



THE GIRLS & BOYS
BRIGADE

Stories from the GBB

SPRING EDITION 2021

**You helped us feed &
nourish our community.**
Thank you!

Thanks to incredibly caring supporters like you and some generous local businesses, we have been able to provide fresh takeaway dinners to our families during the lockdown period.

Every week our team delivers freshly cooked, gourmet meals to families who need a break, taking the stress out of cooking dinner for the night.



Fresh dinners being delivered by the team at Symbols of Hope.



Loving messages from supporters were sent with takeaways

It has been wonderful to share in a families' excitement when receiving a nourishing meal. The simple act of not having to cook for one night makes an incredible difference to their wellbeing.

Lockdown has continued to put pressure on our families and demand for support has increased.

It's because of you that families have been able to receive these wonderful meals each week that were all prepared with love!

A special mention to OzHarvest, Foodbank, Burrow Bar, Arthouse Kitchen, Symbols of Hope and Antidote Essentials who have also been instrumental in this wonderful initiative.

Thank YOU for providing a safe haven

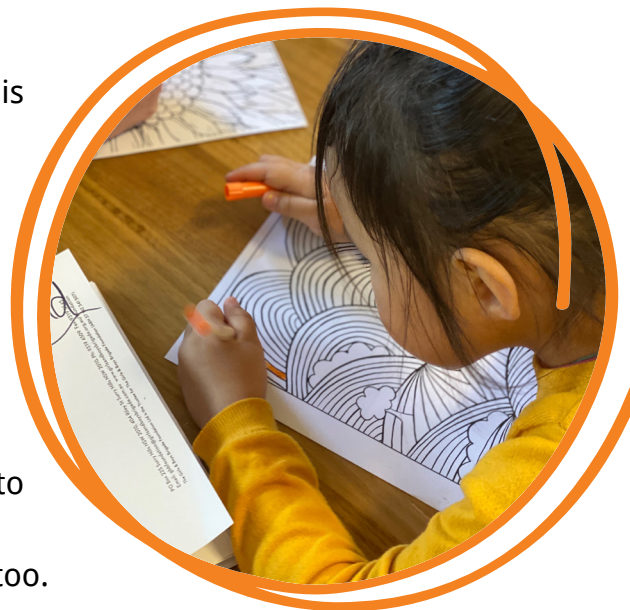
After overcoming 15 weeks of hard lockdown, I can't thank you enough for giving our children and youth a safe place to go in this challenging time.

The Girls & Boys Brigade has continued operating under the same restrictions as schools. This allowed us to stay open to children and youth who were identified as vulnerable and to assist parents who are essential workers.

These children and youth cherished the time they spent in the centre and with friends because many of them don't have the space or access to technology in their home to study and learn.

As we return to our 'new normal' way of living, we look forward to re-connecting with our children, youth and families.

We also look forward to seeing you and our greater GBB family too.



Thank you, as always, for ensuring we can stay committed to those who need us the most.

Stefan Lamour-Jansson
Executive Officer



During lockdown, you were there for our families every step of the way. Here are more than 1000 reasons we want to say thank you!

Provided & delivered
220 educational
supplies
including laptops,
books and learning
activities



Delivered
essential
family grocery packs

350



Connected with our
families through more than
supportive
phone calls

840



*"It's so nice to receive
the dinners at the end of
our week, they're such
good quality and I don't
have to cook!"*

Delivered

110

activity packs to
excited children
and youth



Delivered

870

takeaway meals
to families



*"The girls loved opening
their packs that had so many
things for them to do. It was
so nice to see them light up
like that! It was a break from
our routine, thank you so
much!"*

You kept the kids connected *Thank you!*

Because of your support our new online portal went live in time for the September school holidays.

The children have enjoyed fun activities and receiving resources for things to make at home.

They have even been sending in pictures of themselves at home to stay in touch with friends!

It's thanks to generous supporters like you, that our kids have had the simple pleasures of connecting with their friends during lockdown. It wouldn't have been possible without you!



Please read this letter from one of our youth studying for her HSC during lockdown. She got through it because of your support.

Dear Mr Stefan,

I wanted to say thank you to GBB and all their amazing supporters while I have been preparing for my HSC during this lockdown.

I don't know what I would have done without the Youth Program being there to support me through my HSC trials. I am so grateful that you connected me with a tutor to help me prepare for my final exams and keep me motivated to study.

Being stuck at home for this long has been hard. It's often difficult to communicate with teachers and at times I've felt disconnected and unsure of my work. But it was the friendly phone calls and encouraging emails I received from the GBB that reminded me to keep trying and not give up.

The Girls & Boys Brigade has been there for me right from the start, when I first entered Kindergarten and here I am now, about to finish my HSC. The love and support I have received has impacted my life forever and I'm excited for what lies ahead. Next year I am hoping to be accepted to NIDA and then audition for The Voice.

I have made some incredible friends at the Brigade over the years and have the amazing staff and volunteers to thank for being there to help support and encourage me throughout my schooling life.

Thank you again for everything.

Nurjhan

Nurjhan enjoying the Youth dinner nights before lockdown



Abbie was inspired to help others

"It feels like yesterday that we were doing summersaults on the mats and playing bullrush in the basement. I can't count how many times we got in trouble for running, but it never stopped us,"

said Abbie.

Abbie attended The Girls & Boys Brigade from 1992 to 1998 and recalls the countless good memories and great friends she made.



Abbie and Miles at the Brigade and now.

Abbie and her two siblings lived with her mum, who worked two jobs to provide for her family. Abbie described the Brigade as a safe place for her, away from all the chaos and drama at home.

Playing in the afternoons with other children her own age, going on excursions and camping trips were things that didn't happen for her at home. She felt connected and included at the Brigade.

Abbie's best friend at the Brigade was Melissa. They were inseparable. Now known as Miles, he and Abbie are still friends 28 years later.

After Abbie left the Brigade, she was inspired to help other children and families like her. She went on to study Community Services and has worked in child protection and now for the Department of Communities and Justice - Housing.

"I love my job and helping those in need. I see myself working for the community for the rest of my working life. I want to be able to help homeless youth living on the streets and women and children leaving domestic violence."

It's thanks to incredible supporters like you that Abbie and more children like her have been able to form incredible support networks and go on to help others.

Thank you!



We were overwhelmed by the support of loving donors like yourselves in our recent survey. Here's just a few of the lovely things you had to say:



Our company has a corporate social responsibility commitment. GBB was selected because it was a local inner-Sydney, long established organisation with an amazing reputation. Helping children in Sydney locally is at the core of this strategy.

We received so much love and support from The Girls & Boys Brigade, so it's time for us to give back.

I like the fact The Girls & Boys is a fairly small organisation. That brings the benefits of personal service and hands on commitment.

I want to support people in our community that need a little extra help.



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