

Southern Peninsula Community Support



Supporting marginalised individuals and families experiencing disadvantage within our community.

Newsletter No. 1

You're the reason people doing it tough can survive today and thrive tomorrow

Since 1980, Southern Peninsula Community Support has provided crisis support, emergency relief, financial aid, fresh food packages and much more to the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community. **What does that mean?** It means keeping food on the table, it means keeping a roof over people's heads, it means supporting them through the hardest times of their lives and, no matter why they need help, being here for them.

We cannot provide the help we do without YOU.

We cover 242 square kms of the Southern Peninsula, and it's through the compassion and generosity of the local community (that's YOU!) that we've been able to provide assistance and care for people in need for 40 years.

Last year created unprecedented challenges and hardship for so many in our wonderful community. Many, including family, friends and neighbours, have had to seek practical support from Southern Peninsula Community Support for the very first time.

Together, we make a difference.

Although it's been challenging, our community has come together to ensure those doing it tough receive the support they need.

Individuals, families, businesses, local government and philanthropic organisations all showed their support in so many different ways. While some gave financial contributions, others volunteered their time or provided food and goods.

When people are experiencing personal or financial hardship, when they need a friendly ear to listen to them, or when they just simply need a hand, we're able to be there for them because of our caring community.

YOU are the reason we can help individuals and families who have no one else to turn to.

YOU AND 40 YEARS OF COMPASSION, COMMITMENT AND CARE

No other organisation is able to do what we do in the way that we do it, because of YOU.

We are unique, because of YOU.

We do not turn away anyone who needs our help, because of YOU.

For 40 years, Southern Peninsula Community Support has proudly served the local community, helping the marginalised, vulnerable and homeless.

So often we see people in genuine despair and, almost always, we are able to send them back into the community smiling and with the confidence to keep going.

Our non-judgmental culture of respect for all is something we hold dear to our hearts. I am so proud of all of our staff and volunteers in the way they honour it.

Sadly, COVID-19 has had a devastating social and economic impact on so many from our community. Its impact means demand for our services will be even greater.

Families, neighbours, friends and local businesses have all been terribly impacted. With the reduction and end of JobKeeper and JobSeeker along with the

removal of rental moratoriums and mortgage relief, our community is bracing for more pain and hurt.

Although many are hurting, there are many others in our local community who have shown their wonderful generosity.

From students who raised funds through their school community, to local businesses and organisations providing grants, to families and individuals who are giving and doing what they can. And our staff and volunteers, who continue to be the lifeblood of our organisation - the support they are giving vulnerable people during this crisis is extraordinary.

For 40 years, each and every one of you has made a real difference in the lives of those needing practical help. Thank you.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeremy Maxwell".

Jeremy Maxwell
CEO

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

TOP 5 Assistance given in 2020

1. Food parcels and food vouchers
2. Material goods
3. Utility expenses assistance
4. Education support
5. Transport expenses assistance



"You are all amazing, compassionate people. Our community would be lost without you all."

THE EXTRAORDINARY SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY IN 2020

Our community has been extraordinary in its support of the most vulnerable and marginalised. Over 40 years individuals, families, business, government, the local Shire and philanthropic organisations have demonstrated their generosity, helping us to become a trusted, dynamic and vital service for the local community.

We thank you for being a partner in our mission to ensure that anyone experiencing hardship or disadvantage receives the support they need. Here's a snapshot of your generosity.

Reaching out to the homeless



Our deepest gratitude goes to Rye, Dromana and Rosebud Community Bank branches of Bendigo Bank and Mornington Peninsula Foundation for their outstanding support over many years. Their understanding of the complexity of homelessness in our community has resulted in a generous grant enabling us to fund an Assertive Outreach Worker, Kara (right), in our Southern Peninsula Homeless Connections program. Kara is reaching out to people who are homeless and who have fallen through the gaps many times.

Giving is a family thing

During the year we were visited by a local family. Kate (mum) wanted to teach her daughters, Sophie and Charlotte, about saving and giving. We were the lucky recipients of this wonderful lesson. They let us share their photos and have inspired other families to do something similar.



