

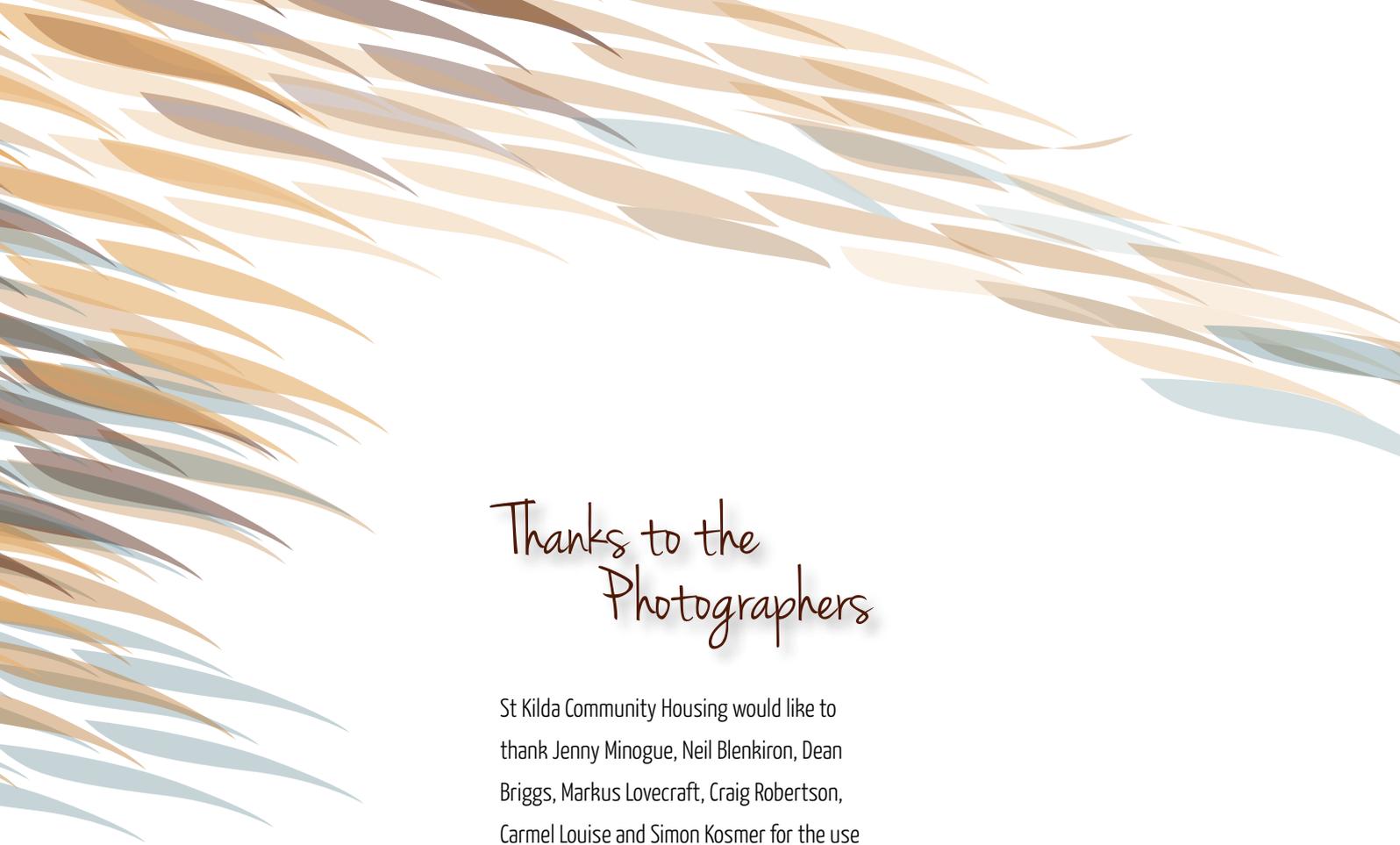
Annual  
Report  
2013



ST.KILDA  
Community Housing Ltd

Better Lives  
for More People





## Thanks to the Photographers

St Kilda Community Housing would like to thank Jenny Minogue, Neil Blenkiron, Dean Briggs, Markus Lovecraft, Craig Robertson, Carmel Louise and Simon Kosmer for the use of their photographs throughout this annual report.



ST.KILDA  
Community Housing Ltd



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# Chair's Report

Welcome to our friends, our residents and staff and to our social partners to our thirty first Annual Report. Throughout 2012-13 you have travelled the journey with us in providing wonderful housing to people in need. On behalf of our Board, we thank you for this.

After years of service, the benefits of our community housing are apparent but there are challenges ahead. One is the uncertain government policy framework which could impede our path forward. Consider our record:

- For thirty years we have delivered positive economic and social outcomes for our residents as well as providing them with low-cost, secure accommodation and opportunities for training and work through our social enterprise.
- We strengthen communities of people in our houses, people who may have been previously isolated.
- In the St Kilda community, we enhance the diversity of housing opportunities in the area and add to its heritage housing stock

As an organisation, we take pride in providing for the needs of vulnerable single people; vulnerable often because of personal misfortune, cost of housing pressures or health issues. Due to the wonderful commitment of our long-serving staff we are experts at looking after these people. Our staff are known throughout Melbourne for their care and experience; although only small in number, our staff have accumulated over one hundred years' experience in helping people in housing

need; I want to particularly recognise the work of Anne Laffan who this year reaches her twenty fifth year of service with us.

