



VoRTCS Connect

March, 2015

Call for Committee Members and Tutor Trainers!

Have you ever thought about getting more involved with VoRTCS??

Well now's your chance! We're looking for some extra committee members to join our fun and vibrant team of professionals.

The committee meets on the last Monday of every month from 6pm-7pm. We discuss ways to improve our service to volunteers and their tutor families as well as plan exciting upcoming events. Being a committee member will give you exposure to governance and an opportunity to network with professionals from various background as well as a chance to make a very worthy contribution to a very worthy cause.

We are also looking for some enthusiastic individuals to train the new volunteers that sign up to be apart of VoRTCS. You do not need to be a teacher or a professional trainer. We will give you all the training you need to be an excellent tutor trainer.

If you're interested, please contact Bianca. :-)

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Multicultural Community Picnic

Share a plate!

Our community picnic is fast approaching. We hope you have all blocked out Sunday **29 March between 10am and 12pm.**

The picnic will be held at **Daisy Hill Catholic Parish**. We will be on the ovals behind the parish, 104 Chatswood Road Daisy Hill QLD 4127. Everyone is welcome to attend and it is going to be a very fun filled day. (see invitation attached).

Everyone is encouraged to bring their own picnic or a plate to share. There will also be sports games, facepainting 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!



VoRTCS' Burger Appreciation Night @ Grill'd West End

Tutor Social Evening with a tasty difference...



We're so excited to announce **Grill'd West End (Boundary Street)** have selected VoRTCS to participate in the Local Matters competition for March.

We thought we'd take this great opportunity and host our first **Tutor Social Evening** for the year. Please come and join us on Monday 23rd March from 6pm - 7:30pm to enjoy a burger, mingle with your fellow Vinnies & VoRTCS volunteers and help raise much needed funds for the program! If you're interested in a committee role this would also be a great chance to speak with one of us and find out more about getting involved.

Everyone is welcome, including friends and family! Please show your support and appreciation for good food and a good cause by buying a burger and popping your token in the VoRTCS Jar either on the 23rd or any time during the month of March.

Free TAFE Course

Expand your knowledge for Free!!

Tafe Queensland is running another Free ESL training course and you're invited to attend. Register now for the FREE course in tutoring English as a Second Language (ESL) to support migrants and refugees in your community.



Details:

Date: Saturday, 21st March 2015

Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Venue: TAFE Queensland Brisbane, South Bank, F Block - F2025

To Register, email or phone Sandy Hang on (07) 3244 5378 or TELLSHTSEP@tafe.qld.edu.au

Graduating Family

What an achievement!!

The Rajendran Family has recently graduated from the VoRTCS program.

Throughout their time with VoRTCS they have had support with their language skills, speaking and writing and as a result, have become more confident in their abilities. They have been assisted with writing job applications, resumes and cover letters.

At times they have needed help making purchases or catching public transport and we can proudly say that the volunteers Jason, Lana, Matthew and later Alice and Kate, were all there to provide this vital support.

Some of the families' most outstanding achievements include obtaining full time work, receiving an OP3 after graduating year 12, receiving various high school awards etc. The children have future ambitions to study Medicine at university, win more high school awards and to be more confident.

The family and the tutors have both strived to achieve these great results and we are very proud of all the effort they have put in.

Congratulations!!

Free Training course for Immigrants

Pass this on to your tutor family

The Royal College of Healthcare is offering a dual qualification in Cert III in Aged Care and Home Care in Milton for no cost to people that meet the following criteria:

- do not already hold a Certificate III qualification or higher
- are not in receipt of Government income support or employment services
- are Australian or New Zealand citizens permanently living in Queensland or
- **humanitarian entrants** living in Queensland, or temporary residents with necessary visa and work permits on the pathway to permanent residency

They are holding information seminars for this program at 5 Cordova Street, Milton on the **12th of March from 9.30am - 11am.**

If people can't attend the info session but would like to commence on the 30th of March that is fine, they just need to complete the attached enrolment form and scan it back to Conrad Quick.

If any members of your family are interested in doing this program, please feel free to let Conrad know as he can follow up or they can contact him directly.

Conrad Quick

Business Development Manager - Royal College of Healthcare

www.royalcollege.com.au

Tel: 07 3257 7799

Mobile: 0435 070 183

Address: Level 2, North Tower, 527 Gregory Terrace, Fortitude Valley, QLD, 4006



Good News Stories

From the Business Review Weekly

Hashi Kaar's story is both uplifting and sad. A refugee from war-torn Somalia, he arrived in Australia as a 17-year-old boy without English, much schooling or an understanding of what the internet was.

Just five years later, he was in his third year of university and employed as a junior application developer at pharmaceutical valuation company Medici Capital.

Now, 13 years since he arrived in Melbourne with his five siblings and mother as part of the family reunion program, he is the founder of three tech companies and employs 15 people. This is the miracle of opportunity. When people are given a chance to make something of themselves, they can overcome immense disadvantages.

Save the Date!

Don't miss out



Exciting events taking place that VoRTCS will be involved in.

Monday 23 March -
Burger Appreciation
Night @ Grill'd West

End 6-7:30pm

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
Community Picnic, TBA

Sunday 22 November - End of Year
Volunteer Celebration 4-6pm

But Kaar's success is also a depressing reminder of what the 10 million people in Somalia could be achieving if only they had some of Australia's blessings.

"Things we take for granted here, they don't have there," he says. "I never went to high school or any formal school in my life."

Once in Australia, after 10 years living as a refugee in Kenya, Kaar was able to take advantage of a number of government -programs to learn English and study at TAFE and Swinburne University of -Tech-nology. These gave him the skills he needed to get started in a career that earned him a six-figure salary before he left to become an entrepreneur.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.brw.com.au/p/entrepreneurs/>

Tutor Library

Need some inspiration?

Whilst the VoRTCS library is out of action, we have put together some more online resources in the documents 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.

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@svdpld.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 and Instagram

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

Also follow us on **Instagram** using [@vortcs](#)

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