



Newsletter

Issue 27, 2017



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“Daniels Shoes”

View our video about Daniel on our website.

<http://madv.com.au/daniels-story/>

WHY?

We wear the starfish pin?

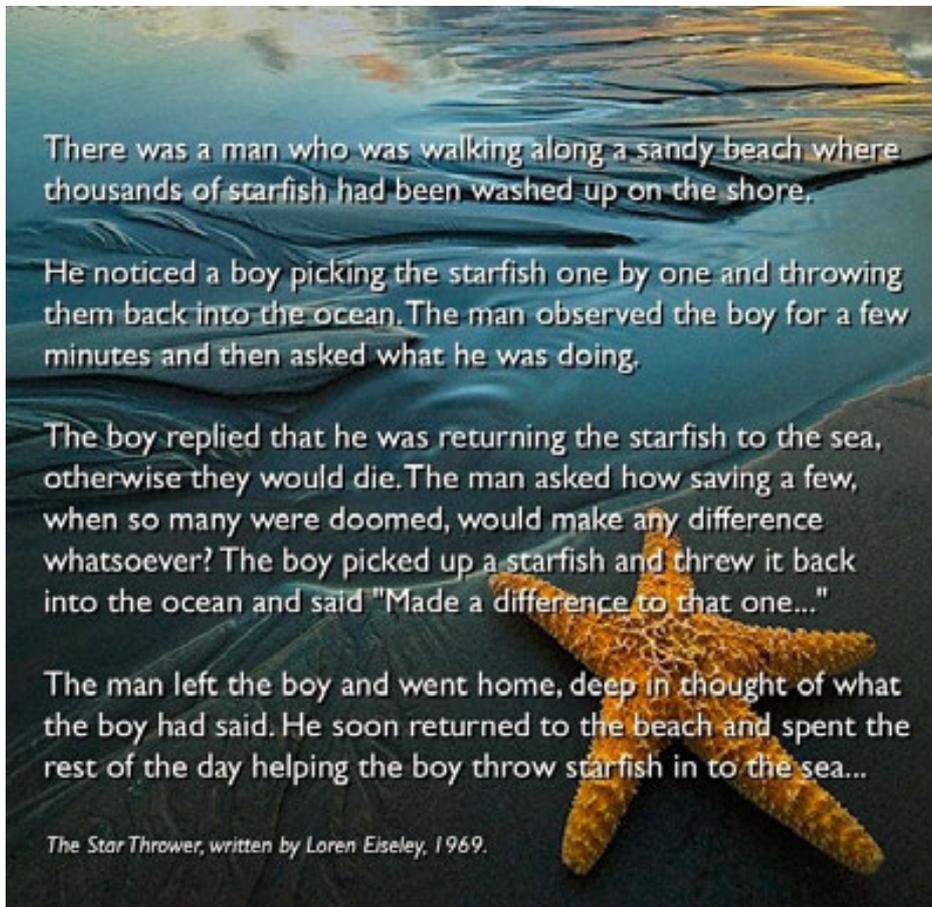
There was a man who was walking along a sandy beach where thousands of starfish had been washed up on the shore.

He noticed a boy picking the starfish one by one and throwing them back into the ocean. The man observed the boy for a few minutes and then asked what he was doing.

The boy replied that he was returning the starfish to the sea, otherwise they would die. The man asked how saving a few, when so many were doomed, would make any difference whatsoever? The boy picked up a starfish and threw it back into the ocean and said "Made a difference to that one..."

The man left the boy and went home, deep in thought of what the boy had said. He soon returned to the beach and spent the rest of the day helping the boy throw starfish in to the sea...

The Star Thrower, written by Loren Eiseley, 1969.



Welcome to the Newsletter of “Make A Difference”.

We provide counselling and support services for individuals and families who ask our help.

MADDV has been in operation for many years, and sees hundreds of clients each month.

Many need emergency help, such as food parcels and utility bills resolved.

