

## SUPPORTING VINNIES STORES

### SEE

Imagine you were one of these people below.

- A young, unemployed man has a job interview next week and needs a nice shirt and tie to make a good impression.
- A refugee family have just found a house to rent. They now need furniture and household items to help settle in.
- A grandmother living on a pension who doesn't have much spare money each week. She has 10 grandchildren who she loves so much and it is important to her to be able to buy each of them a small birthday present each year.
- The money made from the Vinnies Store means that local St Vincent de Paul Society members have been able to help a family purchase a special mobility scooter for their young child with a disability.

These are common examples of how Vinnies Stores help the community – there are lots of others!

### Visit a Vinnies Store

Some Vinnies Stores will give a tour to small school groups. Contact your local Vinnies Store Manager ([www.vinnies.org.au/shops](http://www.vinnies.org.au/shops)) to discuss this further. It's a great way to learn about how Vinnies Stores help the community. Members from your local conference might be able to help with this too – so don't forget to invite them.

### THINK

Look at the various way Vinnies Stores help the community.

How can you teach others at your school about the importance of Vinnies Stores?

People supported by Vinnies	Wider community
People who are visited by the St Vincent de Paul Society members are often provided with clothes, furniture and other household items for free from the Vinnies Stores.	Those who don't have a lot of money to spend can get good quality items at a very cheap price. This way they don't have to feel that they are missing out.
Because the cost of running the stores is kept so low, almost all the money raised by the shops goes back to helping the local members support those in need in the local area.	People in the community can donate good quality items which mean that they don't go to waste. This is great for our environment and others benefit too.

## Dumping Rubbish

A serious problem facing Vinnies Stores comes from people who donate items that are broken or which are in a bad condition. If these items can't be put in the stores then they have to be taken to the rubbish tip. This costs Vinnies thousands of dollars each year – money that should be spent on helping people in need.

- Can you brainstorm ways in which the community can be educated about this problem?
- Make a poster, write a TV advertisement or write a newspaper article to raise awareness of this.



## DO

There are lots of fun ways to promote the importance of Vinnies stores in the community. Here are a few suggestions...

### Free Dress Day with a twist

Everyone can wear casual clothes to school but instead of bringing a gold coin donation, an item has to be purchased, and worn, from your local Vinnies store.

or

Everyone can wear casual clothes to school but instead of a gold coin donation, each student has to bring in an item of clothing that they don't wear anymore, or a pre-loved toy. Remember they have to be in good condition. All the items will then be donated to the local Vinnies store.



### Lunchtime Photo Booth

Purchase a bunch of fun items from your local Vinnies Store – eg, hats, scarves, necklaces, sunglasses, coats, etc. and create a photo booth. Make a banner or signs to raise awareness. Each student brings in a gold coin, or donates a pre-loved item, before they can have their photo taken. Photos can then be distributed in accordance with the school image policy.

### Vinnies Fashion Parade

Organise a date for a Vinnies Fashion Parade. All items have to be purchased from a Vinnies Store. Offer prizes for various themes – best dressed to meet the Queen, Most crazy outfit, etc. Charge a gold coin donation to watch the parade (or donate an item instead).