supportive of our cause.

Our most benevolent donor of the year was the Hutchins School. These students did an amazing job organising several fundraising initiatives throughout 2021. Together, the school managed to raise a whopping \$26,500 for the men of Bethlehem House.

The power of social media has also brought out many a donor, bringing in many pairs of new shoes, canvases and mixed media for our Art Program, and model art kits for something to do on a rainy day.

If you would like to donate to Bethlehem House, please visit our website: [www.bethlehemhouse.org.au](http://www.bethlehemhouse.org.au)

# SUPPORTERS OF BETHLEHEM HOUSE



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY TASMANIA  
BETHLEHEM HOUSE ANNUAL REPORT 2022

We are grateful for the generosity and support of so many organisations, families, and individuals. Your kindness and compassion make so much difference to the lives of the residents at Bethlehem House. Thank you.

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Aquila Management Services                  | Lenah Valley Baptist Church       |
| Archaica Schola                             | Lindisfarne Rowing Club           |
| Bakers Delight                              | Loui's Van                        |
| Banjo's Bakery                              | McKillop College                  |
| Belle Parker Homes                          | Medhurst Kitchen Equipment        |
| Care Quilts                                 | Migrants Resource Centre          |
| Communications, Electrical & Plumbing Union | Mike Bragg                        |
| Choir of High Hopes                         | Northwest Bay Golf Club           |
| Circle of Life                              | Oatlands Multipurpose Centre      |
| City Wide Church                            | Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem |
| Claremont Makers Market                     | Paddy Pallin                      |
| Décor Earth                                 | Pilgrim Coffee                    |
| Domino's Pizza                              | Queens Patisserie                 |
| Farmers Gate Market                         | Redbank's                         |
| Frida's Sip 'n' Paint Hobart                | Ronald McDonald House             |
| Glenorchy Library                           | Running Edge                      |
| Knitting Group                              | Shannon's Insurance               |
| Greek Orthodox Church                       | Short of a Sheet                  |
| Guardian Pharmacy                           | St George Greek Orthodox Church   |
| Hamish Holl                                 | St Virgil School                  |
| Hobart City Council                         | Steel & Stone Butchery            |
| Hobart Clinic                               | The Chowk                         |
| Hobart Fire Brigade                         | The Hutchins School               |
| Hobart Petanque Club                        | The Rotary Club of North Hobart   |
| Hobart Women's Shelter                      | The Steel & Stone Butchery        |
| Knit 4 Charities                            |                                   |



## NEW BUILD

Building is underway for the New Bethlehem House site in Harrington Street, and we are beyond excited to see the progress in the coming months. The facility has been beautifully designed by Tim Penny Architecture and will consist of 24 crisis rooms, 18 transitional rooms and eight dedicated mental health rooms. The staff areas are designed to provide an environment that will allow us to collaborate as one team and to provide a more streamlined service to our residents. The New Bethlehem House will still offer all its current services in a more modern and efficient space. Building is in the capable hands of Fairbrother Pty Ltd and works are expected to be completed around July 2023.

## EMPLOYABILITY PROJECT

We have recently launched a new employability initiative for the men of Bethlehem House. This program is aimed at giving men the opportunity to improve their prospects of gaining meaningful employment.

This begins with offering help to build their resumes. As we all know the most difficult part of securing employment is having your resume considered in the first place. With the assistance of Jacquie from the Resume Writers, the men build a resume that will stand out in the pile.

Secondly, we have secured a training and employment opportunity with a local cleaning company. Those selected receive on-the-job training through sustained employment. As the program progresses, we are hoping to secure some more support from local businesses to offer training in other areas.

Our hope is to provide the residents with opportunities through inclusive employers who can see the value in employing people from diverse backgrounds.

By providing these opportunities to residents from Bethlehem House, we hope to see a reduction in recidivism and repeat homelessness. There is no shortage of evidence that housing paired with a stable income has a remarkable impact on the homeless and we look forward to seeing how this opportunity will impact our community where housing is a real and current issue.

