

"Since there is very little good that can be accomplished, or evil avoided, without the aid of money, we must look after it in small as well as in great matters."

CATHERINE McAULEY

THE CATHERINE CIRCLE



McAuley Community
Services for Women
A ministry of the Sisters of Mercy



Catherine McAuley

Catherine McAuley founded the Sisters of Mercy in 1831.

Born in Dublin, Catherine was a pioneer, one of the first people, to recognise family violence, abuse and homelessness among women and girls.

Catherine understood the social, economic and political oppression faced by women and girls trying to escape abuse and find shelter. Irritated by bureaucracy, she used her inheritance to build a house for poor servant girls and homeless women in Dublin.

Today her work lives on in the spirit, mission and values of McAuley Community Services for Women.

The Catherine Circle is a group of people who are passionate about supporting McAuley Community Services for Women and its work with women who are homeless as well as women and children experiencing family violence.

The Catherine Circle's aim is to raise \$100,000 each year which will be invested into a program or service run by McAuley Community Services for Women.

Members of the Catherine Circle are able to learn more about the work and impact of McAuley Community Services for Women, while meeting new people and having fun.

You can be as involved as you want to be. Some people may prefer to come to the annual meeting and vote for a project. Others may want to visit our two hubs – McAuley House and McAuley Care and see our work in action. Others may become volunteers.

By becoming a member, you will be supporting an organisation which has led the way in providing services and support for some of Victoria's most vulnerable – women and children who are homeless as a result of escaping family violence or because of mental illness.

THE
CATHERINE
CIRCLE

How The Catherine Circle works

Each year there will be an annual gathering of the Catherine Circle. Here, McAuley Community Services for Women will introduce two high priority projects which require funding.

Circle members will vote by ballot for one of the projects. The project with the highest votes will be supported for the year.

Individual donors have a vote each.

Groups are asked to select a voting member.

What benefits do I receive as a member?

Members of The Catherine Circle will receive the following:

- Invitation to The Catherine Circle launch.
- Exclusive opportunity to connect and share information through a special Catherine Circle facebook page.
- Our quarterly e-newsletter with the latest on the success of the circle, number of women assisted, current challenges and an update on the political landscape.
- Be invited to two events each year for special briefings, the chance to network and meet our staff and clients.



How can I become a member?

Members are asked to make an annual gift of \$1,000 for three years.

Each individual member is given a vote to decide which project will be supported for the year ahead.

Donations over \$1,000 are welcome but the policy of 'one member, one vote' still applies when choosing the project to receive the grant.

All donations are tax deductible.

Group membership

If you cannot afford to donate \$1,000 on your own, why not link with others to form a mini group? You could give as a family or a couple, book group or a syndicate. In order to have a vote, however, you have to donate \$1,000 as a group.

Where will the funds be invested?

All donations to The Catherine Circle are pooled and invested into a high yielding interest account.

As a member of The Catherine Circle

You will be supporting McAuley Community Services for Women which has a long and proud history of pioneering services for women and children escaping family violence and experiencing homelessness.

Over the past years, we have initiated a number of different programs. These include:

- Victoria's first Court Play Lady who looks after children while their mothers attend Sunshine Magistrates' Court on family law hearing days.
- A peer sister program which is run by women for women who are homeless or experiencing family violence.
- Engage to Change, Australia's first employer education and training program about family violence and its effect on women and men in the workforce.
- McAuley Works, an intensive jobs-ready and training program for women who are returning to the workforce.

Into the future

Our next major program is to build Victoria's first permanent supportive centre focusing solely on women who are homeless.

It will be the hub for all of our wraparound services, our women and wellness recreation program and our training centre.

The eco-sustainable building in Footscray will include accommodation, communal living and dining space and community gardens.



About McAuley Community Services for Women

McAuley Community Services for Women specifically works with women and their children who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, mostly as a result of family violence or mental illness.

We are a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy and run a holistic program made up of three services:

McAuley Care

Victoria's only round-the clock crisis accommodation and support for women and their children escaping family violence.

McAuley House

Provides accommodation and support for women who are homeless, many with poor physical and mental health.

McAuley Works

An intensive employment program which assists women to secure jobs and access training to support themselves financially.

We also run a social enterprise Engage to Change that offers training in the workplace for employers on family violence and its impact on business and staff.

All funds raised through Engage to Change are reinvested into McAuley Works' program to help women who have experienced family violence and who are either homeless, or at risk of homelessness, to get job ready and find work.



Become a member: Donate via our website
and pay securely by credit card, cheque or EFT.

www.mcauleycsw.org.au/donate-now

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