

mini MICAH

July 2007

Hello, and welcome to *mini MICAH*.

What's been happening

- Γ Mercy Care farewelled Sr Angela Reed on Friday 29th June. Angela has contributed and achieved much in the seven years she has been at Mercy Care and will be sadly missed by staff and volunteers. We wish Angela well for the future.
- Γ As the people of Gippsland deal with the devastation of floods, the staff at Centacare Sale are in our thoughts as they work with those who are struggling emotionally and physically with the resultant anguish.
- Γ Regina Coeli Community are seeking to employ case workers with knowledge and experience within the homeless or mental health sector for their newly opened wing. For further information please contact Anu Panditharatne on 9269 6868 or email anup@reginacoeli.org.au Applications close 13th July.

What's coming up

- Γ MacKillop Family Services' **Soul Art** will come to Federation Square from 13 - 30 August. Soul Art is artwork from the souls of kids who have been victims of child abuse, children with significant disabilities and kids who have not experienced the love of family.
- Γ CSSV will hold its Annual Dinner on Thursday 30th August at Moonee Valley Racing Club from 6.30 - 12.30 at \$55.00 per head, with drinks at bar prices. Please make a note in your diaries and gather your work colleagues together and book a table. This is not a fundraiser; it is a community building event. We do hope you can come along and join us.

Γ .

Who am I?

Each issue, we profile someone in the CSSV community. In this issue, we hear from John McCarthy from Centacare Catholic Family Services.

Q: John, please tell us about your work.

I reckon I have a very exciting job. I manage the Christmas, Easter, June and Church appeals for Centacare. I liaise with our donors and over the years I've heard some wonderful stories about why people actually donate to us and I'm humbled by their stories. I also look after events for Centacare, for example the Mass of Appreciation held to thank our donors.

Q: Tell us something interesting or funny that has happened to you recently?

I recently had a car accident in the company car. A police car stopped in front of me and I stopped safely behind it, when suddenly the power lines exploded showering sparks everywhere. The policeman, in his panic, reversed his car into me. Imagine the scene: two police cars with lights flashing; two fire

engines with lights flashing; two TXU electricity trucks with lights flashing; and me in the middle. When my wife arrived and we looked at the scene with all the flashing lights it looked like a huge accident scene and my immediate reaction was to say “it looks like I was lucky to escape alive”!! To top it all off, I was then breathalysed by the police!!

Q: Have you a piece of advice or an encouragement that has helped you in life or work?

My faith has actually been my source of encouragement, particularly over the past twelve months.

Q: What do you do to wind down or relax?

I go to the gym every morning and at the other extreme I become a “Norm” and lie down and watch TV. I also enjoy a good glass of red!

Q: Have you a particular role model?

It's actually my mother. She is a very strong woman. She has a strong faith and love of family. She always puts her children first and I admire her. She is currently suffering with cancer and the strength and determination she has to look after my sister with Down Syndrome who lives with her is actually something I can't put words to. She is awe inspiring.

Q: Which footy team do you support and why?

I barrack for the Kangaroos. When my father arrived from Ireland he lived in North Melbourne and found out that the second religion of Victoria was VFL and of course he had to pick a team and as he lived there he picked North Melbourne. As a result my eight brothers and sisters, and now the next generation, all barrack for the Kangaroos.

Send us your news – any information on what your agency is doing will be greatly appreciated.

mini MICAH thrives on news! Send your news, updates, and any items of interest to miniMICAH@css.org.au.

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