

your charity

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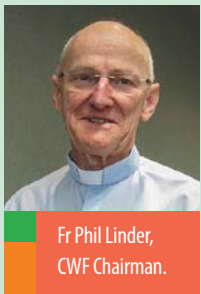
CHARITABLE WORKS FUND



CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE
OF SYDNEY

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Fr Phil's Column



Fr Phil Linder,
CWF Chairman.

Your Charity celebrates just some of the wonderful work of our agencies that benefit from supporters' generous contributions to the CWF. CatholicCare's Refugee Program is one such project that

provides assistance to a section of our community whose issues can sometimes get drowned out by politics and changes in social attitudes. Refugees and asylum seekers are vulnerable to abuse and can get trapped in a cycle of poverty due to their limited means of financial support. CatholicCare is hoping to raise awareness and some much-needed funds by participating in the Blackmores Sydney Running Festival on 21 September.

CatholicCare staff will be among the event's participants and are encouraging others to join in the outdoor activities planned for the day.

We remind our readers of the great counselling services provided by CatholicCare which receive funding from the CWF. Ephpheta Centre's Deaf Cafe has grown to become a real social network for the deaf and hard of hearing to come together and share their stories since asking our readers to help raise funds to get it up and running a few issues back.

Mike Bailey has long been a faithful parishioner at his local Sydney parish and for a few years now has helped the Sydney Archdiocese as a speaker at Masses to promote the CWF Pastoral Appeals. He gives a personal account of the important work the CWF continues to do in our local communities and is an excellent example of how individuals can get involved in helping our charity on a grassroots level. The In Memory envelope is a new product which we've developed to help our parishes with their fundraising by encouraging gifts in lieu of flowers.

The School Appeal is another CWF fundraiser that shows what we can achieve when our school children, teachers and parents all get involved. This appeal is an early lesson in charity for our children; we nurture our future parishioners and fundraisers to care about other people and be active agents for creating a better future for everyone.

Perhaps our stories in this issue will inspire people to think of other ways we can all get involved to benefit the whole community.

His Holiness Pope Francis recently reminded us of the vital part our churches continue to play in building a Catholic-centred existence. Our parishes have been faithfully serving Christ's flock for centuries and are not only the guardians of our Catholic traditions, but are also instrumental in strengthening our society's spiritual core. Through Catholic charities such as the CWF, we are reminded that change is not abstract or elusive, but is well within our grasp when it is coupled with a willingness of the heart. ■



Charitable Works Fund

Supports the works of charitable agencies in the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

www.cwf.org.au

In This Issue

**Inside the New
Your Charity issue:**

- Mike Bailey on the CWF
- CatholicCare's Counselling Services
- CCD Catechists
- Ephpheta Centre Deaf Cafe

My CWF: Mike Bailey

If teachers were to be believed in the early years of my education, there were more mysteries associated with religion than could be found among the program line-ups for TV or radio and the Charitable Works Fund appeared to be just one such mystery.

At certain times on the calendar, envelopes promoting their appeal would appear on the pews of my local church, and I had no clue as to what it was all about.

There was a sketch of three church windows on each of the envelopes rising above the letters C, W, and F but if we ever learned any more about the relevance of the Charitable Works Fund, my thoughts must have been distracted towards planning the play that would follow those Sunday mornings at Mass.

Given that, like me, the CWF has passed its 60th birthday, it has taken quite some time to become fully acquainted with its operations but I can now boast not only of knowing about them, but also of being involved with those who deliver its works.

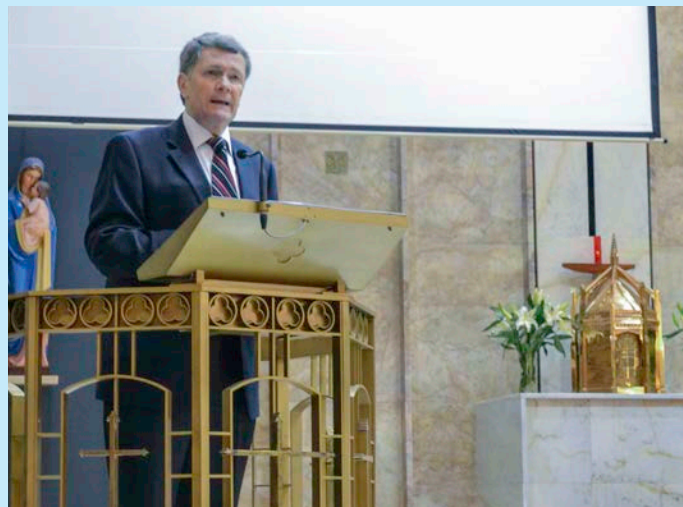
CatholicCare is one of six outlets supported by the appeal held through our churches on three occasions each year – in May, August and November.

