



**YOU'RE
GIVING
YOUNG
PEOPLE
FACING
FAMILY
VIOLENCE
A VOICE**

With your help, MCM are finding new ways to give young survivors the support they deserve.

Young people are sometimes known as the 'silent victims' of family violence. That's because there are no specific services just for young people experiencing family violence. As a result, thousands of them are falling through the cracks and becoming homeless.

You're helping change that.

With your support, MCM has launched an advocacy campaign called 'Amplify' to make sure young people who've experienced family violence have their voices heard.

The campaign is backed by an in-depth report, which was guided by the insights of young people with lived experience. It explains why change must happen, now. And includes a 20-point plan to show the sector, government, and social service providers how they change the system, and deliver the support young people deserve.

You can find out more on our Facebook and Instagram. And if you'd like to read the full report, just [CLICK HERE](#).

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch an insightful video about youth homelessness.



A HEARTFELT MESSAGE FROM VICKI...

All of us in Victoria have had our lives turned upside down by COVID. But for many young people, the pandemic meant they faced increased violence at home, and had no choice but to start couch surfing or sleeping rough.

Through all the lockdowns and upheaval, your generous support to MCM has given thousands of them hope.

Over the last six months, you've helped raise much-needed funds for Victorians experiencing homelessness, and helped move dozens of young people off the streets and into safety.

Those are just some of the ways you make a lifesaving difference. I hope you enjoy reading about more of them here, in your latest newsletter.

Thank you for your kindness and care.

Vicki Sutton
CEO

We can't say it enough... **THANK YOU!**

When we asked for your help to support families facing homelessness last Christmas, you truly delivered.

Generous people like you raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the MCM Christmas Appeal, which was used to provide food, presents and support to families who needed it most.



Christmas can be an especially tough time for families experiencing homelessness. Thanks to your donations, kids had a gift to unwrap on Christmas morning, and parents received grocery vouchers and hampers so they could prepare a delicious meal – and make the day feel special.

Your support also helped make sure families had a safe place to stay over Christmas and beyond, and you're helping give them the support they need to get their lives back on track.

Nicole is just one of the people you helped. She lost her job during the pandemic, and started couch surfing with her two young daughters. She was dreading Christmas, but your support helped find Nicole a home, provided gifts for her girls – and gave the family a reason to celebrate.

WELCOME HOME!



Thanks to you, 38 young people have a safe place to call home since MCM's West Refuge opened its doors in July.

Last year, MCM's newest refuge officially began in welcoming in young people experiencing homelessness.

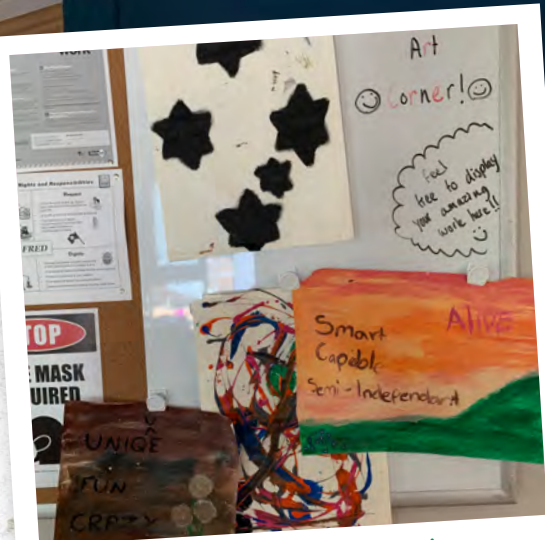
The young people and the Youth Refuge team have already been busy transforming the refuge with their own personal touches. They've created welcoming spaces to rest and hang out in, and have even planted a herb garden.

***"Thank you!
We can now support more young people than ever before!"***

- The West Refuge Team

But West Refuge is so much more than a safe, comfortable place to stay. Your support means it's also where young people can find a pathway out of homelessness, and change their lives forever.

Since July last year, ten young people have transitioned to longer-term accommodation and four have begun studying. None of that would have been possible without you!



Every home needs some art. The young people have made it themselves!



Young mums and their bubs have plenty of places to relax - and can even try their hand at gardening.

