



VoRTCS Connect

February, 2015

Welcome to 2015!

Where we are now, where we are going...

What a crazy, amazing & challenging year 2014 was! Over 350 people attend our information nights, with 230 enthusiastic volunteers joining our existing family of 200 VoRTCS Tutors. Because of YOU we were able to assist 167 newly settled families, that's over 1200 refugees!

Last year saw many highlights including the Volunteer Survey, Program Video, VoRTCS/Youth Kids Camp, Tutor Workshop, World Refugee Day Festival and the Australia Post Grant. Our main focus was to improve the support we provide you and our VoRTCS families. This is a continual process and we will keep pushing ourselves to deliver the highest level of support possible.

This year, our focus remains on our volunteers and families - increasing our support, communications, training and social connections. We will be hosting three Multicultural Community Picnic's to bring everyone within VoRTCS & Brisbane together to break down barriers and help foster friendships with our newest community members (read more below).

We know 2015 will bring its own successes and challenges but together VoRTCS will keep taking steps forward and assisting those most in need within our community. Through love, compassion, respect and friendship we will help our newest neighbours take up the many opportunities within our society and feel welcomed in our community.

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VoRTCS Office Update

The renovations continue

In November of last year, mother nature with all her fury brought quite the storm to Brisbane. This storm regrettably resulted in the Vinnies office in Merivale Street having the roof on the top floor collapse. The top floor became flooded and ever since, renovations have been underway to restore the office back to glory.

The renovations are due for completion around April/May 2015. As a result of the renovations, the VoRTCS Resource Library is out of action and will be reopened once the office is back up and running. Training for new volunteers will also now be completed at an alternate location for the interim period. We will keep you updated with the progress of the office.

Multicultural Community Picnics

Share a plate!

In 2015, VoRTCS is introducing a new program initiative. We will be organising and running three community picnics for Vinnies volunteers & members, VoRTCS & other newly settled refugee families, friends, family and community members.



The first picnic of the year will be held on **Sunday 29 March at Daisy Hill Catholic Parish between 10am - 12pm**. We will be on the ovals behind the parish, 104 Chatswood Road Daisy Hill QLD 4127 (see invitation attached).

Everyone is encouraged to bring their own picnic or a plate to share. There will also be games and activities run on the day for all ages. These picnics are an exciting way to get involved with the broader community, meet fellow volunteers as well as other refugee families. So go on, get involved!



Save the Date!

Don't miss out

This year will see a number of exciting events taking place that VoRTCS will be involved in.

Sunday 29 March -

Multicultural Community Picnic, Daisy Hill Catholic Parish, 10am-12pm

Saturday 18 April - Global Fiesta, Ipswich's Multicultural Celebration, Queens Park

Monday 11 - Friday 17 May - National Volunteer Week 2015

Friday 5 June - Lantern Parade, Southbank Parklands

Sunday 21 June - World Refugee Day Festival 2015

Sunday 26 July - Multicultural Community Picnic, TBA

Sunday 6 September - Bridge to Brisbane 2015

Sunday 13 September - Multicultural

'Equal Encounters'

Free Online ESL course

TAFE Queensland English Language and Literacy Services (TELLS) is running a free online course called 'Equal Encounters' for community Volunteer Tutors working with Migrants and Refugees. The *Equal Encounters* course runs from 23 February - 14 March 2015. Equal Encounters is an online course of approximately 10 hours over 4 weeks and undertaken at your own pace.

The course builds foundation knowledge and skills in:

- - cultural awareness
- - the special nature of English as a Second Language (ESL) and literacy tutoring to adults
- - the basic principles of communicative language teaching

Please see the attached application form to download. Once you filled out the form, **please send it back to Bianca to submit.**

***Check out the attached flyer as well for a Volunteer Training Course being run on the 21 March 2015.**

Tutor Library

Need some inspiration?

Whilst the VoRTCS library is out of action, we have put together some online resources in the document attached that might come in handy.



Also we encourage all volunteers to visit your local Brisbane City Council library as they carry many of the same or in some cases a more extensive range of resources.

VoRTCS Resource Guides

Your Ultimate Tutoring Resource

Many of our VoRTCS families need assistance in areas outside of just English tutoring. Check out our VoRTCS Resource Guides which are accessible via our 'Links' tab at www.refugeetutoring.org.

Community Picnic, TBA
Sunday 22 November - End of Year
Volunteer Celebration 4-6pm

You're important to us!

This newsletter is created 'for you - by you'

We want to hear your feedback and any ideas for future stories. Send your thoughts to info.vortcs@svdpqld.org.au.

If you know any volunteers not receiving this newsletter please let us know as they're missing out on all the info!

HAVE YOU JOINED US...

On Facebook

Our Facebook page is continuously growing! Please [click here](#) and Like our page to keep up-to-date with daily news and facts.

Please visit our website at www.vinnies.org.au & www.refugeetutoring.org

Donate to our cause [click here](#).



St Vincent de Paul Society
QUEENSLAND

good works