Our challenge is to provide housing for more people we encounter who are homeless, people with mental illnesses or who experience disability, people who have a major need for support services. To give this support our partner organisations play a vital role and the strength of these partnerships was shown this year when we joined together to support asylum seekers through the new LINC Facebook page. ([www.facebook.com/lincportphillip](http://www.facebook.com/lincportphillip))

The challenge we face is how we are to continue to build opportunities to develop new homes for low income single people?

Our Board is exploring ways to seek support from private donors or charitable trusts, or work in closer partnership with other organisations to secure additional funds for new housing. With additional Federal government funding unlikely and the policy of the State government to transfer public housing stock to housing associations there appears to be little joy in seeking further support from governments. Our Board will continue to explore all these options.

I thank our Board who have made a wonderful commitment to further our programs in 2012-13, and to John Enticott, our General Manager, and Mandy Leveratt, our Quality and Services Manager who made outstanding contributions to our organisation's growth and development this year.

**Paul Madden**  
Chairperson



# General Manager's Report

It is with pleasure that I present this, my ninth, report on the activities of St Kilda Community Housing (SCH) for the 2012/13 year.

Maintaining a high level of quality housing remains both a challenge and a priority for SCH and in 2012/13 many milestones were achieved: maintaining our maintenance team to deliver quality and efficient services has enabled us not only to turn vacant rooms around within a week but also to deliver the service to other social housing groups; working with the City of Port Phillip and the owners of the Gatwick has provided a better understanding of the needs of residents and is delivering physical improvements to security and living standards for the 80 plus residents of the Gatwick; the upgrade of 27 Grey Street at a cost of almost \$2 million, delivered on time and under budget has provided us with a further 19 units for the next 25 years; and the reopening of Octavia Street women's house, following a conversion to self contained accommodation with individual bathrooms and kitchenettes, has all contributed to our long term goal of delivering quality housing for all our residents. All this, combined with recent years of Nation Building upgrades and our own investment have resulted in the conversion of 91 very small rooms into 116 self contained units, bringing our stock of self contained units from 30% to 63% of total stock. This has improved the quality and security of our house stock and provided a better housing choice for residents.

Maintaining our registration as a housing provider has been well managed by staff and we have been in an enviable position that has enabled us to provide support

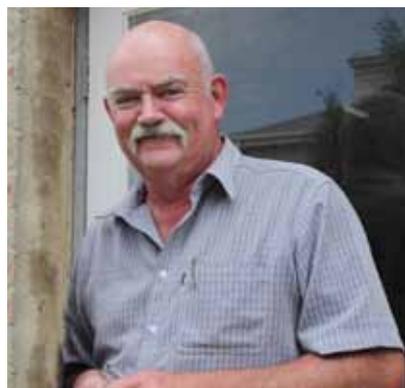
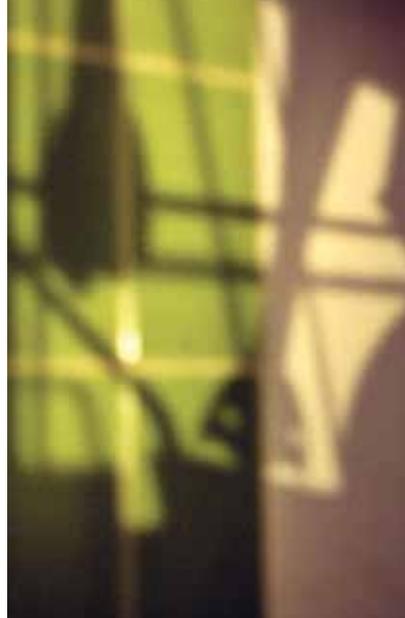
to other providers through sharing our documentation and processes.

One of the challenges for SCH has been to remain relevant with the many changes in the community housing sector. A new government has brought with it a new settling in process as we await the state government's new housing framework for the future of social housing in Victoria and our role along with other smaller providers.

In 2012 we celebrated 30 years as a housing provider in St Kilda with a history of the organisation. First, operating as St Kilda Rooming House issues Group Inc. from 1983 to 2006 and from December 2006 as St Kilda Community Housing. The history has been shortlisted for the Victorian Community History Award. In the coming year we hope to wind up the Rooming House Issues Group and merge the two entities into SCH.

In 2012 SCH developed some new programs as well as continuing existing programs to assist older residents live longer independently. Our meals programs continue to operate in several houses and partnerships delivering health services are available to a wider range of residents. A subsidised cleaning service has been introduced to assist older residents maintain their units. While this service has been available to all residents, it is proving particularly valuable for residents moving from rooms with shared facilities into self contained units.

