



You made this happen!

These past few months I've spoken to many supporters like you. I'm proud of the strength and commitment of our community.

The children of the Brigade have experienced enormous change since the COVID-19 pandemic began. You helped meet their needs during these tumultuous times.

With your support, we increased our Pantry program to deliver food directly to families when there were food shortages at supermarkets.

Our children received Vacation Care packs full of art and craft materials along with STEM kits and our staff worked hard to call parents and carers to see how they were doing.

After 10 long weeks, our team re-opened the doors of The Girls & Boys Brigade. Since then, we have been busier than ever. Our children and youth have loved returning to our after-school programs. I too have been delighted to witness laughter and excitement back in the Girls & Boys Brigade building.

I hope you enjoy the stories in this edition of our Newsletter. Because of you, it has been possible for us to respond to the ever-changing needs during the COVID-19 crisis.

Thank you!



Fun continues at Vacation Care

During Vacation Care the children spent a fun couple of hours decorating their own hula hoop and learning some fun new tricks with Spinjoy Hoop Dance. They discovered that some children could spin 3 hoops at once! And that the children are MUCH better at hula hooping than the staff.

The African Drumming workshop was so much fun and LOUD! The kids enjoyed creating rhythms together. Each person had a solo turn on the big bongo and attempted to recreate some songs we all know.

Everybody had such a great time!



Thanks to you

Youth dinners continued...online!

Bill Porter had to think outside the box when we had to temporarily close due to COVID-19. "Normally the youth and I would cook and enjoy a healthy meal together, spending time with friends, but how was I going to create this same experience online?" Bill said.

Bill carefully chose a tasty recipe and then went shopping for the ingredients to make recipe packs for each youth who wanted to participate.

Bill created a dedicated social media group and then uploaded a video of himself each week cooking the tasty dinner. He then individually delivered each recipe pack for the youth to cook and follow along with his video instructions.

Every Wednesday night Bill and the youth joined a Zoom call to share their meal together. "It was a great way to keep everyone connected," Bill said.

Trish, who normally attends the dinners said "video calling with friends every day was fun and I enjoyed the challenges Bill set for us."

"It was a great way to keep the youth engaged and learn some life skills by cooking some delicious meals," Bill shared.



"Volunteering is the best commitment I ever made"

Lily is busy running her own textile and soft furnishing business, but one of her favourite times of the week is Monday afternoons when she volunteers at The Girls & Boys Brigade.

"I love working with the kids and I enjoy watching their development and confidence levels grow," Lily said.

Lily volunteers in the homework room. She believes it's one of the best commitments she has ever made and would encourage anyone else thinking of volunteering to jump right in.





“The Brigade was life-changing for me.”

“A huge part of my childhood memories are the adventures I had with The Girls & Boys Brigade,” Sasha shared.

Sasha was five years old when she joined The Girls & Boys Brigade’s After School program. Sasha’s dad was terminally ill, and her mum was forced to raise and provide for Sasha alone. Sasha’s mum wanted a normal routine for her daughter.

“Having a safe space to relax was so valuable. Looking back, I realise how important it was to be around children who were living through similar experiences to me but also to have adults in my life who taught me that my future held endless opportunities,” Sasha shared.

Sasha has since lived, studied and travelled the world. Now 32 years old, and back in Sydney with her partner, she hopes to start her own family soon.

“I am truly thankful to have had The Girls & Boys Brigade, they were an invaluable part of shaping me into the person I am today,” she said.

Your incredible support is helping kids like Sasha get the valuable care they need to help shape their future.

In the month of May you helped deliver 255 hot dinners to families in our community.

Here are just a few thank yous we received.



"A big thank you for the delivery today. We were unable to leave the house due to illness. This helps so much!"

"Thank you! We appreciate everything we have received. You guys are our local heroes."

Thank you!



Annalise shares her grandfather's passion to leave a legacy.

Annalise Thomas is proud of her grandfather's legacy. The Boys Brigade (as it was known back then) was co-founded by Sir James Fairfax in 1882. It is, therefore, no surprise that kindness and compassion run in the family.

Today, Annalise supports The Girls & Boys Brigade with a regular monthly gift and has pledged to leave a legacy through a gift in her Will.

"I want to do what I can to help kids grow up with confidence and creativity. The Girls & Boys Brigade give kids opportunities to reach their potential. I am proud of my grandfather's legacy and want to make it my legacy too," she said.



See you on the green!

Meet you on the green at St Michael's Golf Course for The Girls & Boys Brigade's 7th Annual Golf Day on October 21st. It'll be a fantastic day out! (Government restrictions permitting).

Last year, our enthusiastic group of golfers raised close to \$80,000 for the children!

Save the Date



The Girls & Boys Brigade Annual Musical evening

Thursday 19th November

Internationally renowned Welsh classical music singer, Holly Holyoake, will entertain us. Held at the centre in Surry Hills, it will be an evening you won't want to miss.



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