



VoRTCS Connect

July, 2015

Kids Camp Reflection

How do you measure success at a Kids Camp?

Tired Adults!!

The Vinnies Kids Camp for 2015 was held at Coolum Beach over the weekend of July 10th-12th.

On Friday, all of the campers arrived in time for lunch. The rain didn't hold out for the first afternoon but nothing could dampen the spirits of the 80+ excited campers (44 children attended). Once the rain lifted, a game of Gold Rush set the kids into a frenzy. (See right for photo of kids hunting for gold!)



Saturday was a day of blue skies and filled with fun activities. These included low ropes, treasure hunts, arts & crafts, field activities and planning for the famous talent show. All teams prepared a performance to show that evening. There were many laughs and bright colours, loud music and some outstanding solos. Safe to say, the campers were pretty tired when it came time to go to bed.

Sunday morning it was time to pack up the rooms. Another game of Gold Rush was a must since it was so popular on Friday. The rest of the morning was spent playing cricket, soccer, footy and Red Rover.

When it came time to leave, most campers wanted to stay. Everyone said goodbye and another successful Kids Camp was over.

Some of the comments made included; "This was the best part of my holiday", "I have something to talk about at school tomorrow now", "I never want to leave", "I'm coming back next year".

A massive THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who made the weekend a success. This simply would not have been possible without you!

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Buddies Day Program

An opportunity for your VoRTCS Family

A 'Buddies Day' provides cost free opportunities and activities for children within selected Brisbane communities to have a safe and enjoyable day out. In doing so, Buddies Days also give parents of the children an opportunity to have a break.

The Vinnies Youth Department run this wonderful program which is available to any VoRTCS Family children who would benefit from being involved. The program caters to serve on a personal level, providing self-development for the children and alternative role models through the young volunteers who run the activities.

One day a month usually held on a weekend, volunteers meet with the children and take them on outings to places and venues they may not regularly have the opportunity to see/do. The program focuses on being:

- Fun
- Inclusive
- Supportive/educational

All children are provided with morning tea and lunch, catered by St Vincent de Paul as well as transportation to and from meeting points.

How to refer a child:

Currently, the program is open to children between the ages of 8 -12 years throughout a number of different areas within Brisbane and beyond. The Society however, is looking to introduce the program into other areas with a high need.

If you would like to enrol a VoRTCS child in a Buddies Day Program, then please contact Bianca to make a referral and be given the Youth forms - bianca.nisbet@svdpqld.org.au.

July Community Picnic

Unfortunately the July Community Picnic has been cancelled. We are sorry for any inconvenience and another community picnic will be organized for later in the year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Bianca.



Free Community Soccer Program

Do your VoRTCS Family kids love sport?

Based on the belief that sport should be readily available, accessible and inclusive for all children; the 'Vinnies Soccer Stars' Program is now offering children from the Brisbane region the opportunity to play recreational soccer free of charge!

The program is another Youth Department initiative and will be open to children aged between 8 - 11 years old. The program will be held fortnightly on a Saturday at Moorooka State School from 9am - 10.30am.

Each fortnight, volunteers will get together and organise a fun morning where children get to experience the physical, psychological and social benefits of soccer in a relaxed and non-competitive environment. The morning is focused on developing friendships, providing positive role models, team building, and

participation and increasing confidence.

To enrol in the program or for more information, contact Anthony on 0407 172 685 or anthony.forshaw@svdpqld.org.au

Clemente Program

Education opportunities for VoRTCS Family members

The Clemente program is making a difference to the lives of many people who never imagined they would have the opportunity to attain a university education.

The Vinnies program helps individuals re-engage with the community and re-connect with learning through the vital support of local businesses and other community outreach programs.

All that's required of participants to qualify for this program is: the willingness to learn, they are over 18 years old, able to commit to a university semester (14-16 week course), can read and discuss a newspaper article and are an Australian citizen or hold appropriate work visa rights.

To find out more or make a referral please contact Bianca.

Columbian Chicken Stew with Potatoes, Tomato and Onion

Yummmmmmm



Ingredients

- 4 large Russet or Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and cut into 1- to 2-inch chunks
- 1 large onion, sliced into 1/4-inch slices (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 4 medium beefsteak tomatoes, cut into 1- to 2-inch chunks (about 3 cups)
- 1 whole chicken, back removed, cut into 8 pieces (about 4 pounds),

Active and Healthy Program now released

July to December 2015

The Active and Healthy team have scheduled an exciting array of new activities for the July to December 2015 program round. Grab a friend and get out to enjoy some of Council's local parklands with our [Active Parks](#) activities.

Alternatively, are you or someone you know over 50 and looking for something fun and social to do? Then check out the super diverse [GOLD](#) program.

The popular [Heart Foundation Walking](#) groups are operating all across Brisbane so grab your sneakers and get some fresh air. Stay tuned for the release of the September Chillout program.

Tutor Library

Need Resources??

The VoRTCS Tutor Library is open every week between Monday - Friday office hours (except public holidays).

If you would like to come in during an out of office time please contact Bianca to see the next available date.

You can access our online catalogue to check out what resources are available before coming in and also place some items on hold via: vortcs.svdpcmeweb.libcode.com.au/index.php



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.

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or 4 whole chicken legs, cut into thighs and drumsticks

- 2 bay leaves
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Procedures

1. Combine potatoes, onion, tomato, chicken pieces, bay leaves, and a large pinch of salt in a pressure cooker. Toss with hands to combine. Seal lid and cook under high pressure for 25 minutes. Release pressure, remove lid, season to taste, and serve.

Save the Date!

Don't miss out

Exciting events taking place that VoRTCS will be involved in.

Monday 3 August - Next Volunteer Training day. **Do you have a friend???**

Sunday 6 September - Bridge to Brisbane 2015

Sunday 13 September - Multicultural Community Picnic, TBA

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



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

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



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