The SCH web page, [www.stkch.org.au](http://www.stkch.org.au) continues to enjoy a growing number of visits and in the coming year we hope to develop this resource for residents, support





## General Manager's Report (continued)

agencies and new applicants to better access our services, lodge applications and apply for vacancies. Our resident newsletter has also been a great communication tool for SCH to share information and news with residents. Both the website and newsletter have become useful tools in promoting our forums on issues of interest to the SCH community, health professionals and support providers.

Our re-location of administration to offices in St Kilda Road is proving to be accessible for the majority of residents and we have freed up 4 rooms at the old location for letting.

Our social enterprise continues to both meet our own and others maintenance needs and our residents access to work and training to reengage with employment opportunities. In the first two years of operation there have been over twenty staff and unemployed members of the community benefit from work with T2M. Over coming years we hope to develop this program further and assist many more with access to training and work opportunities.

There are many challenges for SCH in coming years. The future of lease arrangements with DHS remains unclear; maintenance and upgrades of properties under our management continues to be a high priority for SCH; future projects to improve housing opportunities for those on low incomes, including further development of a Community Land Trust and further our work with fundraising opportunities to deliver on these projects.

This year we will see the retirement of Jan Collyer, our auditor. Jan has carried out

our audits for the past twenty years and her advice and support over that time has been invaluable. We wish Jan well in her retirement and welcome our new auditors, Collins & Co on board.

But it is staff who make the difference in any organisation, and we are very fortunate to have an extraordinary group of people who are passionate about their work with our residents. SCH staff work in partnership with a range of support agencies to assist residents live quality lives in the properties we manage. For some residents their time with us can be challenging. SCH's role as that of a social landlord, delivering the best quality housing we are able to for our 337 residents is to work with our residents and their supporters to provide as much of a home-like environment as possible. The management team have made the work of SCH and my role in that work both manageable and they have delivered innovative solutions to the many challenges facing SCH and I thank all staff for their contribution.

It has been a pleasure to work with the SCH Board who give their time voluntarily and bring a special set of skills and expertise to SCH. Special thanks also goes to our community partners whose ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I trust you will find this version of the SCH Annual Report a celebration of our achievements as we strive to continue providing quality singles housing services.

**John Enticott**  
General Manager

## Board of Directors



From left to right: Mark Gove, Geoff Barkla, Paul Madden (chair), Sally Cunningham and David Gibbs.



Catherine Harris



Janet Cribbes



John Tansey

"After 12 years on the Board of St Kilda Community Housing, I was fortunate to receive a Victorian Women's Governance Scholarship. This scholarship is an initiative of the Victorian Coalition Government in partnership with the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), where scholarships are awarded to women who are currently serving on the board of a not-for-profit (NFP) organisation. This corporate governance training program aims to build the skills and qualifications of female Board Directors and anticipates other benefits will flow to community and NFP organisations through better governance practices. As part of this scholarship, I undertook the five-day Company Directors

Course that provides frameworks for improving board performance and decision making. The quality and standard of the course and my fellow participants made it a fabulous environment to reflect on applying the content in my role at St Kilda Community Housing. It reinforced the value of NFP organisations and the importance of a Board with a range of skills and experience. While we are fortunate to have diverse, experienced and committed Directors, this program has reinforced there is much to do as a Board and we must continue to work with our staff to help our organisation to grow and develop in a challenging and complex environment."

**Sally Cunningham**



## Farewell to the Rooming House Issues Group

After 30 years the St Kilda Rooming House Issues Group (RHIG) is being formally wound up. A number of staff members and long-standing residents of St Kilda will be saddened by this move. But the time has come for us to operate under one identity only – and that will be St Kilda Community Housing.

became concerned at what was happening to the traditional rooming and boarding houses of the area.

It was from these beginnings that the RHIG went on to become one of the largest providers of community-managed rooming houses in Victoria.



Anne Laffan celebrated 25 years with the organisation in September 2013

As our recent history book shows, the RHIG was formed at a time when housing in the inner suburbs of Melbourne became a hot political topic. St Kilda was unlike its counterparts in Fitzroy and Collingwood - where it was the State Government who was buying up sub-standard properties for public housing. Here it was the developers who could see a chance to make money and cash in on the new-found interest in living in the inner suburbs among young professionals. The RHIG, along with other groups such as the St Kilda Community Group and the Tenants' Union, quickly

Since December 2006 the organisation responsible for running the rooming houses and for maintaining registration with the Victorian Housing Registrar has been St Kilda Community Housing. Whilst the Rooming House Issues Group continued to exist as an advocacy body which has, for example, enabled us to run a series of forums on key social issues, the Board has decided that operating two separate legal entities is an unnecessary complication. So a motion will be put to the November AGM to formally wind up the Group.

