

What is the Good Samaritan Fund?

A key part of the Mission of St Vincent's Hospital is our care for patients who are experiencing high levels of poverty, vulnerability and hardship. For these patients a form of additional assistance would make a significant difference to their lives, contributing to their dignity, recovery and well-being.

The Good Samaritan Fund was established in December 2014 in response to this need. We invited staff to become Good Samaritans and have been thrilled with the response. Each pay, staff members volunteer to donate to the Fund.

The Good Samaritan Fund enables staff to assist our most poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged patients through their journey with us.

It is the St Vincent's Mission in action.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa McDonald

Director of Mission
St Vincent's Hospital,
Melbourne

You too can help disadvantaged patients by donating to the 'Good Samaritan Fund'.

Please visit our website www.stvfoundation.org.au/goodsamaritanfund or phone St Vincent's Foundation on (03) 9231 3365.



The Story of the Good Samaritan

A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.

The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'



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**ST VINCENT'S
HOSPITAL**
MELBOURNE

Going 'above and beyond' for patients at St Vincent's

The Good Samaritan Fund at work



No fridge to keep their food fresh

Basheer and his family were recently arrived refugees from the Middle East. He and his family were lucky enough to be moved into government housing.

Then Basheer had to undergo major surgery at St Vincent's and was unable to work.

He was not able to get a loan and had no money for a refrigerator or washing machine. The family had a roof over their heads, but they couldn't keep their food fresh or wash the children's clothes. This was a real worry for Basheer.

The Good Samaritan Fund bought a refrigerator and washing machine and Basheer's family was able to settle into their new accommodation.

Last precious moments with their daughter

A young woman named Janine was admitted to our Intensive Care Unit suffering from a massive brain haemorrhage.

She was urgently placed on life support. Her elderly and anxious parents from Queensland did not have money to buy tickets to fly to Melbourne.

Within two hours of Janine being admitted, our staff arranged for her parents to be on a flight to Melbourne. Her parents arrived at the hospital at 8pm and spent four loving hours with their daughter before she passed away.

It was a sad ending but being with their daughter before she died meant the world to the grateful parents.

Good Samaritans join forces to save new Mum

As a young, poor Filipino woman Mary Jane Galon knew she was in trouble when a lump developed on her jaw while she was pregnant. The lump grew and disfigured her so much that she was too embarrassed to go out and scared she would not be around for her baby.

Luckily for Mary Jane, an aid organisation heard about her plight, and organised to bring the new Mum to St Vincent's for life-saving surgery.

Although the tumour was benign, doctors were afraid it would soon stop Mary Jane from eating and breathing.

A team of specialists volunteered their time and the St Vincent's Good Samaritan Fund assisted in covering the cost of her surgery.

The operation took 14-hours to remove the tumour and perform delicate facial reconstructive surgery. Thanks to the expertise of our staff, Mary Jane's surgery was a complete success.

Following her surgery Mary Jane said, 'I can see that there is a light in my future now. Whereas before I am always thinking that I am in the dark, always hiding. Now I see hope. Now I'm happy.'