**“BETHLEHEM HOUSE HAS PROVIDED ME WITH SUPPORT THAT HAS INCLUDED UNDERSTANDING, MINDFULNESS AND MANAGING ANXIETY. IT HAS GIVEN ME A WARM, SAFE AND COMFORTING ENVIRONMENT THAT HAS ENABLED ME TO RECONNECT TO COMMUNITY AND FAMILY. THE STAFF AT BETHLEHEM HOUSE ARE ALWAYS THERE WHEN YOU NEED THEM AND MORE OFTEN THAN NOT GO ABOVE AND BEYOND TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE GUYS.”**

- Resident – Bethlehem House.

# ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH HOBART GARDEN PROJECT



**"BETHLEHEM HOUSE FOR ME WAS A SAFE PLACE. IT WAS NICE TO HAVE HOT WATER, FOOD AND A BED. IN THAT TIME, MEETINGS FOR DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY HELPED ME SO MUCH. THEY MADE ME FEEL ACCEPTED RIGHT FROM THAT FIRST MEETING WITH THE CASE WORKERS. I FELT PART OF AN EXTENDED FAMILY"**

- Resident - Bethlehem House.



With the help of the Rotary Club of North Hobart our residents have been greening up our Living Pods. The garden concept has been created with careful consideration to next year's relocation to Harrington Street. The beautifully hand-made planter pots will be easy to transport and will allow us to have a fully established garden at our new home.



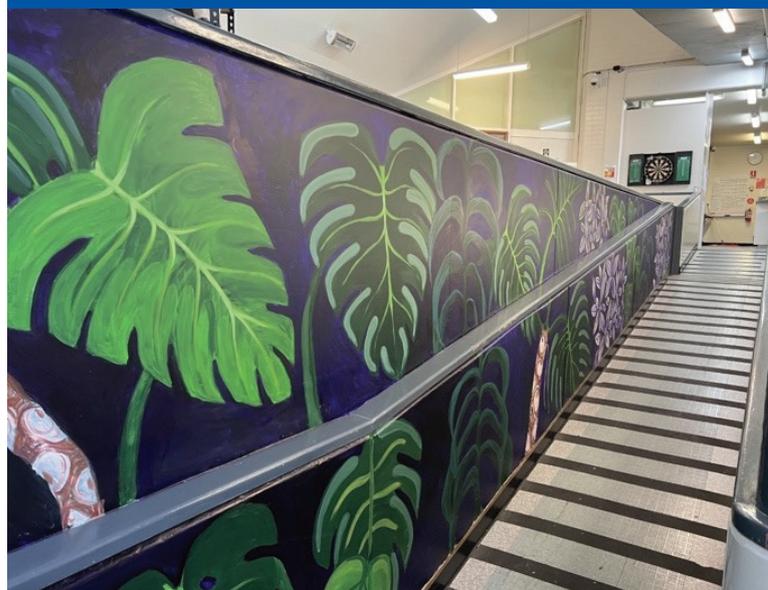
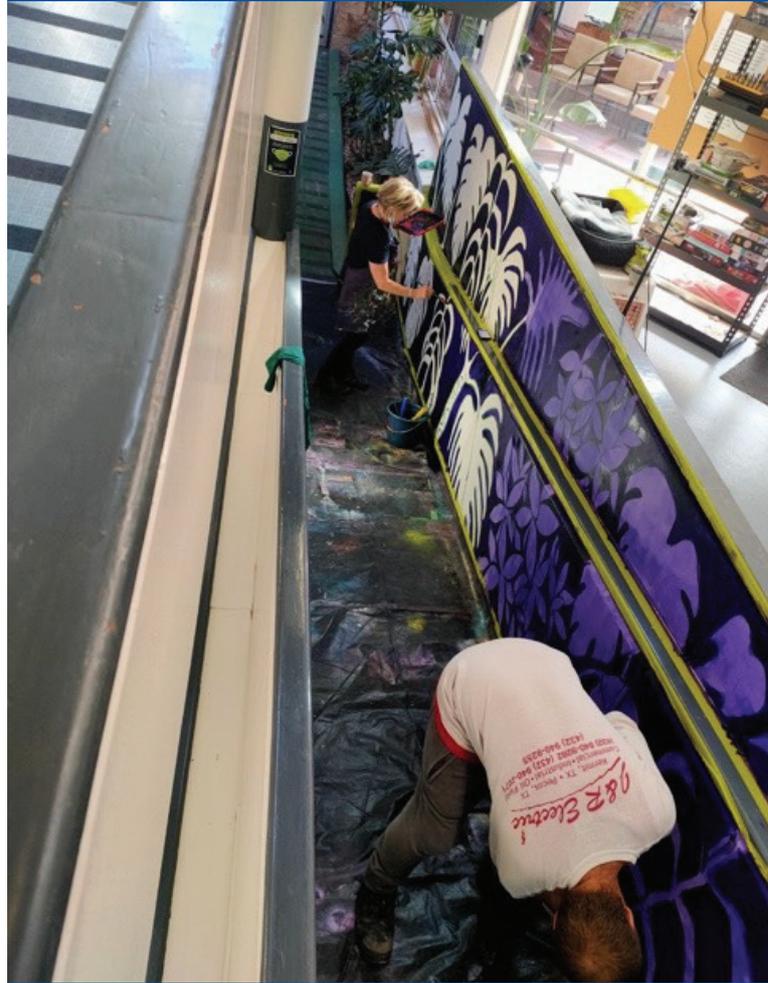
# KICKSTART ARTS/ BETHLEHEM HOUSE MURAL PROJECT