You could call the services it provides as embodying the human or social welfare arm of the Church as it reaches out to those in need through avenues like employment placement opportunities and assisting families in crisis.

Work lists are long and demand is high, especially as government relief is

becoming harder for those who are hard hit to find – and that's regardless of which side is in power.

For the past couple of years, I have hosted the annual St Patrick's Day luncheon at Parliament House in Sydney to support CatholicCare and by rubbing shoulders with those who do its work, also have been able to spread its messages as a guest speaker at churches around appeal times.



Mike Bailey speaking at a local parish.

Building Bridges: CatholicCare's Counselling Services

Tree of Hope

Modern medicine has come a long way since the dark days when 'HIV/AIDS' usually spelled death for early victims who were given the grim diagnosis. While today's HIV sufferers are living longer better quality lives, certain things can't be dispelled simply by taking a pill.

CatholicCare's Tree of Hope program provides emotional and pastoral support to people living with HIV/AIDS, their family and support person. The service was founded by Sr Margaret Mines in 1996. Based in Surry Hills for some 15 years and now located in Lewisham, the program is coordinated by Margaret Pirotta. In an attempt to support more people affected by the virus, a quarterly social gathering has begun at Liverpool.

A serious health issue effectively curtails many plans, not least of all a person's professional ambitions and personal development. Through Tree of Hope's counselling services and organised social activities, people living with HIV and support person (family /friend) rediscover their sense of self, in turn

renewing their appreciation for their strengths and talents. Clients have sincerely expressed their gratitude for the existence of a Catholic-based service, although as Margaret reiterates, this service is open to people of any faith or no faith at all. The Tree of Hope is about 'openness of heart'. There are around 80 to 90 clients who engage with the service at different times. For those who do not wish, or are unable to attend groups, individual support is provided in a way to meet their needs.

Margaret and two casual support workers facilitate a number of activities, including an annual weekend retreat, Saturday workshop and peer support groups intended for people to feel a sense of belonging in a safe space while developing supportive friendships. The Support Person's Gathering is an annual event that focuses on the special people who have dedicated themselves to caring for HIV sufferers. People who have participated at the Tree of Hope have said, "This is the only place I am able to take off my mask and be myself". The stigma remains for many

and for some the isolation is more debilitating than the virus itself. At the community level, much more education and awareness are required.

There is a real pride and gratitude among staff and clients for the financial support provided by the Charitable Works Fund. At a time when changing government policies dictate the level of funding provided in this area, there is relief from the guaranteed support by the CWF.

Everyone is invited to show their support for the Tree of Hope at the World AIDS Day Ceremony on 3 December 2014. It will be a day of poetry, songs, sharing of personal experiences and, most especially, a day of thanksgiving.

For more information, phone 02 9509 1240 (for a confidential discussion) or email treeofhope@catholiccare.org

Refugee Program

CatholicCare's Refugee Program has been through some tumultuous times with changing public and political appetites on refugee and asylum seeker issues – usually manifested in the funding, or lack thereof, the program has received over the last few years. Severe cuts in federal government funding have seen Manager Carol Blayney, whose team has dwindled down to two (from 2 full-time staff and 4 volunteers), surviving very much on the CWF. Recent grant applications have borne no fruit so far.

Refugees and asylum seekers fleeing troubled lives arrive in Australia to fight other battles: culture shock, the struggle for acceptance, inadequate financial sustenance and lack of a

I also can boast of friendships with the good crew at the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, which provides an important Christian outreach to the first Australians to assist their spiritual development.

Fr Tony Percy is another member of the team gaining support from the CWF and I have come to know him as the rector, or the “boss” of the Seminary of the Good Shepherd at Homebush – a training facility for our priests.

