

## KIDS GIVING BACK TESTIMONIALS

### Feedback from some schools working with us:

My class and I thoroughly enjoyed the Kids Giving Back initiative. It is hands on, practical and lies at the heart of social justice. The boys thoroughly enjoyed their work and seeing it better society. It enabled a sense of satisfaction and charity that allowed for classroom understanding to 'come alive'. More than this, the program pushed them to act on conscience and become good men. I recommend this program highly. **Mark Story – St Ignatius' College, Riverview**

Our Hunter Valley Grammar Year 9 students participated in the Kids Giving Back program when in Sydney on our Urban Challenge Program earlier this year. This was the first time we have been involved in the Cook4Good program, and it added tremendous value to our Sydney Urban Challenge. Indeed, the most common response from our students was that it was one of the best parts of the four-day program. We will certainly make sure that Kids Giving Back is part of our program every year. **Paul Teys, Principal, Hunter Valley Grammar School**

Kids Giving Back is a wonderful organisation that taps into the most important natural resource our country has to offer. Our kids! Not only does Kids Giving Back empower young people to engage in altruistic endeavours, but they also provide opportunities to mix with people from all walks of life, meaning that students are developing their capacity to be socially aware and empathetic members of our society. Kids Giving Back programs not only complement the Australian National Curriculum, but also tap into the field of positive psychology and subjective wellbeing by recognising the act of doing good for others is actually one of the best things we can do for ourselves. I'm proud to be associated with Kids Giving Back through our work together on the GROW program in partnership with Youth off the Streets. **Dan Haesler, Director, Cut Through Coaching and Consulting**

The thing I like most about Ruth and Carole from "Kids Giving Back" is their passion and humility. Here are two women that saw a need, had an idea and were prepared to take risks, to listen and to learn as they went along, letting their vision create itself. And it has truly become a powerful and necessary part of getting young people to be involved in community service. They have worked hard to get access to age-appropriate activities, which has saved me a lot of time and energy. They are wise in their consulting with schools and other organisations and look carefully for the best fit. They are also very aware of the need for an educational basis, the importance of reflection and specific learning outcomes. I cannot express enough how valuable and significant their service is to our future generations and the sense of purpose they will take with them.

**Garry Lee-Lindsay, SCEGGS School Chaplain**

"Kids Giving Back is an invaluable organisation allowing schools to help students engage in service learning. We have worked with them for many years and will continue to into the future. Our students have had many inspiring experiences with you, encouraging them to continue their service outside of the allocated programs. We are very grateful." **Dr Tamara Lang Dean of Wellbeing, Kambala**

"There is no doubt that the students got a lot from the day. It gave them a sense of efficacy, that they could do something to positively impact the lives of others. It also opened their eyes to new aspects of the world around them." **Jodie Bennett, Head of Junior School, St Luke's Grammar School, Dee Why**

“If I hadn’t taken the time yesterday to join the group on the Scones4Good activity I would have missed out on a truly powerful experience. I would like to thank you first for being visionaries with a genuine desire to change the world. I am also grateful for how the program was put together to provide the right preparation to make the culminating experience meaningful for both the students as well as the residents of the lodge. I hope we can have more experiences similar to this in the future.” **Bill Conway, Principal, Montessori East**

“Scots and Kids Giving Back have been working closely for the last 3 years to provide community based service learning experiences for our students. These experiences have broadened both our students' understanding of the world around them and their practical skills in a number of areas. For example, the boys have worked with and cooked for the homeless, packed hampers for the needy at Christmas and participated in In Their Shoes workshops to develop their empathy skills. Our boys have been challenged to show compassion through the projects Kids Giving Back have provided, and as a result, have progressively been more effective in helping serve those less fortunate.” **David Oswell, Scots College, MIC Community Service**

"Volunteer programs like these allow students many great learning opportunities outside of the classroom. By participating in community volunteering activities, young people have an opportunity to learn and demonstrate care, respect and responsibility. The experience may develop confidence and skills in communication and team work." "I've seen firsthand the positive impact this program has had on the students' self-esteem and confidence and look forward to a long partnership with our local organisations to see many more students benefit." **Natasha Bonyngre Ways/POEM**

## Feedback from kids volunteering through Kids Giving Back:

“It was lots of fun and there was lots of teamwork, and when we deliver the food it’s the most touching and meaningful moment.” **Ricky 13**

I enjoyed meeting new people and making them happy. Making the scones was fun. They were delicious. **Jonah 11**

“After doing every program, my heart feels so big and full because of the happiness my giving brings to others”. **Liron 13**

“It makes me feel very kind to other people” **Sienna 6**

“I feel encouraged to do more volunteering after working in this beautiful garden” **Adam 10**

“I felt that hearing people's stories and where they had come from changed my perspective of elderly people.” **Sally 13**

“It was great to see the elderly people and I was proud that we could see them and make them happy. They don't normally get to see so many young people so I think they really enjoyed having us there. I liked talking with them about their experiences and their lives.”