In May of this year, we were lucky enough to have been able to collaborate with Caroline Amos, a keen artist, and the Director of Kickstart Arts.

Caroline had been working closely with a resident by providing art therapy as part of The Freedom Project. This program is the first of its kind in Australia, which aims to support community members who are on parole, probation orders, or who have been sentenced for non-violent drug offences through the Court Mandated Diversion Program.

After some discussion, Caroline agreed to provide some outreach at Bethlehem House by collaborating with the residents to recreate our previously off-white walkway into a colourful landscape of painted foliage.

Through this connection, other residents have now begun attending Kickstart Arts; and they are working with Caroline on a regular basis.





MARK GAETANI  
STATE PRESIDENT  
ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (TAS)

## MESSAGE FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT

I am delighted to be given an opportunity to write about the works and successes of Bethlehem House during 2021-2022. Bethlehem House has continued to provide a varied range of services for homeless men or at risk of homelessness.

In August 2021 the governance, operations, and strategic direction of Bethlehem House became the responsibility of the St Vincent de Paul Society (Tas) Inc. Immediately following the completion of this process, the State Council confirmed the appointment of Mr Ian Robertson as Executive Manager of Bethlehem House.

The new home, situated in the old Waratah Hotel on Murray Street, has been in operation for the full 2021-2022 financial year. The home provides middle to long term crisis accommodation for men. The operation comprises 24 single-occupancy units over two floors of accommodation. In addition, there are two fully accessible units in the building.

Construction of Stage 2 of the Murray Street facility, the New Bethlehem House, commenced in June 2022. It is anticipated construction will be completed towards the end of 2023. Once completed, Bethlehem House operations in Warwick Street will relocate to Murray Street.

Early in 2022, State Council made the decision to cease its involvement in the supported independent living operation conducted at Hallam House. The three participants were successfully transferred to another NDIS provider and are all doing well.

Bethlehem House has always been a Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society (Tasmania). It was created by the members of the Society almost 50 years ago. As such, the works of the organisations will always carry the alignment with the values and the charism of the Society in Tasmania. It is a great desire of the St Vincent de Paul Society that Bethlehem House continues

to grow, flourish and delivers the very important mission its founders set almost 50 years ago.

The Society also recognises that none of this work would be possible without the commitment and dedication of the staff at Bethlehem House. A very big 'Thank you' to all our staff, supporters and donors who have been with us on this journey for half a century.

Thank you.

Mark Gaetani  
State President

### BETHLEHEM HOUSE SUPPORTED BY



**Bethlehem House**  
St Vincent de Paul Society  
TASMANIA  
*good works*



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