Learning doesn’t come easy: priests do so much more than deliver in the role in which we see them most through saying Mass. Detailed training is important when you appreciate that they are businessmen in the task of running parishes; counselors in catering to our needs in difficult times; communicators in bringing to life the messages of the Gospels; and their workload doesn’t stop there.

Conveying the lessons of faith to those who are being educated in schools outside of the Catholic system also is supported by donations that we make to the CWF. Many of us know about the efforts of numerous Catechists working under the banner of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine which is assisted by the Fund.

That word “confraternity” which means an association of people united in a common purpose probably would have taxed me in my school years, to say nothing of discovering what’s called the Ephpheta Centre.

In short, this facility based at Punchbowl – which is not far from where I spent quite a few of my days in the classroom – provides special services to bring spiritual enhancement to people who are deaf or who are significantly hearing-impaired by using Auslan or sign language for communication at Mass and other faith gatherings.

Oh – and that word “ephpheta” is not just the only word with a double and consecutive “ph”, I’ve discovered; it can be traced back to Aramaic, the language

spoken by Christ. It can be part of the baptism ceremony, with the celebrant touching the ears and lips of the child saying: “May the Lord Jesus, who made the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak, grant that you may soon be able to receive His word and profess the faith to the praise and glory of God the Father”. The ceremony has affinity with the curing of the deaf-mute (Mark 7:31-37).

Work by the chaplaincies of the Church makes up the sixth and final demand upon the resources of the CWF, and embraces an outreach to those in prisons, in hospitals, and in our universities.

You may wonder about the prisons but if those who have broken the rules of our society are not given the counselling and spiritual services of the Christian faith, there’s surely an increased chance that they will be recidivists – people who offend again upon their release.

Many of us have come to appreciate the human faces and work of chaplains, both priest and lay, when we have been faced with a stay in hospital, and chaplaincy services at universities work to keep alive the spark of faith lit through the care of families and nourished by the work of teachers or catechists in our schools.

So we’re back to the classroom – hopefully with a greater understanding of the Charitable Works Fund and how your donations help so many people through numerous operations within the Church. There’s no mystery about that.

The CWF has earned its title as “your charity” because it assists so many positive works of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. As with my experiences, there’s a good chance that you either know someone who is being helped by its work, or who is actually giving time and experience – and likely a few dollars as well – for it to keep alive the six causes it supports. ■

support network. While refugees are given work permits and access to Medicare and Centrelink services, asylum seekers don’t get much else beyond the \$200 weekly allowance they receive. Such a small stipend means being forced to share accommodation with many other people.

Carol’s Refugee Program offers practical assistance to better equip people in need: constructing job resumes, learning interview techniques and simply understanding the local workplace culture and ultimately removing themselves from exploitative situations. Things people easily take for granted become magnified with the lack of English language skills. An example of this is that staff have taken small shopping

groups to educate clients about what’s available on the shelves, especially items unfamiliar to those who’ve come from poorer countries. The Refugee Program’s services empower clients to make better choices for themselves through education and training. A part-time case worker has produced an employment training package for people giving practical advice to help them gain a better understanding of the requirements.

For referrals please phone 02 9612 3444.

Pregnancy Support

CatholicCare’s Pregnancy Support deals with a lot more issues than people often realise. Its

counselling team headed by Oscar Modesto Ramirez provide emotional and practical support to expectant mothers. However, other issues arising out of a pregnancy are also dealt with by the highly trained staff. An unwanted pregnancy and the repercussions of an irreversible decision require a great deal of care and sensitivity, and counselling staff also help clients make the journey back into their Catholic faith.