Jeff and John, who both started with the organisation almost 30 years ago

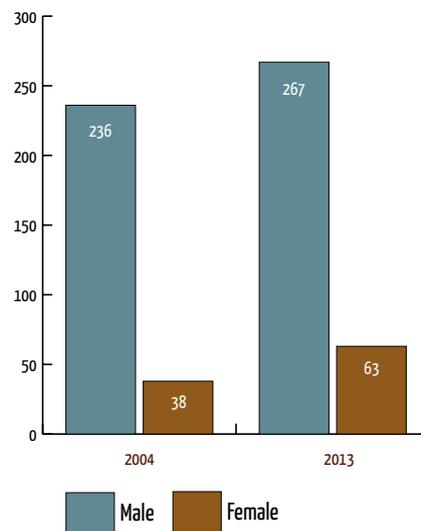




# Ten Years of Statistics

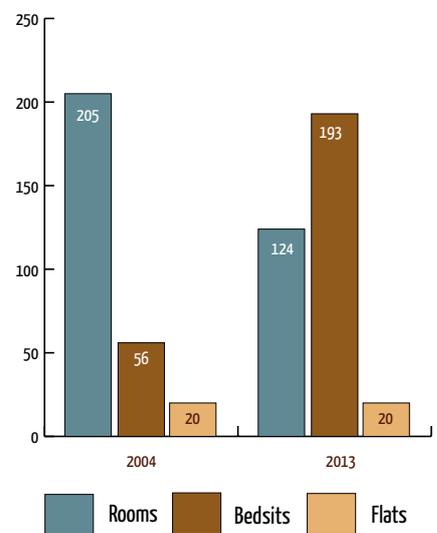
It is common in annual reports to compare one year with the previous year to check on where progress had been made and, perhaps, where also progress had not been made. This year we thought we'd take the longer view and see what had happened to the organisation over a ten-year period. Some of the results are to be expected, others are quite surprising.

## Gender of Residents



The important story here is not so much that the number of tenants increased by 20% from 274 to 330 but that the proportion of women tenants increased from 14% to 19%. This reflects a concerted effort on behalf of all staff to provide accommodation in which women feel safe and secure. There is no doubt that the dramatic increase in self-contained accommodation as outlined below is a key factor in this.

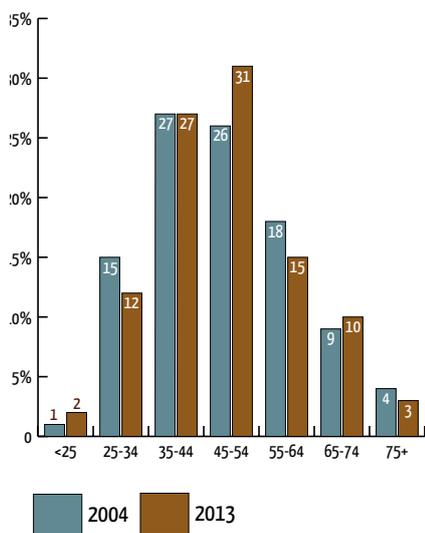
## Self-Contained versus Shared Facilities



These figures are a useful reminder of how much our standards have changed over the past decade. In 2004 73% of our accommodation consisted of rooms with shared facilities – ten years later rooms with shared facilities are half that figure at 37% whilst self-contained accommodation has grown to 63%. This figure will keep growing over the next few years as the last of our old style rooming houses are redeveloped by the Department of Human Services. It is not that we are providing more accommodation for those most in need but that we are providing accommodation that is of a much higher standard than ever before.



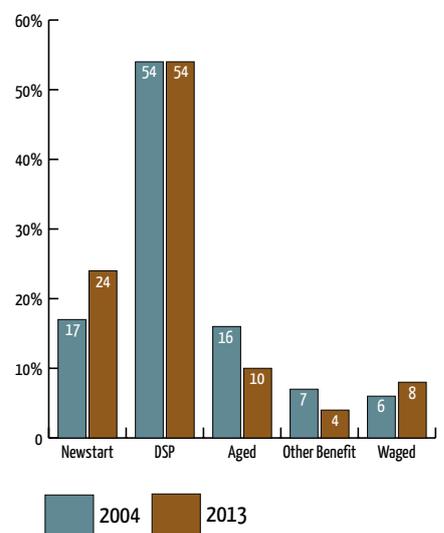
### Age of tenants



The age ranges of our tenants have barely altered over the decade which is surprising as we know that the profile of homeless people has altered quite significantly over that time in that homelessness has shifted away from older males towards women and younger people. For example, the census data for 2006 and 2011 show that only 23% of homeless Victorians were aged over 45 years compared with 59% for SCH tenants in 2013.

### Income of Tenants

The proportion of tenants living on a Disability Support Pension has remained constant across the ten years. The proportion of those living on a Newstart Allowance has increased significantly from 17% to 24%. This may well be a reflection of the lack of affordable alternative options for people trying to survive on such a low income. The slight increase of 2% of tenants who are waged looks small but in actual tenancies the number has doubled from 14 tenants in 2004 to 28 tenants in 2013. Some of this increase has no doubt come about because of the maintenance social enterprise which started in 2011. This figure is, however, very low when compared with the 25% of homeless people counted in either full-time or part-time employment in the 2011 census. This is a reflection of the high level of disadvantage experienced by rooming house residents.



## New Housing Opportunities

During the past year, St Kilda Community Housing was delighted to see two houses re-developed and fully tenanted.

The first – Octavia Street – had been closed for 12 months whilst DHS upgraded the property from 9 single rooms with shared facilities to 7 self-contained bed-sits. This house is for women-only.

