

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

A big thanks to you all for the positive response to our first Vantage Community Services Newsletter. This has been an exciting six weeks, building into the lives of people within our local community and preparing for future growth and expansion.

Great news is that new people are being added to the team here at Vantage, particularly in the Charity Computers department. This program is seeing many people given opportunities to access the internet as well as develop basic computer skills and confidence, which will assist them in obtaining jobs and building life skills to better equip them for the future.

I would like to extend an invitation to everyone for our upcoming Corporate Charity Dinner to be held at The Waterview Convention Centre in Bicentennial Park at Home Bush on Saturday Oct 15th at 7pm. Dress code is black tie and we recommend that you purchase tickets for a table of ten so you will be able to network with others. We will be presenting Vantage Community Services to you in detail and the night will offer great opportunities to partner together in "building our community". For bookings and further information please contact Celeste at Vantage on 0425 275 223 or email bugalugs@idx.com.au.

A huge thanks to all the team from Vantage for an awesome effort over the past months, going above and beyond. Thanks for partnering with us as we continue "building our community".

Yours faithfully,
Mike Meyer
DIRECTOR



what can *what can a breakfast club do?*

Sunga & wife Aruna visited our breakfast club feeling confused & struggling to come to terms with their new home - Australia. They are migrants with a young son in his late teens. Sunga left a well paid job in India to venture into a new country. As new migrants they faced various challenges like no financial support, jobless, frustration and despair.

They came to the breakfast club and received love, support, prayers, direction, confidence and hope. That started them off! Sunga had many casual jobs like pick & pack, process work. Then he started a job on a more permanent basis in a bank. Now he has a permanent job as a train guard for Railcorp. His wife, Aruna, attended a training course and is now an assistant in a nursing home.

Our breakfast clubs encourage and assist the unemployed into jobs and training.

WORK for the *dole*

Sam El Droubi is a Work-for-the-dole participant and he had this to say about Vantage Community Services:

"Since starting at Vantage, I have learned a lot. My communication skills have significantly improved and I am gaining insight into the aspects of teamwork. Vantage has helped me with interpersonal skills, relating to both supervisors and other participants as well as training me in the use and

repairs of computer hardware and peripherals. I now have more confidence within myself when looking for potential employment and the skills that are needed in the IT industry. Most places require computer knowledge as a prerequisite. I have that knowledge now".

On 18th August, Vantage held a graduation for Work-for-the-Dole participants who had completed their time with us and around 40 people attended. The outing was a resounding success and everyone involved enjoyed a BBQ and outdoor sports, including cricket and touch football. This was followed by the graduation ceremony where participants were given certificates and a reference letter commending them for their dedication and commitment to Vantage Community Services.

Hi and thank you
for taking the time out to read
about **Charity Computers**.

Charity Computers aims to provide computer resources to people in the most disadvantaged sectors of the community who would have no other way of accessing this great opportunity. Our clients include students, seniors, non-profit organisations, low income families and others who have a concession card.

I received a phone call a few weeks ago from one of our clients. She is a pensioner who needed a computer to keep in contact with relatives overseas. She informed me that her email is working because she had sent an email to her sister overseas and had received a reply message. She wanted to thank us for making it possible for her to do that through the use of the computers.

Please keep sending your unsold, out of use computers because there is sure to be people who need them.

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY



ANTAGE
COMMUNITY SERVICES

welfare
DEPARTMENT

Christians
against poverty

Elsie, a 72 year old widow, called me for urgent financial guidance in April 05. She said she had a major secondary debt with a main bank. She said she was still coming to grips with the death of her husband and one of her daughters.

Due to all of this worry, Elsie suffering from acute anxiety and was not able to sleep most nights. She was suffering from heart palpitations & headaches and she was totally 'stressed out'.

I visited Elsie with one of my support workers and set up a budget account for her. We also gave her assurance through our prayers and love. Elsie told us that, after our visit, she felt like a ton of bricks had been taken off her shoulders. She honoured the budget and so CAP was able to pay her phone and electricity bills.

Then came the big miracle. In June '05 cap helped Elsie to write a letter to the bank, stating her financial plight, asking for grace and favour. Wow!! They wrote back and agreed to waive the entire debt of over \$9000. Elsie has become a grateful CAP client and is now telling her other elderly friends about the great work CAP does.

Welfare Department works with individuals, families, groups and communities in order to improve quality of life by empowering, educating and supporting people and by helping them to change their social environment.

Recently a 35 year old woman with 2 children (5 years and 11 months old) was running her life with some difficulties because her husband left her along with the children and lots of bill to pay. Also her father had a heart attack and she had to travel to Queensland to see him. When she came back to her house she found a letter of eviction from the Real Estate Agent and also a disconnection letter from the Gas company.

Due to this situation she came to Vantage Community Services to get some help. After assessing her situation, we were able to pay the gas bill, \$200 to reduce her rent arrears. We helped her to pay her outstanding accounts with her own money and assisted her on two occasions with food.

EMERGENCY RELIEF: Is funding provided by the Federal and State Governments to provide relief to those in financial crisis. Vantage Community Services' assistance is provided in the form of food vouchers, payment for medicines and, in some cases, advocacy regarding re-payments on

existing debts. Payment of electricity accounts is facilitated through EAPA vouchers and by starting a direct debit for Centrelink payments through Centrepay. Clients are assessed on their income and current circumstances.

FOOD CARE: Vantage Community Services cares for the disadvantaged and low income members of our community. We provide emergency food vouchers or parcels to individuals and families in times of hardship. People can buy a food hamper box valued at \$60.00 for only \$20.00. Food Share program focuses on self-esteem and self-respect, helping people to help themselves. This encourages people to participate in the program and gives them a sense of achievement.

RECYCLED FASHION: We provide the community with quality fashion wear at a greatly reduced price. A huge range of items is available, with new stock arriving regularly. All items are quality checked and prepared for sale by our team of committed staff. Our aim is to make all our items accessible to as many people as possible via our pricing structure.

SUPERMARKET: The plans for the new store are in the final stage of Council requirements. As soon as we have council approval we will be starting the shop renovation and would like to see you there.



DAVIDSON
REAL ESTATE



I would like to make a monthly contribution by Automatic Payment at the following level:

Amount per month \$ _____ Or I would like to give a one-off amount of \$ _____

* DONATIONS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Card Type: Visa Bankcard Mastercard Amex

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: ____/____

Cardholder's Name: _____ Signature: _____

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Contact Phone: (during office hours): _____

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