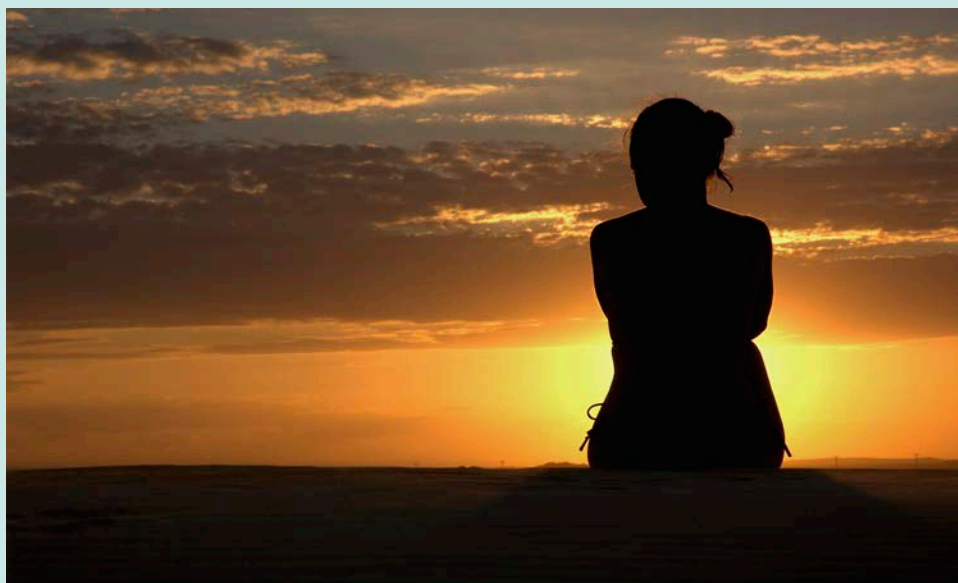
Fathers too can sometimes be the forgotten part of the equation in the decision-making process, and they receive similar emotional support from the CWF-funded program. While being a Catholic agency may seem at odds with the issues it faces, Pregnancy Support receives clients without prejudice or judgement.

Poverty can affect the way news of a pregnancy is received by a family already struggling to make ends meet. With medical advances in testing, the discovery of potential congenital defects in unborn babies may raise questions from parents unsure of whether or not to continue with the pregnancy. Oscar stresses that it is never their job to help clients make a decision one way or the other – this is a highly personal journey – but rather, it’s about looking after their emotional and spiritual well-being and providing practical advice during a period of stress and uncertainty.

While Pregnancy Support’s reach is mainly in Bankstown, staff have identified a real need around the city and are hoping to expand their capability to address this.

Pregnancy Support can be reached by phoning

1800 063 50. ■



Ephpheta Centre Deaf Cafe

Hands raised in the air gesticulated animatedly non-stop as the stories flowed between cups of tea, coffee, cakes and bikkies at the Ephpheta Centre's Deaf Cafe. The team of six consisting of Stephen Lawlor, Nicole Clarke, Donovan Mulligan, Liz McDowell, David Parker, and Danni Wright had burgeoned to at least five times its size with guests coming from far and wide to enjoy the monthly social gathering in the little courtyard.



Deaf Cafe guests at Ephpheta Centre.

The brainchild of Donovan, Deaf Cafe has been a great success in bringing together the deaf and hard of hearing communities who want to catch up and soak in all the news from the other attendees. Nicole proudly showed off the new additions to their productive studio upstairs where they create their own videos for their website: a set of four studio lights courtesy of Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club, great supporters of the Punchbowl-based CWF agency for many years.

Guests in attendance included the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine's Doug Mawhinney and Eddie Kropkowski, Catholic Adult Education Commission's John Gresser and Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney staff Andrea Socratous, Chris Herron and his Development and Fundraising team. Fr Michael Lanzon, Assistant Priest at St Patrick's Sutherland who serves as one of Ephpheta's three chaplains dropped by before heading back to his church to prepare for confirmations.

Donations to the CWF from generous supporters helped purchase a decent coffee machine and the cups and saucers used for the Deaf Cafe. It's a great example of how small things can be instrumental in making big things happen. Volunteer Jill is typical of the older generations who went without the younger people's current advantages. She recalls the pre-email days of writing letters to friends and waiting days to receive a reply just to plan their social outings, while Ephpheta Director Stephen Lawlor often hung back after work with friends to cram in as much conversation time with them as possible before going home.

They're just a couple of instances that demonstrate the importance for the deaf and hard of hearing to develop better opportunities to stay in touch and keep connected with the rest of the community. To find out more about the great work of Ephpheta Centre visit their website at

www.ephpheta.org.au

With attendees to the Deaf Cafe growing each time, Ephpheta Centre is hard pressed to house all their guests inside their premises; hence, the outdoor setting. However, as newer guests quickly found out, the warm company alone isn't enough to dispel the cold breath of winter air sitting in the open courtyard. These gatherings would benefit greatly from the donation of half a dozen reasonably priced outdoor gas heaters from generous donors. If you would like to help, please make a donation to the CWF on 1800 753 959. ■

Can You Help?