The second – Koombahla - was the result of an innovative funding arrangement with DHS. This Edwardian building, once run by the Salvation Army as a refuge for young

people, had been lying empty for many years. By the time it became available to SCH, there was enough guano in the building to rival Nauru!

The re-development of Koombahla was a joint venture between DHS and SCH. In return for SCH funding the full costs of the re-development – some \$1.9 million – DHS entered into a 25 year lease with SCH. The result is 19 self-contained units, including two fully fitted out for people living with a disability.



Lilly's Room

“I love living here in St Kilda because of the diversity of the people and the architecture. This house is so close to all the services I need as well as public transport.”

“My room is good because it's in a smaller house than the one I lived in before and it has space for my wheelchair and my walker. I only have to go down the street and there's the chemist, post office and supermarket”.



Samy's Room



Above: Koombahla; Below: Octavia



# Working with our Tenants

## Social Meals

The social meals program running out of Elenara and the Beach House, continues to be one of the most popular programs that we run. This is very much a community partnership as the City of Port Phillip provide most of the personnel, with additional contributions from the Port Phillip Community Group and St Kilda Community Housing. Other rooming houses in the municipality run by Southport Community Housing and Port Phillip Housing Association are also involved in the program.

Two years ago, we were lucky to have Sophie Ahern with us on placement from RMIT and during her time with us Sophie undertook an analysis of the social meals program. The program has a number of aims, including to:

- Improve the social relationships and general atmosphere within the participating houses, strengthening communal culture; and
- Improve health by raising awareness of good nutrition and increasing residents' motivation to pursue it.

How well does the program achieve these goals? According to one resident of the Beach House, very well indeed: "The 'Chat n' Chew' is a good way to get to know your neighbours better. I like to introduce myself to new residents around the table. It's important to get to know your neighbours because you can help each other out." (Billy).

If there was more funding available, we would be keen to extend the program to other houses or increase the meal frequency to once a week as cooking and eating at the houses helps to make the houses more like 'home'. An interesting side effect of having so many of our shared facilities converted to bedsits is that there are no communal areas where social meals can take place. This is something we would like to address also if we can have input into the design of any future redevelopments of our properties.





### The Photography Group

For the third year in a row we were fortunate to receive funding from the City of Port Phillip under their Community Grants Program to run the photography group. It has also been our good fortune to have the services of Carmel Louise as group leader for those three years.

This year we also received funding from the R. E. Ross Trust to purchase some much-needed photographic equipment. Not only can we now provide the group with digital SLR cameras but we can produce professional quality prints from the printer purchased with the money from that grant.

Each year the group has gone from strength to strength. This year five of the group exhibited their work at the Chapel Off Chapel gallery. Dean Briggs and Jenny Minogue – who have been with the group from the very beginning were joined by Markus Lovecraft, Neil Blenkiron and Craig Robertson. Markus brought with him a keen interest in photomontage whilst Neil preferred abstractionism.

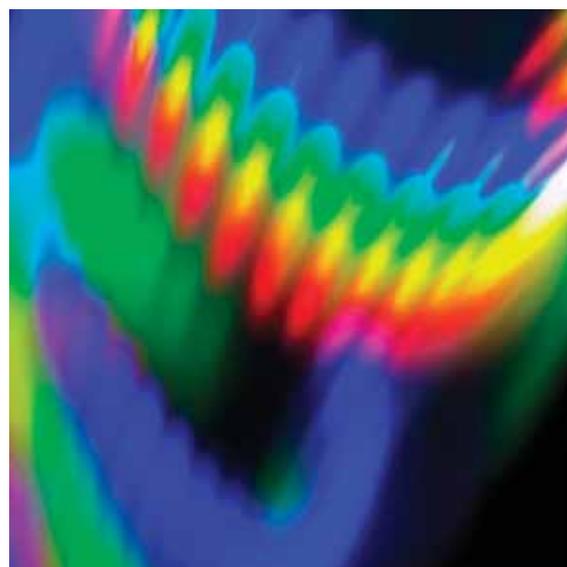
SCH has made the decision that the group will continue into the future and that we will fund the group out of our own resources.

### Maintaining Tenancies

One of the unintended consequences of our stock changing significantly from rooms with shared facilities to self-contained accommodation was that a number of tenants were found to be struggling to maintain their new accommodation. This meant that they were also becoming at risk of losing their tenancies.

Staff at SCH then came up with the idea of using some of our tenants to assist those who were struggling. The scheme now works with around 10 tenants. Essentially the program enables one-on-one mentoring with one tenant demonstrating and assisting the other tenant to keep their rooms in good condition, using the laundry and keeping bathrooms and kitchens clean.

The other spin-off from the scheme is that we are able to offer our tenants additional work. The work does not suit everyone but we have been lucky to find tenants who display those qualities of empathy and friendliness that enable them to break through any barriers. The program has enabled those 10 tenants to remain living with us even when their independent living skills are compromised. SCH will continue to run the program for as long as is necessary. The cost of the program is only \$5 per visit – regardless of the amount of time involved. The aim is not to for it to be a cost recovery effort but rather just to encourage the tenant's commitment to achieve change.