“Something I would send my children to and I will remember the experience forever!! After I delivered the food I felt so good about myself and I will never forget that feeling! **Tahlia, 11**

"I learnt all about homelessness and why people have to face problems. it made me think about how others would be feeling not just myself. It felt really wonderful." *Rebecca, 11*

"The welcome, appreciation and smiles from the recipients were almost overwhelming. What we did was such a small thing that obviously had an impact on the day of the elderly gentleman and the 91 year old lady that we met today." *Sam 14*

## Feedback from parents volunteering with their kids through *Kids Giving Back*

"It's wonderful to do something together with the children, to actually show the children and work together rather than just speak about helping people." *Liat, mum*

"Best part was being able to spend time with my son whilst being able to help the community and for him to experience the true essence of volunteering for his community." *Gary, dad*

"Cook4Good gave us a perspective on the life we lead and an appreciation of what we have and acknowledgment that things can change quickly and can knock you down. Take the time to give back!" *Sandy, mum*

"My kids have been involved in KGB since its inception and have participated in its many wonderful Experiences. At first I was waiting for that 'aha moment', in other words for them to be catapulted towards insight by a single experience. However, no such wisdom seemed evident, and i wondered if perhaps it was all just going over their little heads...but then the moments began to surface in sure, steady and significant increments. Proactive acts of kindness and beautiful family discussions assured me that in fact nothing was eluding them, instead it was (and continues to) slowly percolate for them, emerging when the time is right for each individual child. What have I learnt as a parent? I cant give my kids a crash course in altruism, instead its a lifestyle thing, its a mindset thing and its about providing opportunities for them to engage in activity and thought which stretches them beyond their daily, rose tinted lives." *Rachel, mum*

## Feedback from Charity Partners

I am writing to thank you, rather belatedly I'm sorry, for the generosity your organisation has shown us over the year, via your Cook4Good program. I congratulate you on such a wonderful concept and would like to let you know that the meals have been very well received by the young people in our care. We are very grateful for your service. Taldumande relies heavily on the support of the local community to enable us to continue to help the vulnerable and homeless young people in our care. *Virginia Howard – Taldumande – Chair*

I just wanted to flag how well received the Cook4Good meals & fresh bread was received by our young tenants. All the feedback has been really positive Some of the last of the frozen meals have gone to a young woman doing her HSC to ease her need for shopping & meal preparation during this hectic time. *Warren Welsh | Housing Manager The Burdekin Association*

"When they see kids running around It brings back nice memories of raising their own children and being around their grandchildren. Our residents love the hustle and bustle of the children - it was so nice to have a noisy afternoon." *Lisa Frances, Recreational Activities Officer, Elizabeth Lodge*

“The Asylum Seekers Centre serves as a drop-in community centre for those seeking asylum in the Sydney area. We have a number of different services available in the building and the highlight of the day is the hot lunch, where everyone comes together. Having the Kids Giving Back families providing and serving lunches for us enables everyone to relax and enjoy a hot meal. It demonstrates to people seeking asylum who come to our centre that there are people in the local community who care about their wellbeing. Sharing food is an act of caring, and eating together helps create bonds of friendship.” Jenny Tracey, Nutrition, Education and Social Support Service Manager, Asylum Seekers Centre

“Working with Kids Giving Back has given the community presenters from Rough Edges a terrific opportunity to develop their skills through sharing their stories with so many students from all over the world. It has been a delight to see their growth in confidence as they have been given the chance to bridge the gap between the marginalised and mainstream. The food that has been provided is always yummy and well presented, and a real gift to people who are sleeping rough.” Penny Barletta Team Leader, Rough Edges, St John's Community Services

“Clients and families of The Benevolent Society have been receiving meals from Cook4Good for a number of years. Clients and families who receive these meals are always appreciative and grateful. Some of these clients and families are quite vulnerable and isolated in the community. When they see the children and adults who deliver these meals it brings them great joy to see smiles and are able to enjoy fresh cooked meals.” Anna Pham, Case Manager, The Benevolent Society

‘Kids Giving Back’ has supported Tierney House through the provision of prepared meals for almost 2 years now. These donations are well received and thoroughly appreciated by the residents of Tierney House, (those experiencing homelessness), as they not only enjoy the meals but also the gesture and kindness of the children preparing the meals. Thank you ‘Kids Giving Back’ for your ongoing generosity. We really appreciate it.” Cameron French, Manager, Tierney House

“Thank you so much for promoting our fundraiser the way you did. The event went really well thanks to the students’ exuberance and diligence; I don’t know what I would have done without them!” Natalie Martignago | Organiser | Sydney Alliance

## Feedback from Corporate Volunteers

“Time spent together outside of the office, good bonding experience for a good cause.” Stocklands

“Really saw how much of a positive difference it made to their day.” Allianz

The best part of the day was the conversation it sparked with my kids. We talked about a number of issues which may lead to homelessness as we enjoyed our dinner that evening. The information was age appropriate. Sage

“It was a very eye opening experience, and brought awareness to areas close by which we don’t really notice people struggling in. Highly recommended, great cause.” Toga