Hygiene packs for the homeless

Living rough can rob people of their sense of dignity and self-care. Our wonderful supporters, such as Donation Chain Inc and many others, make sure our SPLaSh project always has a great supply of hygiene packs for those who are homeless. We love what they all do.

Without supplies it would be a bigger emergency



So many people have come to our aid. From The Ross Trust and Equity Trustees asking "what do you need", to food recovery organisations such as Second Bite and Oz Harvest going the extra mile, and Southern Peninsula Food for All giving us dry goods.

We particularly acknowledge the Southern Peninsula Community Fund who have supported us since the 1980s. Despite their Rye Op Shop being closed for most of COVID, they continued their support of both the SPLaSh and Emergency Relief programs.

The students of St Joseph's Primary School (Sorrento) "Kick[ed] in a Can" gathering a huge haul of canned foods. Staff at the local Community Bank branches have been collecting cans all year long, while the different service clubs, community groups and church congregations also jumped in to help. **We have a special place in our hearts for the families and individuals who keep rocking up with bags of food.**

There are so many people and organisations across the Southern Peninsula that we would have loved to list here. We want each and everyone of you to know how truly AWESOME you are and how much of a real difference you make to those we help. We can't do our work without you. THANK YOU!

“OUR DOORS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE...”

Miranda Gillespie, Program Co-ordinator at Southern Peninsula Community Support, is at the frontline of providing practical support and care to the most vulnerable in our community.

“People who come to us are in crisis,” she says. “Our doors are open to anyone. We’re the safety net for the peninsula and we wrap our support around their need. We show them that we can share their load and help them solve their issues.”

“We are often their place of last resort. We focus on helping our clients feel safe, trusted and when they’re ready to make change, we’re there so they feel supported,” says Miranda.

In 2020 Southern Peninsula Community Support its doors to more than 1,600 clients, many of them families with children.

“There was a single mum with two children. She was unable to afford the rent. One night she told her kids that they were leaving the keys in the door and weren’t coming back, that the car would be their new home,” she says.

We are a safety net that catches the people who fall through the gaps. You can show your support for them and for every person in our local community who is doing it tough. Visit www.spcsic.org to donate today.



“She told me about daily life rituals that became hard – like brushing your teeth or going to the toilet when you’re living in a car. Things we wouldn’t think about as we have homes to go to.”

Sometimes we are that one moment that can save a life

“One time a young man came to the office. He was homeless and had recently been in a car accident. Even though it was not his fault, he was on the verge of losing everything – his car, his chance at a job and his only hope of a future. How could he get work now? We sat with

him and by that morning had organised for his car to be repaired, using our Start Up Money program. When he returned the next week, he had a job and he was over the moon! He looked so changed, so healthy and happy, it was incredible!”

That practical support and warm care Miranda provided was life-saving. The young man later confided he had lost all hope. The car accident had been the last straw.

“Always first-class service. Warm and welcoming team. Always make you feel like a friend rather than a client. Always going above and beyond to help. Thank you so much for all that you do.”

WONDERFUL FRIENDS HELPING THOSE DOING IT TOUGH

It’s such a thrill to see people from all walks of life come with bags of food and goods. Connie and Craig (right) are two wonderful friends of Southern Peninsula Community Support who dropped by late last year and asked:

“What do you need? We’ll go buy it now!”

And that’s exactly what they did.

They took our list of items needed for our pantry and went shopping at the local supermarkets. A short while later they arrived back at Southern Peninsula Community Support with bags and bags of food and essential goods that were then provided to local individuals and families doing it tough.

Connie and Craig – to all of us you are a pair of legends. Thank you so very much for your most wonderful and compassionate support.

You too can contribute goods for our pantry. Contact us on 03 5986 1285, email admin@spcsic.org or follow us on [Facebook.com/SPCSIC](https://www.facebook.com/SPCSIC) to find out what is needed right now.