## Growing the Social Enterprise

This time last year T2M Maintenance Services was just starting to pick up some external work through HomeGround Services and Prahran/Malvern Community Housing. Twelve months on and the enterprise is continuing to grow, with additional work undertaken for the Haven Foundation, Inner East Social Housing Group and United Housing Cooperative.

**“They offered me a full-time job which I needed. It made my life better and gave me a bit of support which I needed because I’ve got three kids to support.”**

The enterprise now employs some 18 people ranging from casual to permanent full-time staff.

An important development during the year was the relationship with Prahran Mission’s JobSupply Personnel. Prahran Mission has provided us with three workers and the placements have proved to be a great success. This success is attributable both to the support that Prahran Mission staff provide their clients and also to the flexibility that SCH can provide its workers.

Over the coming twelve months T2M is keen to take its business to the next level and we look forward to working with our colleagues across the community housing sector to make this happen.

**“It’s helped me a lot. It’s given me the opportunity to get a job”.**

Housing Managers



Anne



John Broderick



John, Jean and Jeff



## Asylum Seekers Living in the Community



From Top: Heather Holst CEO of HomeGround Services and Mary Riley, CEO of Port Phillip Community Group addressing the launch of the facebook site



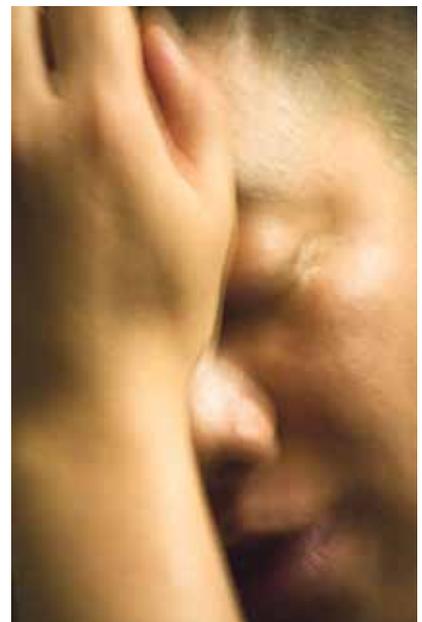
There have been a number of horror stories of asylum seekers released from detention into the community with no household goods or other assistance with the transition to community living. There are also a number of individuals and organisations who have become increasingly disturbed as, first Labor, and now the Coalition have tried to outdo each other in seeing who can adopt the most punitive measures for those who arrive by boat.

Following a forum on asylum seekers, organised by St Kilda Community Housing, a number of Port Phillip-based agencies got together to see what they could do collectively to express their support for asylum seekers. Those organisations include St Kilda Community Housing, Sacred Heart Mission, St Kilda Parish Mission, HomeGround Services, Port Phillip Housing Association and Port Phillip Community Group.

After some discussions a Facebook site was developed and established by Simon Kosmer. The site is intended to be a way for asylum seeker support agencies

to call for resources and for those with the resources to supply them. The site was launched recently and the event was attended by a number of local people. The facebook site can be visited at: [www.facebook.com/lincportphillip](http://www.facebook.com/lincportphillip)

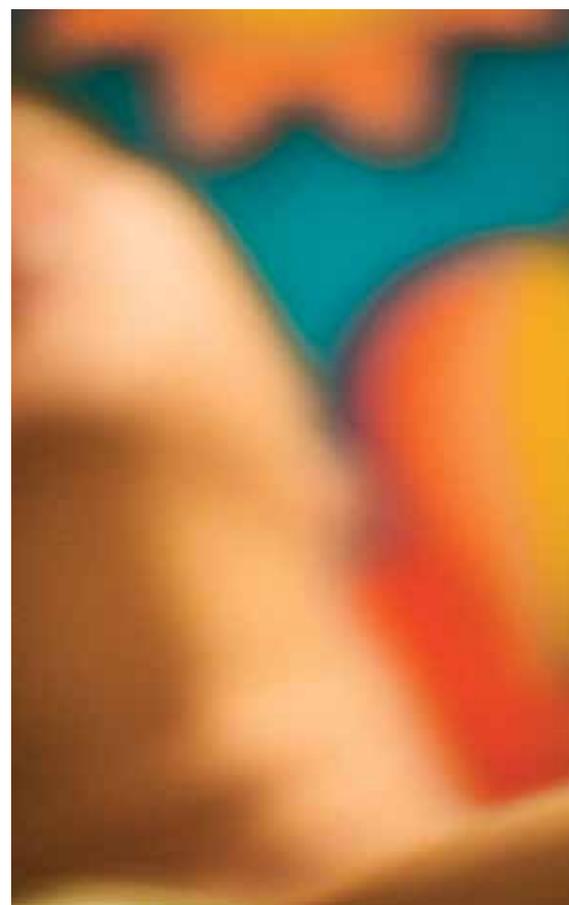
This is a great way to bring local agencies together. We would strongly urge others to establish their own linc projects in their local areas as this is a positive way to express your support for those who arrive here by boat and to encourage debate on the current policy environment.



