

ST VERONICA NEWSLETTER 38

JULY 2019

❖ TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ❖ UPDATE
- ❖ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
- ❖ AUGUST DISBURSEMENT
- ❖ EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE
- ❖ STUDENT AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP

UPDATE:

Dear supporters, hello once again from the volunteer team at St Veronica's. I hope you too are enjoying the best that winter has to offer. Today we are blessed with one of those ideal cool, windless, sunny days that compensate us for Brisbane's humid, hot summers.

In the world and for those of us in the Committee, 2019 has provided considerable sadness, challenge and joy. In particular, some Committee members have experienced the loss of loved ones; others have struggled with serious ill-health and incapacity, either for themselves or for family members. You are in our thoughts.

On a more positive note, I am happy to share news of the Committee's Christmas / January / February Appeals which raised funds for donkeys for water transport and shoes, medication and snacks for Ethiopian podoconiosis sufferers. I hope you will be as pleased as I am to report that one family's donkey has produced a foal, so we have two for the price of one. This will be especially pleasing to one of our kind-hearted donors, who asked me what portion of the donkey she was purchasing.



Donkey and foal – two for the price of one in Ethiopia!

I believe donors to the above appeals will be surprised to learn Father Augustine advises he now treats over 1700 podoconiosis sufferers.



**Snacks for sufferers who walk kilometres for treatment
(Committee funds helped provide both shelter and snacks)**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Thank you to all who attended the Committee's 62nd Annual General Meeting in May. I am happy to report that, with the exception of Mrs Beverley Marshall, members of the 2018 Executive Committee were re-elected unopposed. Whilst Beverley has chosen to continue with her regular volunteering in the shop, she advised prior to the meeting that she would prefer not to seek re-election as one of two shop coordinators.

Beverley, thank you so much for your past contribution as an enthusiastic coordinator. Your initiative in this role was much appreciated and we are very pleased to know that you continue to maintain a regular presence in the shop. We need you! Thus, the 2019 Committee members remain Margaret Kerwin, Janice Drake, Michael Kerwin, Kathryn Ducker, Fay Roberts and Sharyn Millsom; and we welcome Beverley's replacement, the impressive, hard-working Sue Fagg. Sue, we are delighted to have you aboard.

AUGUST DISBURSEMENT:



The Committee's mid-year disbursement is planned for the middle of next month. For those who would like their donations to be included in this disbursement, it is important to ensure **funds are in the Committee's bank or office by Thursday August 1st. Note for many interbank transfers it is important to allow 2 to 3 days for funds to be deposited into an account.** This allows John Kennett sufficient time to finalise the correct allocation of funds to each and every centre – a painstaking task requiring him to maintain meticulous records. John, as usual, we are indebted to you for the many lonely hours of work you undertake on all our behalf.

It is also worthwhile recalling the other volunteers who are involved in this process, John Johnstone, organising and printing off reminder notices, Cecilie, processing and posting them, and Rita, collecting the post, writing and recording receipts, and depositing funds in the bank. Thank you to everyone involved – without your dedication, we would not have the opportunity to help those in need.

EXTRACT FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

Portion of an email received in May from Sister Gracy Xavier, the new Sister in Charge of sponsorships at Infant Jesus Girls' Home Alleppey:

As you know one our student STEPHY by name doing the Nurse course --- She got her first year nursing exam results --- She is the Topper of college. Now she has to do her second year nursing ----- I am extremely grateful for all help you do for her to complete her professional course. ... She is an orphan, her mother a mental patient. We don't know her whereabouts. Her father abandoned her. She never has seen his face. She has lots of calibre. Our target is to complete her course and make her independent in life.

(NOTE: Sister Gracy has replaced Sister Mary George at Infant Jesus Girls' Home and, as indicated in the 2018 Annual Report, Stephy has been sponsored by Mr Noel Russell for many years. Her photo was also included in the same report. Minimal alterations to Sister's expressions have been made for clarity)

Extract from a letter received from Alphy Mathew, a St Veronica sponsored tertiary student. Alphy, situated at the Nav Jyothy Social Centre (St Joseph's Charummood) completed his BCA degree in 2019.

My loving Committee ... I really don't know how to thank you all for your help and support given to me. You came up with this support when I was worried a lot about how to go up with my studies. Your help was really a support for my studies as well as my life. Without your help I couldn't complete my studies. By the month of March I will complete my BCA DEGREE. My next aim is to get a job as soon as possible. My younger sister is doing her XI in Commerce. She is doing well. Thank you so much for helping my sister too. My mother is also fine here. Once again I would like to thank you all for the kindness and support given to me. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart. You all will be always remembered in our prayers. Words are not enough to express my sincere gratitude and love towards you all.

Convey my regards to your family members. Please do pray for me too for getting a job soon.



STUDENT AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP



ALEENA BENNIE

**Aleena (above) was born on 26 May, 2003.
She currently is in Grade 10.**

Aleena's parents, who struggle financially, have separated, with Aleena's mother assuming responsibility for the care and support of her children by working as a home nurse.

During her hours of work, Aleena's own father remained at home to care for his grandchildren. With his death, the mother was forced to entrust the care of her daughter to the Sisters at Irene Home.

Sister Anu Jose, the St Veronica sponsorship coordinator at Irene Home has forwarded Aleena's details to the Committee.

Sister advises: Aleena is a good student, very well behaved; she can both sing and dance well.