

Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for LifeLink 2009



His Grace,
The Most Rev Barry J Hickey
Archbishop of Perth



*This Christmas, “Invest in Humanity”
and help people in need throughout WA*

My Dear Friends,

The Archbishop is presently overseas, so as Auxiliary Bishop of Perth and Chairman of LifeLink, I am delighted to have the pleasure of launching the **Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for LifeLink** this year.

In preparing my Christmas message, I reflect on the global economic crisis and the significant impact it has made in peoples lives around the world - families evicted from homes, jobs and savings lost. With a financial recovery now underway, I wonder what lessons have been learnt?

One thing I hope we have grown to understand is the fundamental importance of **“Investing in Humanity.” Investing in people is not hard, and it can deliver surprising returns.**



Brother Peter Negus
Director, The Shopfront

Brother Peter Negus, Director of our Shopfront agency, recently shared with me the wonderful story of Michael, and how a small investment in his needs made such a powerful and positive impact.

Michael had arrived from interstate, drawn to Perth by the need to find work. He was staying at a local backpackers hostel when his steel capped boots were stolen – **no boots, no work!**

Unfortunately, **no money** to buy new ones either.

Through word of mouth, Michael found his way to the Shopfront. Brother Peter spoke with him and the next day, with thanks to cooperative help from St Vinnie's, a brand new pair of size 10 work boots were supplied.

A few weeks later, Michael came back to see his “new friends” at the Shopfront. He had found employment, a place to live and returned to say how grateful he was for the help he'd received. He couldn't believe strangers had helped him without ever asking for anything in return.

Michael said he'd remember that forever.

Another visitor to Shopfront, Bruce, was earning \$1000 a week in the mining industry, when he was suddenly retrenched. Bruce thought he'd use the opportunity to take a short holiday, so with \$5,000 in his pocket, travelled to Perth, booked into a nice hotel and started looking for another job.

Unfortunately, Bruce's savings ran out before a new job could be found!



Julie Williams, Co-ordinator, The Shopfront
pictured with Michael, showing off his new boots

With no money and no family living locally for support, Bruce was desperate.

He too found his way to The Shopfront. Bruce said he was deeply embarrassed, but he had nowhere to sleep and no money for food. Brother Peter and Shopfront provided Bruce a few nights temporary accommodation at various locations, meals during the day and helped in whatever way they could.



They didn't see Bruce for a few months until he arrived one day recently with gifts of chocolates and cigarettes for the day visitors, and a donation of \$200 for Shopfront. Bruce said he'd found another job and everything was back on track. He said that never in a million years did he ever think he'd need a place like The Shopfront.

Bruce said to Brother Peter, **"You will never know how grateful I am for what you did for me. You helped me when no one else would"**.

Over 40,000 Western Australian families and individuals will be helped by LifeLink agencies this year.

All the LifeLink agencies have reported an alarming escalation in the number of people reaching out for help, many for the first time - emergency accommodation, food, clothing, financial assistance to pay electricity accounts, an increasing number requiring mental health services.

As I officially launch our Christmas Appeal for LifeLink to help people in need throughout Western Australia, **I ask you to think of Michael and Bruce, and how by making a small investment in their lives, we were able to make such a powerful and positive impact.**

Please give generously to this appeal, we must raise a minimum of \$500,000 this Christmas to ensure LifeLink agencies continue to reach out to help people in need. Donations are tax deductible and receipts will be provided for all gifts received.

The Archbishop and I wish you, your family and loved ones a very safe, happy and Holy Christmas. May God bless and watch over us all, and grant us peace in His world.



Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ,

+ Don Sproxton

Most Rev Donald Sproxton
Auxiliary Bishop of Perth
Chairman, LifeLink



Credit Card donations
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Yes, I will 'invest in humanity' and help people in need this Christmas

Please accept my donation of (please tick one box only)

\$50 \$75 \$150 \$300 \$500 Other \$ _____

Title Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Dr / Sr / Fr / Rev

Surname _____

Christian Name _____

Address _____

Postcode

My Parish is _____

Enclosed is my cheque payable to LifeLink

OR Debit my credit card

Visa Mastercard Amex (15 numbers only)

Credit Card Number

Expiry date /

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Thank you and God Bless

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible when a name and address are supplied



LifeLink
Catholic Caring Agencies