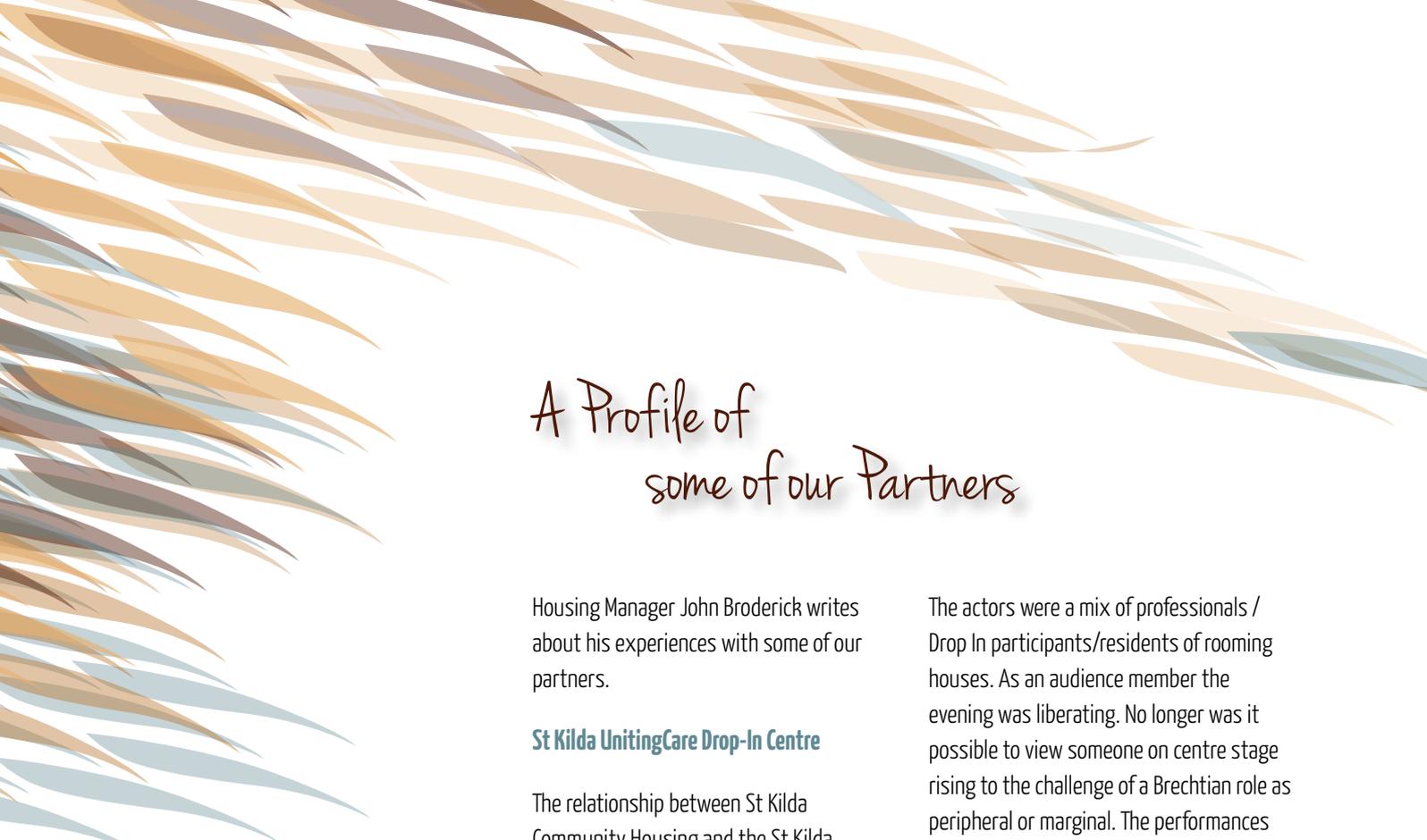
# Finance Report

St Kilda Community Housing Ltd.  
Abridged Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 30th June 2013

INCOME STATEMENT	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Rental Income	2,572,002	2,281,340
All other revenue	154,648	239,191
	<u>2,726,650</u>	<u>2,520,531</u>
Depreciation and Amortisation	50,096	42,840
Employee Expenses	983,935	900,203
Tenancy Management & Operations	328,951	259,287
Property Management	863,112	889,647
Rent	355,773	421,848
	<u>2,581,867</u>	<u>2,513,825</u>
Surplus for the year – no tax applicable	<u>144,783</u>	<u>6,706</u>
BALANCE SHEET	2013	2012
	\$	\$
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	626,518	419,882
Community Capacity Building Reserve	13,731	75,584
Beach House Reserve	1,600,000	1,600,000
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<u>2,240,249</u>	<u>2,095,466</u>
Represented By:		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	299,038	223,136
Receivables and prepayments	86,484	60,730
	<u>385,522</u>	<u>283,866</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant & Equipment	4,850,633	3,565,666
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>5,236,155</u>	<u>3,849,532</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and Borrowings	94,162	69,995
Provisions	77,062	87,118
	<u>171,224</u>	<u>157,113</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and Borrowings	2,778,313	1,584,435
Provisions	46,369	12,518
	<u>2,824,682</u>	<u>1,596,953</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>2,995,906</u>	<u>1,754,066</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>2,240,249</u>	<u>2,095,466</u>



Note: These abridged financial statements are extracts from the audited financial statements of the company as approved by the Board of Directors of the company on 22nd October 2013. A copy of the audited Financial Statements is available on request from the registered office of the company.



