



*Volunteer Profile*

**GORMAN HOUSE DETOXIFICATION UNIT**

Since 2005, through a partnership with St Vincent's Hospital, the NSW branch of the Order of Malta, has been supporting Gorman House in Sydney. If it were not for the NSW Branch's financial assistance Gorman House would have been unable to continue functioning 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The branch also organises volunteers for the BBQs that are held three times a week to socialise with residents. Volunteer Sarah L'Huillier shares her experiences.

*Gorman House is a 20-bed, non-medical residential detoxification unit at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney. It provides a safe and supportive environment for some of Sydney's most needy and marginalised people to withdraw from alcohol and drugs. It is a short-term detoxification program, provided free of charge with the general length of stay being 5 days.*

*I became a volunteer at Gorman House when I moved from Melbourne to Sydney. My father, Leon, is a member of The Order in Melbourne and suggested that I might like to help with the volunteer program at Gorman House. I am often rostered with various members of The Order and their families, especially the Kirby family.*

*The BBQs provide a social atmosphere that allows the residents to relax. There are always residents, particularly men, who are keen to cook the BBQ. Friendly debates often take place around*



*the BBQ as to the best way to cook the perfect steak and sausage. I am happy to say that I am now becoming somewhat of an expert after hearing all their advice!*

*Undoubtedly the opportunity to provide practical support to Sydney's needy and disadvantaged is the most rewarding part of volunteering at Gorman House. Despite their hardships, and often feeling very unwell due to their withdrawal symptoms, the residents are always keen to chat particularly about various codes of football, their children or happier times in their lives. They love to share stories, laugh and tell of their plans for life after rehabilitation.*

*The residents at Gorman House are a diverse, multicultural group of people from all walks of life and family backgrounds. Male and female, young and old, married and single, skilled and unskilled, professionals, unemployed, and often homeless. Addiction does not discriminate.*

*Despite their varied backgrounds all the residents have the same goal to be free from their addiction which in many cases has become a life long struggle. It is not uncommon to see the same people on different occasions at Gorman House. It is on one hand lovely to see them again, to know that they have a place that they can return to, but it is also a sad reminder that they are still battling their addiction.*

*The staff at Gorman House, led by Charlie Lay, are inspiring, passionate and committed to helping the residents who often comment on how supportive and wonderful the staff are. They know that*



*this is a place they can return to when they really need help.*

*I have met some wonderful, dedicated people through volunteering with members of The Order of Malta at Gorman House and I feel privileged to be part of the volunteer program that helps the staff support the residents.*

**The Order of Malta is committed to raising a further \$150,000 by the end of 2012 to ensure the doors of Gorman House remain open 7 days a week. If you would like to help, go to page 5 to make a donation.**



**If you are interested in volunteering opportunities with the Order, please email volunteers@smom.org.au**

**URBAN SANCTUARY PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO THE VULNERABLE AND NEEDY**

The Order of Malta often works in conjunction with other charitable organisations to fulfil its mission of assisting the sick and the poor. In South Australia the Members support the Adelaide (Moore St) Day Centre, a charity that offers rehabilitation programs to homeless men over 25 and housing and welfare assistance to thousands of people each year.



As part of the Centre's rehabilitation program, a vegetable garden was established by the Centre in the mid '90's using an unwanted piece of land. The Order's support has provided tipper trailers, brushcutters, mowers, rainwater tanks and building materials for the garden.

This oasis of beauty, vegetables, fruit, chickens, lambs and beehives gives the disadvantaged participants a sense of purpose as they work together to feed the needy. It also enables the men

to regain skills they once had or assist them finding new ones to learn and develop.

In addition to providing a beautiful sanctuary and therapy for the residents, the garden grows organic fruit and vegetables that are then distributed to people in need.