CCD: Shining the light on the word of God

"I decided to become a Catechist after seeing the benefit that religious education is having on my children's lives. It is a shame to have children in a public school with no one to teach them about faith"

Betty, parent of Catholic Primary School students, now a Catechist.

"Being a Catechist is one of the most spiritually fulfilling things I have done in my life" Rose, Catechist

"Faith is a gift from God, a Catechist is right there at the centre of this exchange of gifts" Pope Francis

The Archdiocese of Sydney's Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD Sydney) supports Parishes to provide Special Religious Education (SRE) classes for their Parish children enrolled in public schools. Funding from the CWF enables the Archdiocese's CCD staff to support over 2,000

Catechists from across our Parishes with free training and accreditation courses.

Our Parish Catechists pray with and teach over 25,000 of our Parish children who are enrolled in public primary schools and 3,000 of our children enrolled in public high schools each week. CCD



Sydney is focusing upon the need for more high school Catechists and, with help from the CWF, upon curriculum development initiatives.

This year the CCD is also focusing upon its accreditation courses and helping Catechists to develop creative teaching techniques, which incorporate traditional storytelling with drama, songs, and artistic activities designed to inspire and stimulate young minds. For example, Catechists are encouraged to take a map or globe into their →

... continued from previous page

classes to show children where Jesus lived and walked over 2,000 years ago. This bases Jesus solidly in history so that when children discover that popularised children's figures are not real Jesus does not get "thrown out" along with them!

CWF funding also helps CCD Sydney to develop, produce and to keep up-to-date both the Archdiocesan approved SRE curriculum, *Christ our Light and Life*, and the new Archdiocesan Parish-based Gratia Series of sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

In producing the *Christ our Light and Life* curriculum (Kindy -Year 12), CCD Sydney provides the "what to teach" via its Teacher's Manuals and Student Activity books and shows Catechists "how to teach" through its accreditation courses. For instance, a new Parish Catechist is provided with an initial orientation course in child protection, curriculum use and good teaching practice and a range of ongoing accreditation courses covering Scripture, Church teaching and creative catechetical methods.

"Catechesis" simply means to echo down: Catechists echo the Word of God, Jesus, and say with Saint Paul, *I hand on to you what I have received*.

Interestingly, the CCD was officially established in the Sydney Archdiocese in 1959, having been founded in 1571, upon Pope Pius V's recommendation that every parish have lay people to teach others about the Catholic faith. Both Popes Pius X in 1905 and Pius XI in 1923 and 1935 highlighted again the universal need for catechesis, as has Pope St John Paul II.

Pope Francis has even proclaimed more recently, "We need good Catechists!"

With your help, via the CWF, the CCD will continue its long history of assisting Parishes in seeking, supporting and training Catechists to provide Catholic formation for our Parish children in public schools. ■

Step up and step out for a great CWF program

The annual Blackmores Sydney Running Festival will be held on Sunday, 21 September 2014. People at all levels of fitness are encouraged to register and fundraise for CatholicCare's Refugee Program, one of the participating charities this year.

The Harbour Bridge, Mrs Macquarie's Chair, Circular Quay, Pyrmont, the Opera House, and parks around the city and immediate surrounds will make up the various routes. Take the kids along for a short 3km leisurely walk over the bridge or undertake the bigger challenges of the 9km Bridge Run or 21km Sydney Half-Marathon. Appropriately conditioned fitness fanatics may set their sights on tackling the mammoth 42km Sydney Marathon.

The Refugee Program which is dependent on the CWF has always struggled to get necessary government funding and grants so CatholicCare hope the event will not only raise funds but awareness on the plight and needs of refugees and asylum seekers as well. Asylum seekers are especially vulnerable as they are not entitled to a work permit as those with refugee status - they are often forced into abusive work arrangements and consequently, sub-standard accommodation. The Refugee Program provide employment and Australian workplace culture training to increase their opportunities and subsequently remove themselves from their desperate situation.

The cost of registration starts from \$50 for the 3km Walk to \$155 for the 42km Marathon.

Participants' fees will be reimbursed by CatholicCare if they are successful in raising a minimum amount for each event. CatholicCare are offering free monthly training sessions for those wanting to get themselves up to speed for the big event. Participants to a pre-event function in mid-September will each receive a special event kit and a free team jersey for the race.



