



8 May 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians

I am writing to you on behalf of the Year 11 students of Loreto Normanhurst to ask for your support with 'Loreto Day', our school's major social justice event. Throughout this term we are raising awareness for the needs of House of Welcome, a project of St Francis Social Services.

Their work includes helping asylum seekers and refugees to settle in Australia. Part of this work includes providing shelter, basic needs and empowering refugees and asylum seekers with hope and dignity. Recently, the Australian Government cut funding to income support programs for refugees. We are hoping to raise much needed funds to assist House of Welcome with case work, safe housing programs, work programs, financial assistance to health services, legal support, English classes, developing community connections and the Work and Welcome Program. The Work and Welcome Program provides employment opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers and is something our school supports.

One of the ways we raise money and support this project is through an online auction. We would be most grateful if you could support our efforts by donating something that could go towards the auction. By supporting the cause, your donation will help House of Welcome and provide much needed resources.

With the Australian Government cutting funding to income support programs for refugees this is going to have a significant impact on people who rely on the services of House of Welcome. In this Year of Justice at Loreto Normanhurst we recognise the needs of the world, both locally and globally and the IBVM's call to *go where the need is great*. Help us to open doors and maximise opportunities for all.

If you would like to donate something to contribute to our auction, could you email Michelle Duffy, PA to the Directors of Mission and Pastoral Care at mduffy@loretonh.nsw.edu.au by Friday 18 May. We are aiming to have our auction site live, as close to this date as possible. We will also provide you with a link to the site as well.

We are keen that our school community be made aware of the companies and individuals who generously donate auction items for this event. We would be happy to acknowledge your support through our newsletter.

Thanking you in advance for your considering this request and partnering with us to help transform the lives of refugees and asylum seekers who rely on the work of House of Welcome.

Yours sincerely

Justin Madigan
Dean of Pastoral Care

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