*"By offering the participants purposeful work that also assists others, it helps them see the worth of their own achievements"* explains Dr. Ian Leitch RFD, the Order's Hospitaller in SA. *"It also provides them with a sense of belonging as they witness the achievements of those they work with."*

Over the last 10 years the Order's fundraising has generated over \$50,000 for the centre through various fundraising activities, including a popular movie night held every October. Particular mention must go to the Macquarie Group Foundation, who have contributed \$31,000 towards the project, after matching the fundraising efforts and personal donations of its Adelaide staff members, one of whom is a member of the Order.

**The services provided by the Adelaide Day Centre assist thousands of people each year. Donations to support this service can be made on page 5.**



**We have been serving the sick and the poor for over 900 years.**

**Help us continue our work by leaving a bequest to the Order of Malta.**

By leaving us a legacy, no matter what size, you allow us to plan for the future. With guaranteed funds in place, we can look to expand and develop our humanitarian activities with confidence. Visit [www.orderofmalta.org.au](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au) to download a copy of our bequests brochure.



**UPCOMING MOVIE NIGHT**

**Date:**  
Sunday 28th October 2012.  
5.00pm for 5.45pm

**Venue:**  
Regal Theatre (The Old Chelsea),  
Marryatville, Adelaide

**Cost:**  
\$20/head

**Movie:**  
Argo is an American political drama film based on Tony Mendez's account of the rescue of six U.S. diplomats from Tehran, Iran during the 1979 Iran hostage crisis. Starring Ben Affleck and Alan Arkin.

**If you would like to attend, please email [info@smom.org.au](mailto:info@smom.org.au) for more information.**

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**MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITALER**



Welcome to the fourth edition of the Australian Association's newsletter.

Over the past few months, Members, volunteers and a wide range of agencies have been involved in our "Coats for the Homeless" Project, personally distributing these specially designed coats to the homeless of Australia. The support for this project has simply been overwhelming. We want to share with those of you who have so generously donated to this practical cause, a sample of the messages of thanks we have received.

Also enclosed in this issue is an update on our ongoing support of Timor-Leste. Some generous donations by members of the public mean that we now have the essential infrastructure for the delivery of medicines and equipment.

Also included are articles on some of the domestic projects undertaken by the state branches across the country. The volunteer profile also provides a wonderful account of how Order Members and volunteers are committed to serving "our Lords, the sick and the poor"

Finally as the next edition of this newsletter is not scheduled until the new year, I invite you all to visit our website, [www.orderofmalta.org.au](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au) which is updated weekly with news stories and upcoming spiritual activities.

Thank you for your continued support. I assure you it is very much appreciated by those who receive it!

*Ian Marshall*  
Dr. Ian Marshall AE KC'SG



**INTRODUCING THE NEW ORDER OF MALTA WEBSITE**

Following a resolution at the Order's 2011 National Assembly, a Communications Committee was formed to look at ways the Australian Association could enhance communication with Members, supporters and the community at large. The Committee made a number of recommendations, the two main ones being the production of a regular newsletter and a revamp of the Australian Association's website.

*"This will be the fourth edition of the newsletter and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive"* explains Communications Manager, Michelle Rees. *"I am also confident that the new website will be equally well received".*

There was also a request from the Communications Office in Rome to make the appearance of the new website more in keeping with those of other Associations of the Order around the world and also that of the Grand Magistry. "The website changes aren't purely cosmetic" Michelle goes on to explain. *"It is a much easier site for people to navigate and will provide weekly updates of the Order's events, projects and news."*



**Visit the new look website at [www.orderofmalta.org.au](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au) and email us your feedback.**

# COATS FOR THE HOMELESS ARE 'LITERALLY A LIFE SAVER'

PROJECT UPDATE



Tanya (pictured wearing the Coat) and her dog, were made homeless due to housing affordability. Tanya slept under a tarpaulin in the bush and received a Homeless Coat when she visited Shopfront in Marylands WA. Tanya's story was featured in The West Australian and a huge public response has meant that Tanya and her dog Spot are now off the streets. Picture courtesy of the West Australian.