2013 participants Dominique Ghably with husband Jason.

For more details on how to register, visit the CatholicCare website at www.catholiccare.org (click on "Donate" from the menu) or have a chat with Events Coordinator Lachlan Russell on (02) 9509 1111 or email lachlan.russell@catholiccare.org

The event is again expected to draw huge crowds making it a great day out for the whole family. Make sure to take your little cheering squad to push you along as you sweat it out. ■



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OR I WOULD LIKE TO PLEDGE MONTHLY QUARTERLY ANNUALLY \$

CARD NUMBER: EXPIRY DATE: /

NAME ON CARD SIGNATURE DATE

Please send me information on including the Charitable Works Fund in my Will. I have already provided for a bequest, please contact me about The Cardinal Gilroy Society. We would like to contact you about our activities, initiatives (incl. fundraising) and issues. Please tick this box if you consent to receiving electronic marketing from us. I do not wish to receive hard copy material from the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORM TO THIS ADDRESS: Charitable Works Fund, Reply Paid 77352 Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9390 5942 Fax: (02) 9390 5973 cwf@sydneycatholic.org Donate online at www.cwf.org.au

MY DONATION:

(please tick) \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 OTHER \$

Please tick this box to make a tax deductible donation of \$500 or more towards the Seminary of the Good Shepherd's Our Lady Help of Christians statue.

Please make cheque payable to the Charitable Works Fund Appeal.

Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible. Please tick box to claim 100% tax deduction.

Westpac Matching Employee Gifts To CWF

Employees of Westpac Bank can make an on-going salary contribution towards the Charitable Works Fund of the Archdiocese of Sydney under the Westpac Matching Gifts program. The

deduction benefits the employee through tax savings and Westpac match the donation (double original gift) and forward the funds to the CWF. Westpac effectively provides two dollars for every dollar donated by the employee.

If you are a Westpac employee or know of a family member who works for Westpac, let them know about the Matching Gifts program and how the CWF will benefit from their generosity.

Further details available from Westpac. ■

A gift in memory of your loved one

If a gift in lieu of flowers is something you'd like to consider, the CWF In Memory envelopes are now available. Family and friends can make a gift of their choosing to honour their loved one and support the Charitable Works Fund. All donations will be credited to your designated Sydney Archdiocese parish. We suggest you speak to your family and funeral director to make the arrangements beforehand. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible and a letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the next of kin informing them of the gift. Envelopes are available from your parish priest. Alternatively, your funeral director can contact the Fundraising Office on **1800 753 959** or email cwf@sydneycatholic.org ■



Supporting the CWF through our schools

If your child goes to Mater Dei Primary School in Blakehurst, chances are you're one of the many parents who've been implored to help at one of the school's CWF Day fundraising events.

The school has been actively promoting the charity for the past few years with great success, a testament to both the commitment of staff and students in supporting their local parish's fundraising efforts, and the energy and creativity of everyone involved.



CWF Day at Mater Dei Primary School in Blakehurst.

Principal Jenni Payne also credits the appeal's success to always making sure they have enough time to prepare for the activities – each Year is allocated a particular task with students taking responsibility for preparing materials, manning the stalls and collecting the money. Bake and craft stalls, used book and toy sales and sausage sizzles are just some of the things schools can do to raise funds for the CWF. Children also get their creative juices flowing by taking a hand at making the promotional posters themselves.

Money collected from the appeal is credited towards a Sydney Archdiocese parish's assessment which makes the support from our schools important. Supporting a charity helps young children learn responsibility and gain an appreciation for helping others. What's more, fundraising doesn't have to be a chore if it becomes a fun activity for everyone. With students at Mater Dei Blakehurst looking forward to having their CWF Day each year, their formula for successful fundraising certainly seems to be working. ■



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND

your charity

Free Subscription

Would you, your friends and family like a free subscription to Your Charity newsletter? Please contact us on

☎ (02) 9390 5942 or

✉ cwf@sydneycatholic.org and register for a hard copy via post or an electronic version.

Wrong Name and Address Details?

We sometimes make mistakes with your name or address. Please contact us so that we can make the correction.

☎ (02) 9390 5942 or

✉ cwf@sydneycatholic.org

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