ACROSS 242 SQUARE KMS OF THE SOUTHERN PENINSULA WE ARE HERE TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

Since 1980 Southern Peninsula Community Support has been at the forefront of providing practical support and care to the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community. Every year, and in particular last year, there has been a substantial increase in demand for help.

Crisis Support and Emergency Relief

Providing information, referral and practical assistance in the form of material aid and emergency relief to Southern Peninsula residents who are experiencing financial hardship and a crisis or emergency event. Relief may include pantry items, fresh fruit and vegetables, frozen meals, food vouchers, transportation and utilities assistance, medical needs and other financial aid.

Low Income Support Service (LISS)

Working with clients in more extreme hardship and with more complex situations, LISS works within a case management model and is designed to assist people to identify and address the issues they are struggling with. LISS is the major user of our Start Up Money program (SUM) which was created to provide one-off financial assistance to people experiencing a hardship event - the aim being that through targeted assistance, a person would be able to get back on track and maintain their ongoing financial situation. SUM is funded largely by the Toni Kaye Foundation.

Family Support Service (FSS)

Similar to LISS, with a focus on families with children to address issues impacting their day-to-day lives, our FSS Worker can help with everything from income and entitlements assessment, household bills, budgeting, advocacy and negotiation, education and school issues, to getting connected to specialist support services, or with a specific identified need.

Southern Peninsula Laundry and Shower Program (SPLaSh)

Available to community members who are sleeping rough or in unstable housing, this service offers access to showers and laundry services. It provides specially designed food packs for those who don't have cooking or refrigeration and most of all it provides a connection to peers and a caring group of workers. No matter how participants fare with any other services, they are always welcomed at SPLaSh. The program has been so successful that it's the best way many other agencies can engage with those who attend.

Fresh Food & Pantry Basics Programs

We partner with food recovery agencies SecondBite, FareShare, Foodbank, Oz Harvest and Southern Peninsula Food for All. They provide the core of our food programs while locals supplement our stocks (some weeks supplying all of it). During COVID when individual donations couldn't be taken, many people helped out with cash donations allowing us to top up our stocks through local businesses.

Needle and Syringe Program

A major public health initiative to minimise the spread of blood borne viruses, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B and C among injecting drug users and to the wider community. We also offer education in a friendly environment, engaging with people who are often very isolated.

Financial Help

Through the Tax Help program we assist with tax returns for simple tax affairs and we also provide no interest loans, with no fees and no charges, through the No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS).

Southern Peninsula Homeless Connections

Our newest program is designed to work with some of the most marginalised of all, rough sleepers and those in unstable housing. It has a particular focus on working with people who no longer connect with the conventional housing services and are largely fending for themselves.



A huge thank you to everyone at Bunnings Rosebud. Last year they won their 'Challenge Accepted' competition for the state and as a result donated \$7,000 to us! You are all AWESOME!

SPOTLIGHT ON... OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

Our dedicated team of volunteers are people from the local area. They have great knowledge and understanding of their community bringing their time, skills and most of all a wonderful commitment to make a difference. In fact, our volunteers help us to deliver the majority of our services.

Trish is one of our most passionate volunteers. Here's why.

Trish left home when she was just 13 years old. She never forgot what it was like to sleep rough and now volunteers her time to help people in desperate need of food, guidance and support.

"I slept for 3 nights in Wombwell Park. To this day I'm still scared of the dark," says Trish. "My schoolteacher noticed I looked unusually dirty and dishevelled. I was then sent to a remand home and was brought before the court on an 'in need of care and protection order'. I then began an 18-month stint at a Salvation Army home."

"This was the best thing that could've happened to me. It helped me stay at school for a little longer. At 16 I got a job at a factory, found a bedsit and began to study at night school."

Two kind-hearted librarians helped Trish hold down a job in their library. She's never forgotten this kindness. "Sometimes people just need a hand," she says.



Some of our wonderful volunteers, (left to right) Lou, Trish and David.

"If everyone was kind to one another, we'd all be so much better off."