Others need our in-house services such as financial counselling or casework.

Volunteers are the back bone of our organisation, and many have been with us for many years.

Financial support from the community ensures that we —

- save lives
- Give people hope
- Give people a fresh start
- Ensure children don't go hungry

We would love to hear from YOU



David is our newly elected Chairman and we welcome him on board. He brings many years of community service to the table. David is always of the challenges many families face in 2018 and is committed to assist them through the work of MADDV.

Bendigo Bank Dingley Village Community Bank

The Community Bank was established in February 2001.

The Bank supports Kindergartens, Schools, Sporting Clubs, Charitable organisations and organisations which support and assist vulnerable members of our community. Put simply - - - our community continues to grow and thrive, with the support of the Community Bank Branch.

The Bank recently achieved the milestone of having given \$4 million back to the local community.

Make A Difference has been recognised and supported during the past years.



“The salt of the earth”

Snapshot of volunteering

- 36% of Victorians volunteer
- 1.5 million people volunteer
- 33% of Melbournians
- 45% of regional Victorians volunteer
- 90% of our states community organisations rely on volunteers to do what they do.
- Victorian volunteers worked a total of 203 million hours last year

Volunteers contribute \$4.9 billion to the community.

They contribute \$723 million to community and welfare.

At “Make A Difference” we constantly remind ourselves, “what would we do with out them?”



“Market to Market”

MADDV is delighted that our project manager Simone has held several successful markets during the year.

With a focus on artesian products and quality hand made items, our visitors have been delighted to view these unique items.

It has also been a pleasant opportunity for the community to attend such events.

Simone is excited to plan other events in 2018





Carols in the Village

8th December 2017

“excitement in the village”

Make A Difference is bringing back this annual event to the village.

We have involved local schools and other talented performers.

In addition to the Carols - - - we have a market, food vendors and children's activities.

This will be an exciting on-going event for the village.

Any organisation interested in the 2018 event, should speak to Simone at some time.

Thank you to our wonderful sponsors who include -

- Dingley Village Community Branch Bendigo Bank
- Ray White Dingley Village
- Carter Grange Homes
- Peter Dikranis—tax and security services
- Above and Beyond Productions
- Rotary Club Dingley Village

“No child needs to live in poverty”

The latest report found that of the 3 million people living in poverty in Australia, 731,000 are children, representing one in six children under the age of 15.

Single parent families, locked out of paid work are at particular risk of poverty.

40% per cent of all Children in poverty in Australia, live in single parent households.



We can and must do better

At MADDV we are committed to ensure that children are not hungry



Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity. It is an act of justice.

Nelson Mandela

Our Food Pantry is full today, and empty tomorrow!

Families visit us - - and they tell us - - -

- these is no breakfast cereal or milk
- Nothing to make a lunch sandwich
- No ingredients to make a nutritious dinner

We can only supplied either what has been donated to us in the forms of grocery items or dollars we can spend in purchasing food.

Staple items are our focus—milk, bread, cereal, juice, fruit, vegetables, rice, pasta, soup, eggs.

The costs contributing to financial difficulty include:

- petrol
- Energy bills
- Phone bills
- Car maintenance
- Rent
- Food
- Water bills
- Public transport
- Prescriptions
- Medical costs

Seven things Australians can do to end Homelessness

1. Become an advocate—Write your MP—sign a petition
2. Watch your language—speak about people experiencing homelessness with respect
3. Educate yourself and others tell the difference between good and bad solutions to homelessness
4. Donate money to homelessness agencies
5. Donate goods—canned foods, socks, blankets
6. Volunteer—find services in need of a helping hand
7. Treat people without homes as you would a friend or workmate.



Our editorial staff are exhausted!

Another issue - - - well done!

But - - - -

- - - will you read it?

- - - are you interested in us?

- - - will you support us?

**Make A Difference is a not—for—profit
Organisation**

Donations can be made via our website

www.maddv.com.au