WHEN CAMERON MET Rainer

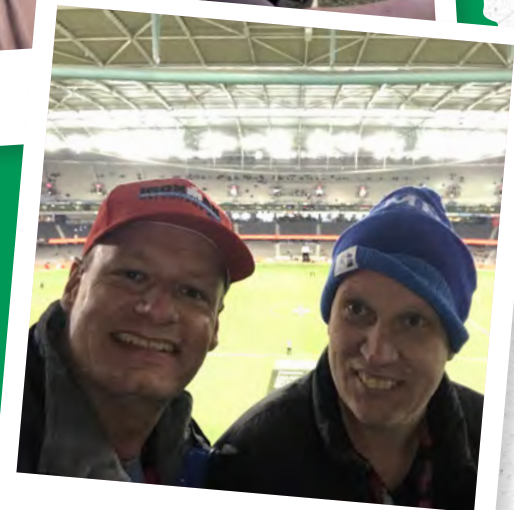
For these two, volunteering for MCM led to a lifelong friendship.

Rainer has always been passionate about volunteering and wanted to do more. So when he discovered the MCM Community Friend Program, he signed up right away.

Rainer met with the MCM team, and they introduced him with Cameron, who lives with a disability. It was a perfect match. They both love gardening and swimming, have regular dinner and movie nights, and are regulars at the footy.

"He's become part of my family. We both feel very included in each other's lives," said Rainer.

To find out more about the Community Friend Program - or sign up as a volunteer yourself - just [CLICK HERE](#).



Friends for life!



STAND TALL. WALK PROUD.

MCM volunteers take to the streets in a Walk Against Family Violence.

If you happened to stroll through North Fitzroy in Melbourne last November, you might have spotted a group of very *orange* people.

They were MCM staff and supporters, who dressed in bright colours to take part in the 2021 Walk Against Family Violence. The event was about getting active, showing solidarity with survivors and sending a powerful message that violence is never OK.

It also gave caring, like-minded people a chance to meet each other after the lockdowns (in socially-distanced safety) and show their support for a cause that's become even more important during COVID.

Here's a huge thank you to everyone who turned out!



CARE THAT COMES HOME

The app that's making palliative care safer, easier and kinder.

When someone has a serious chronic illness, they'll often need to take frequent trips to the hospital.

A new app, created with help from MCM, is bringing expert care to them instead. After downloading PalCare Home to their phone, patients can keep a daily log of their symptoms and share it with healthcare professionals instantly.

If they need help or medical advice, a specialist or doctor will get in touch directly - and save them a visit to the emergency department.



"Thank you! PalCare Home has made all the difference for me and my mum."

- Jenny, whose mum is being looked after by MCM Palliative Care.

A day in the life of AN MCM SUPPORT COORDINATOR

Rebecca Brown takes you behind-the-scenes of this lifechanging service.

"I'm an MCM Support Coordinator covering Bendigo and rural western Victoria. My job is to support some of the most vulnerable people in the community, and connect them to the right services so they can reach their goals.

I'm currently responsible for supporting 23 people. They range in age from 12 to 64, and each one has a unique and complex set of needs.

A typical day involves meeting with participants, talking about the services they'd like to access, and following up on the progress they've made already.

One day I could be helping someone get a mobility aid so they can leave the house on their own. The next I might be helping them enrol in an art class. It's always different!"

"I love seeing my participants reach their goals and their independence, which then allows them to participate in their community."





Thank You!

A huge THANK YOU from the graduating class of 2021.

Each year, your support helps young people experiencing homelessness continue their studies – and follow their dreams – at the Hester Hornbrook Academy.

Recently, the class of 2021 celebrated their graduation at the State Library in Melbourne.

11 students took home their diplomas, and dozens more received awards for their perseverance, growth and success.

For everyone at the Hester Hornbrook Academy, studying during the pandemic created its own challenges. But thanks to you, MCM's Living Learning program never stopped, and students received additional mental health support to help them through the year.

**YOU CAN
BE PART OF
SOMETHING BIG**

Join the MCM Circle of Friends, and you'll help change the lives of people facing homelessness – for generations to come.

The MCM Circle of Friends is a wonderful community of people who've made the generous decision to include MCM in their Will.

Although the pandemic stopped us from meeting in person, we look forward to seeing all our lovely Circle of Friends members at upcoming events in 2022.

If you'd like to find out more about leaving a gift to MCM in your Will, and joining this truly special community, our friendly fundraising team would love to hear from you. Just email us on fundraising@mcm.org.au or call **1300 364 507**.



**Thank you for keeping our communities strong,
and helping Victorians when they need it most.**

To help more Victorians overcome their challenges and live good lives, donate online at mcm.org.au/makeanimpact or call **1300 364 507**