With homelessness and poverty growing at an alarming rate on the Mornington Peninsula, Trish is kept very busy. "So many are at rock bottom when they arrive here. They're embarrassed. Coming for help is often very difficult, especially for some men. I tell them what they're going through is tough but walking through our doors takes courage. They're here and we can help."

Help takes many forms at Southern Peninsula Community Support, including emergency food relief, crisis support, and advocacy.

Interviews form part of a client's first contact and Trish is at the frontline. "The most important thing we can do is be non-judgemental and allow these people to tell their story. Being able to just talk can help them feel better and realise that somebody cares about them," says Trish.

Having been on the receiving end of help that turned her own life around, Trish firmly believes that sometimes it's a little kindness and practical help that can make a serendipitous difference to someone's life. "It's not a handout, it's a hand up."

Although there is a waiting list to become a Volunteer, please visit [spscic.org/volunteering](https://www.spscic.org/volunteering) to learn more.



Judy, Steve and Alison were ready to help those doing it tough during the lockdowns.

"You are all wonderful volunteers. Thanks for being there for the community."

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

If you, a family member, a friend, or a neighbour are experiencing financial or personal difficulties please let us know. Email admin@spsic.org or call us on 03 5986 1285.

We provide free, confidential and independent support in a welcoming and non-judgmental environment. And we can provide you or those you know who are struggling with food parcels, fresh food or food vouchers; material aid including personal hygiene, bedding & towels, tents, swags, pet food, baby bundles; assistance with pharmacy, technology, travel, utility and education costs; connections to specialist services and government support; and so much more.

YOU CAN BE THE DIFFERENCE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Southern Peninsula Community Support relies on the compassion and generosity of people across our whole community. This includes government, local Shire, business, community groups and individuals giving what they can to help ease the pain for those who are struggling.

Whether you choose to give some food, volunteer or make a financial gift you will be helping a local friend, family member or neighbour.

To learn more visit www.spsic.org or call 03 5986 1285.

To donate online go to:
support-your-community-appeal.raisely.com



Our community is amazing! We can't help those in need without your caring support.

One such wonderful person is River who emptied her Giving Jar and bought as many groceries as she could.

Thank you River and all our wonderful supporters.

Yes, I'm here to help those in my community who are struggling and doing it tough! I want them to know I care.

Name _____
Title First Name Surname

Address _____

Suburb _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

Please accept my tax-deductible donation of:

\$15 \$20 \$35 \$50 My choice _____

I would like to donate \$ _____ monthly.

I authorise Southern Peninsula Community Support to make automatic monthly deductions from my credit card (details as below) until further notice.

Payment details

My cheque / money order is enclosed (payable to Southern Peninsula Community Support)

OR please debit my: VISA MasterCard AMEX

Card number _____

Name on card _____

Expiry date ____ / ____

Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Donate online at:
support-your-community-appeal.raisely.com

I would like to find out more about:

Leaving a gift in my Will to the Southern Peninsula Community Support **OR**

I have already included the Southern Peninsula Community Support in my Will



Southern Peninsula Community Support
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YOU CAN CHANGE THE LIVES OF THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR TODAY.

When you choose to become a monthly donor, you will be doing so much more for the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community.

For as little as \$9 a month (that's just 30 cents a day) you can help provide:

- Fresh food or a pantry basics pack so vulnerable people can eat nutritious food
- Material aid such as personal hygiene kits, linen, tents, pet food, baby bundles
- Complex case management that provides intensive support to stabilise people's circumstances.
- Our SPLaSh program with the financial resources to run all year
- Our Homeless Connections program with brokerage to cover start over costs when housing people who are homeless.

You'll change the life of a person or family who's doing it tough in our community. Join today. Complete the donation form on the reverse side and mail it back to:

Monthly Giving

Southern Peninsula Community Support
PO Box 91
ROSEBUD VIC 3939

You can also email admin@spsic.org or call 03 5986 1285.

"Thank you so much Southern Peninsula Community Support. You've helped me out with food and clothing. Today you've helped me with a bike so I can get to job interviews!!! 😊"

