

'Tis the Christmas Angels Season!

For countless children across South Australia, this Christmas will be a reminder that someone they love will not be there to share Christmas with them.

Through no fault of their own, this Christmas may be a tough reminder for some kids and young people that Mum or Dad is behind bars and not at home.

Last year, **Christmas Angels** provided **632 children and young people** across SA with Christmas presents on behalf of their imprisoned parent; providing a much-needed opportunity for children and parents to stay connected in the midst of extremely difficult circumstances.

Research shows that opportunities like this not only benefit the children but also deter further offending.

Strong family bonds are one of the most influential factors in prisoner rehabilitation and in reducing recidivism. Studies also indicate that sustained and healthy relationships between child and parent can offset some of the negative effects of a parent's imprisonment.

"As you can imagine, Christmas and Birthdays are difficult and lonely times. What made them a little more bearable was knowing that my children would receive beautiful gifts, that their Mum had thought of them and wanted them to have something special on the day."

Christmas Angels creates a unique opportunity for Dads and Mums to connect with their children – reminding them they are loved and not forgotten.

To find out more about **Christmas Angels** or to sponsor a child with two brand new presents (\$40 per child), visit secondchances.org.au or call us at (08) 8272 0323.



Christmas Box: Feeding Families



This Christmas will be a special one for 50 families across Adelaide, supported by **PK Family Care**. Thanks to the generosity of **Victory Church** and their fabulous **Christmas Box** program, they will receive a food box to feed a family for a week.

How You Can Help:

- **Ask** friends and family to sponsor a **Christmas Angels** child on your behalf in lieu of gifts.
- **Fill** a shopping bag food hamper with groceries – to support families doing it tough this Christmas.
- **Share** us on your social media and encourage your connections to like and support us.
- **Host** a fun event with family and friends to raise money together for **Christmas Angels**. Set yourself a goal and see how many children you can sponsor!

It's all in the Carols

Have you noticed the disappearance of old-fashioned values in everyday language over recent times? Fundamental things like honesty, respect for authority, integrity, trust, kindness, thoughtfulness and compassion.

These seem to be common amongst the 'foundation' generation of our grandparents who in many ways built our cities and economies. Where did they learn these values? Might there be a connection to Christmas?

Many of our forebears attended Church (at least Easter and Christmas) and we wonder how any of that might be

relevant in our largely secular society. Well, it has a lot to do with what was and is taught by the Christian faith. It all started with a baby – as the carol says, 'when a child is born'.

While not everyone accepts that Christ is the Son of God and the long-awaited promised Messiah, at least his message of love, forgiveness and compassion was consistent. **After all, those messages are what everyone deep down wants to know and experience.**

When you're singing those rollicking time-tested hymns and carols this Christmas, give some special thought to what the

words are really saying. It could be a 'light bulb' moment when His light and love come shining through. Happy Christmas everyone.



Helen Glanville
Chief Executive

Photo: Studio Shubin



We've Taken Off



Senator Anne Ruston (left) with project participants, Marcus (centre) and Joel (right).

In September, **Getting Ready for Take Off** was officially launched. The project is a Second Chances SA initiative to improve

the employment opportunities of youth and young adults up to 25 years affected by parental imprisonment.

Federal Minister for Families and Social Services, **SA Senator Anne Ruston** was on hand to officiate the launch, saying the innovative project would help tackle disadvantage.

The project consists of two Life Coaches, based in our Morphett Vale and Elizabeth hubs. They will work one-on-one with participants to develop an individualised employment or training plan based on their personal barriers and strengths.

"We want to break the family cycle of welfare dependency, by providing these kids a chance to learn the importance of work ethic and the value of seeking

their own vocational pathway," says **Helen Glanville**, Second Chances SA CEO.

Supported by the Try, Test and Learn Fund – an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Social Services.



Anne Ruston (centre) officially launches **Getting Ready for Take Off** alongside project staff and participants.

Since April 1...



62 Participants

Since launching as of 1 April 2019, **Getting Ready for Take Off**, has gotten off to a flying start!

Across two hubs, **62 participants** have already signed up for life-coaching and vocational support and training; receiving a total of **639 coaching sessions** (as of 30 September 2019).

Thus far, project participants have completed **38 vocational courses**, receiving training in aged care, disability support, hair and beauty, motor mechanics and barista skills.

Participants have also clocked up **30 professional driving lessons** and **8 participants** have been supported in obtaining their Learner's Permits.



38 vocational courses

Life Coaching in the South



Will Metzger, Life Coach-South Hub

Sitting on the corner of South Road and Bains Road is our new South Hub, guided by Life Coach, **Will Metzger**.

With a background in psychology, teaching and entertainment, he brings a wealth of professional and life experience to his role. As a Life Coach, Will sees his role as coming alongside young people to support, encourage and develop their goals together.

"I don't see this as work," he says.

"I see this as empowering young people and helping them get their lives on the right track."

Although still relatively new to the role, Will already feels a connection with project participants; having recently been invited to a musical performance by one of them. *"It means a lot being invited into their lives."*



South Hub, Morphett Vale

Will is married to Victoria and is the proud father of 16-month old son, Harry. He is passionate about people, music and sports and enjoys a good joke here and there.

Serco Values Volunteers

From the moment we met him new Serco **General Manager Mark Walters** of the Adelaide Remand Centre (ARC) was friendly and welcoming. He seemed to appreciate the volunteer services we could provide for those on remand. These include banking, some storage of property like mobile phones and listening to men who have an unknown future.

For the past year **Zinedine Nicholls** has been responding to prisoner requests while **Peter Miller** has been volunteering for four years at the Adelaide Remand Centre. Since

mid-August the ARC has been under new management and this includes a new way of doing business at every level. New lock down times, new staff and even new language has already resulted in the beginnings of a new culture which has not gone unnoticed. So far - so good.

At our October Café Night Mark spoke about the changes and the challenges or introducing the SERCO method of managing prisons, prisoners and staff. We wish Mark and his staff all the best in delivering the SERCO private prison contract.



(L to R): Peter Miller, Mark Walters (ARC General Manager) and Zinedine Nicholls at October's Café Night

PK Mentoring Camps: Building Confidence and Community

Younger Teen Boys Camp



Mylor Adventure Camp / Oct 2019

PK Mentoring Camps are a great opportunity for young people to see new places, try new activities and build community and confidence in a safe and nurturing environment.



In addition to their generous sponsorship of the Spring Primary Camp, **RAA** also donated high-quality raincoats for each of the

campers and leaders – and just in time too, as it turned out to be a wet and rainy camp weekend. **Thanks RAA!**

To find out more about volunteering or donating to **PK Mentoring Camps**, visit secondchances.org.au or call us at (08) 8272 0323.

Primary Camp

Woodhouse Activity Centre, Piccadilly / Sep 2019