Despite the start of spring, cold and wet weather is still present in many states. As Members around the country continue distributing the 2012 Coats, we share the stories and feedback from those who help distribute the coats to Australia's homeless:

"Firstly could you please pass on our sincere thanks to all the members of the Knights of Malta for providing the Homeless Jackets for our visitors who live on the streets. They are literally a life saver to protect them from the harsh elements."

**Bryan, Director at Shopfront in Perth, WA**

"I feel the physical warmth that the coat provides is actually surmounted by the psychological warmth our residents receive. They receive knowledge that the community cares about them, that they are not alone."

**Charlie Lay, Manager at Gorman House in Sydney, NSW**

"The onset of winter is always a busy time when we see the increase in cold and flu cases. The Coats for the Homeless initiative is very valuable and most appreciated by the Health Care Sector that supports Hutt St."

**Jan Ware, Clinical Nurse at the Hutt Street Centre in Adelaide, SA.**

"St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace was once again delighted to support the Knights of Malta in their Coats for the Homeless project this year. Eddie's Van is on the streets of Brisbane, 5 mornings and one night a week for 52 weeks of the year and we get to know a lot of our guests well. The capacity to offer a quality coat to those in need is a privilege. As a school community we thank the Knights most sincerely for the opportunity to work in partnership with them in providing a simple gesture of friendship to our friends who share a humble meal with us each day."

**Chris Ryan, Dean of Identity - St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace Brisbane Qld.**

"The program got started with its first distribution run in 2012 on Saturday 28th April. Each run was conducted in association with St Vincent de Paul or the Salvation Army but the Order members and volunteers are solely in charge of the distribution of coats. The program now has volunteers at Mannix College at Monash University, this being important as it is closer to the outer suburban areas such as Dandenong and Springvale where there is much poverty. Next year the program will expand to include A.C.U. in Melbourne."

**Sir James Gobbo AC, Chairman of the Order of Malta VIC Branch**

▲ Order Member Derek Pingel (right) with Kev Byrne, President St Vincent De Paul Toowoomba who is modelling an Order of Malta coat.



▲ Picture from left to right: Order Members Ben Franklin and David Hall with Charlie Lay, Manager at Gorman House and Roger McGrath, Gorman House Fundraising Committee Member.



▲ Order Member Michael Rackemann (left) working with Brisbane Homelessness Services for coats distribution.



▲ Pastoral Services Manager at Matthew Talbot Hostel at Woolloomooloo, Marty Nezval (left) and Order Member Frank Zipfinger, demonstrate the coat with a hostel volunteer. Picture courtesy of the Catholic Weekly.



▲ Order Member from QLD, Michael Rackemann receiving certificate of thanks from Rosies for provision of coats for region's homeless.

"They (the coats) are designed particularly for the guys on the street. They can sleep in them; they don't have zippers or buttons or anything that would press into them. They love the coats. They're a prize catch; the guys are very excited about them."

**Marty Nezval, Volunteer and Pastoral Services Manager at Matt Talbot Hostel in Woolloomooloo, NSW.**

"The patrons of the Paddies Vans, in the Sandgate/Brighton areas of Brisbane, were honoured to assist in the distribution of the wonderful purpose-made coats donated by the Knights of Malta. During this past cold winter season, the coats provided warmth and at least some comfort for those whom often find that hard to come by."

**Matt Hawkins, Paddies Van, St Patrick's College Shorncliffe QLD.**

"The broad geographic distribution in NSW was achieved by the Working Group members, well assisted by other members of the NSW Branch, personally attending to the delivery

to cooperating agencies and the homeless. We are already working towards significantly expanding the number of homeless coats and their geographic distribution in 2013."

**David Hall, Chairman of the Order of Malta NSW Branch**



For a complete list of the Coats distribution network, please visit [www.orderofmalta.org.au](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au)

Planning for the 2013 project is already underway. Please help us raise \$25,000 by the end of the year. See page 5 to make a donation.

