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Spirit of Shekinah

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Shekinah News for September

For most of the past 3 months, Shekinah and many of its members have undergone accreditation. Shekinah, Bethlehem Community, Good Samaritan Inn, McAuley Community Services for Women and St Mary's House of Welcome have done extremely well with their accreditation, and as we go to press, The Way Community is undergoing their accreditation. We wish them well in the process.

As you will be aware, the Shekinah Ball is looming – all too fast! The date is Friday 2nd October at the Collingwood Town Hall. Details are on page 3 of this newsletter.

We would love to see as many people as possible come along and join in with the people you either work with or volunteer for, as it's their 'night-of-nights'!

For those who have joined with us in the past, you will know that this is a night where the homeless sector – within and outside of our Shekinah Network – come together to celebrate life! And they certainly do that with great gusto.

On offer is a 3-piece band who will entertain, finger food which has mostly been provided by our member organisations, and most importantly great company to make for an enjoyable evening.

The theme is footy – as it will be held on the Friday immediately after the Grand Final. So we're asking people to dress up in their club colours – whether that be in footy gear or your

best outfit in the colours of your club. However you're dressed, we would love to spend the evening with you.

Shekinah has a relationship with Mercy Health who are offering their staff 2 paid days' leave per year to volunteer, and Shekinah has been one of the organisations chosen. Several staff members have approached me to volunteer with some even wanting it to become an ongoing part of their life. I think it's a great initiative – well done Mercy!

I'm taking leave in October – the week after the Ball. I'll be back on deck on the 20th October - just in time for the Shekinah Annual General Meeting.

I want to say, that as I come up to my first anniversary of being in this role – just how much I enjoy it. I find it a real thrill to be able to work in the organisations that are Shekinah – but also meeting new and prospective volunteers.

On behalf of the Shekinah Network, and especially those who use the services, thank you for giving of your precious time and energy to volunteering.

Marg Casey

Volunteer Program Co-ordinator





Around the Network

Accreditation

We are sighing a collective sigh of relief now that accreditation is over – for most of us. The Way Community is still undergoing their accreditation process and we wish them all the very best.

I find that when interviewing prospective volunteers, they find it important and even comforting that we are all accredited.

Briar Terrace

Volunteers are urgently required at Briar Terrace which is a 'drop-in' centre for rooming house men and women who experience the loneliness of inner city living.

They are now opening a little later into the day and hoping to open

weekends. However, in order to do this, they need committed regular volunteers.

If you know anyone out there who would be interested in helping out at Briar Terrace please let me know. I can be contacted on 9462 3933.



Bethlehem Community

Bethlehem Community had a wonderful day out at the Ballet recently. The women, staff and volunteers saw the Australian Ballet Company performing Sleeping Beauty.

Bethlehem has also received approval for a new facility at Thomastown, which some of the women from Reservoir will move to. The women are involved in choosing colours for the site. It's a great consultative process.

St Mary's House of Welcome

St Mary's House of Welcome is enjoying its new premises.

St Mary's hosted a Shekinah Management Committee recently – so we all got to be on the receiving

end of St Mary's hospitality.

They also have recently completed and passed their accreditation with QICSA – congratulations to all involved.



McAuley Community Services for Women

Mercy Care program has gone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is in the process of implementing all the changes that go with a restructure – new staff, different shifts for volunteers etc.

Regina Coeli Program is in need of

volunteers – particularly administrative assistance. If you know anyone who may be interested please ask them to contact me.

McAuley Community Services for Women recently launched their new website – www.mcauleycsw.org.au



Good Samaritan Inn

The Inn recently held a dinner dance at L'Unica Reception Centre in Parkville. Three hundred and nine people enjoyed the evening – good food, great music and great company. It was a wonderful night

from all perspectives – including financial. The Inn managed to raise several thousand dollars which will go to running the program. Congratulations to all involved in organising a great evening.



Shekinah

At the moment my preoccupation is with the Ball. You will see from the flyer below that we are planning a fun

night. Please come along. Bring your family and friends. It will be a lot of fun.



SHEKINAH'S 2009 FOOT BALL!

Date: FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2009

Venue: COLLINGWOOD TOWN HALL
140 HODDLE STREET, COLLINGWOOD

Time: 7.00PM – 11.00PM

Theme: DRESS IN YOUR FAVOURITE FOOTY TEAM'S COLOURS. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR BEST DRESSED!

Cost: \$25 FULL PRICE & \$10 CONCESSION
BYO DRINKS

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A special thanks to the City of Yarra for their support!