## UPCOMING LOURDES DAY MASS CELEBRATIONS

In the first weekend of May every year, Members of the Order from all over the world travel to Lourdes to accompany the sick and disabled to pray and bathe in the holy waters. Because the journey to France is often arduous and expensive many Australians are unable to make the pilgrimage. Consequently in addition to making the pilgrimage to Lourdes themselves, Australian members of the Order of Malta arrange annual Lourdes Day Masses in the capital cities for Australian Malades (the sick) unable to travel to Lourdes.

The Masses are celebrated in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane with generous support of the Archbishops and Diocesan staff and attract thousands of attendees each year throughout Australia.

"It is one way Members perform our obligation to serve the poor and sick", explains the Order's Australian President Tony Macken AM. "Whether at Lourdes or assisting at a Lourdes Day Mass in Australia we are privileged to be servants of those the Order has always called "Our Lords the Poor and the Sick".

**The dates and locations of this special mass are as follows:**

- \* **Melbourne**  
1st December 2012  
at St. Patrick's Cathedral 10.30am
- \* **Sydney**  
1st December 2012  
at St. Mary's Cathedral, 10am
- \* **Perth**  
9th December 2012  
at St Mary's Cathedral, 11am
- \* **Adelaide**  
February 2013
- \* **Brisbane**  
May 2013

Please visit our website, [www.orderofmalta.org.au](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au) for Mass details



## DONORS PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TIMOR-LESTE HUMANITARIAN SHIPMENTS

Since 2002 the Order has been providing humanitarian support to the people of Timor-Leste. This has frequently included the shipment of pharmaceuticals, hospital equipment and vehicles from Australia to Timor-Leste. Logistically this has been very difficult and time-consuming to coordinate.

Thankfully, three supporters of the Order's work in Timor-Leste have stepped forward to provide facilities and equipment to assist with this process.

Mr Carlo Randazzo has generously provided warehouse space in Darwin

for use by the Order. The warehouse will take receipt of supplies from around the country and store them while they await the shipment to Dili.

As a many of the consignments contain pharmaceuticals, Mr Kevin Malouf, Managing Director at Price and Speed Pty Ltd, has donated a refrigerated container to store medicines delivered to the warehouse in Darwin.

Mr Alan Jape JP, Group Managing Director at the Jape Group Australia has also generously provided a warehouse in Dili to receive the shipments when they arrive in Timor-Leste. From here the consignments are distributed to clinics around the country.

"These generous gifts mean that we now have an efficient infrastructure to support the ongoing supply of pharmaceuticals and equipment to

clinics in Timor-Leste" said David Scarf AM, Ambassador of the Order of Malta to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. "Not only does this facilitate the logistics of the shipments, but the cost saving is substantial. It will greatly assist us in carrying out our work serving the poor and the sick in Timor. On behalf of the Order of Malta, I would like to thank these individuals for their generosity."

**There is an ongoing need to purchase pharmaceuticals at clinics we support in Timor-Leste. If you are able to help, please complete and return the donation form below.**

## I WANT TO HELP

You can make a donation by completing this form and returning it in the **Reply Paid envelope provided.**

I am happy for the Order to allocate my donation to where the need is greatest; **or**

Please accept a gift towards the:

- Timor-Leste Pharmaceuticals project
- Coats for the Homeless programme
- Gorman House Detoxification Unit
- Adelaide Day Centre

**REMEMBER, GIFTS OF \$2 AND OVER ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

Please remove me from your mailing list

Name

Address

State  Postcode  Telephone

Please find enclosed a Cheque/ Money Order

(payable to 'The Order of Malta') for \$  or;

Please debit my credit card the amount of \$

Frequency  Once only  Monthly Card Type  Visa  MasterCard

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date  Cardholder name

Signature