## A Profile of some of our Partners

Housing Manager John Broderick writes about his experiences with some of our partners.

### St Kilda UnitingCare Drop-In Centre

The relationship between St Kilda Community Housing and the St Kilda UnitingCare Drop In is a critical part of our work. Of course, at the formal level John Tansey's role as a board member is recognition of this and the two properties owned by the Uniting Church (at 3 and 5 Princes Street) supply 18 very important units of our housing stock.

The Drop In is a fantastic resource for many of our tenants. Its inclusiveness (such an important part of all our lives) is captured in the poem by one of its regulars *They know my name*, the title of a collection of poems, stories and history celebrating the creative work of Drop In participants over the past thirty years. Providing secure housing is a necessary condition of the good life; but not in itself sufficient – the sense of belonging to a community is an equal and constitutive condition. I know of many examples of tenancies that would have fallen over were it not for the intervention of Michelle, Leon and their colleagues at the Drop In and many lives made richer through the experiences of the Drop In.

One of the highlights of this year for me was attending the performance of Bertold Brecht's *Mother Courage* at Theatre Works.

The actors were a mix of professionals / Drop In participants/residents of rooming houses. As an audience member the evening was liberating. No longer was it possible to view someone on centre stage rising to the challenge of a Brechtian role as peripheral or marginal. The performances of the "amateurs" were the bravest of assertions; apart from the words, they said: "I am here. I have arrived"!

The Drop In Centre is a landmark. It too asserts WE ARE HERE! Long may it stay.

### Sacred Heart Mission

Sacred Heart Mission was the first organisation with whom St.Kilda Community Housing established a formal partnership around the respective roles of support and provision. It commenced when Sacred Heart Mission approached the St Kilda Rooming House Issues Group to manage the rooming house and bedsits at 53 Carlisle Street and 2a Mitchell Street. Over the last 10 years Kerol Uzskuraitis has been the liaison person in the management of these two properties. It is, and has been, a terrific relationship. Nearly all the residents have links to other Sacred Heart Mission activities (obviously the meal program but also recreational programs like football and golf). Who could argue that a weekly game of golf on a sunny afternoon is not part of the Good Life!



Kerol is a source of great intelligence on how the residents are travelling. These briefings are rarely minuted which means I can get useful information on the understanding that no conversation has taken place or, as Kerol likes to put it, “don’t say I said so”!

Kerol is perhaps a more stringent gate keeper when it comes to allocations than political correctness allows me to be. Once having returned from holidays she was clearly concerned that I may have introduced in her absence a variation to the gender balance at Carlisle Street. As she put it “we don’t want any women there” (implying that it might upset the dynamics of the house). To be fair, this remark is a little like what they say about Wagner “it’s not as bad as it sounds”. I should also add that St Kilda Community Housing runs a women-only house as well.

The blokes at Carlisle Street speak very warmly of Kerol. They know she is a straight shooter. If they’re in a tricky situation, Kerol listens and more often than not finds a way out.

### HomeGround Services

SCH has been working with HomeGround for many years. They refer many prospective tenants to us who are either exiting their own temporary accommodation or who have dropped in looking for housing in the St Kilda area. Andrew D’Arcy took over as Southern Manager during the year and for us it was welcoming an old friend as Andrew had previously worked for Sacred Heart Mission’s J2SI project.

Through their Housing Mental Health Pathways Program, HomeGround has access to 10 rooms across all of SCH’s houses. This is a particularly important program because it provides housing to people who are inpatients at the Alfred Hospital who would otherwise be homeless upon discharge. SCH provides the housing and HomeGround provides case management and referral services on an ongoing and flexible basis. This is a very challenging program with failures as well as successes. But that’s the nature of the community housing and support sector.

What continues to inspire us here as SCH is that we have so many fantastic partners to work with.

## Students on Placement



During 2013, SCH was fortunate to have two social work students from RMIT on placement with us. This is the third year in a row that we have had students with us and we are all agreed that this is an arrangement that benefits SCH as much as it does the students.

### Hayley Pitman

'I have been fortunate to complete my final year Social Work placement here at St Kilda Community Housing. Throughout my placement I have been afforded the opportunity to do many things that were beyond my natural comfort zone and build my capabilities.

St Kilda Community Housing has deepened my knowledge of how organisations engage in community development at a grass-roots level and demonstrated the immense benefits of local participation. This was further consolidated through my involvement in the development of the Asylum Seeker LINC Project and Rooming House Survival Guide.

We presented the LINC Project proposal to HomeGround, Sacred Heart Mission, St Kilda Parish Mission, Port Phillip Community Group and Port Phillip Housing Association and all committed to the initiative. It reaffirmed to me that it is possible to be involved in important social issues and make a difference in the community.

This placement has enabled me to engage with the housing sector, current policy issues, work with a number of Port Phillip agencies and be guided by passionate and knowledgeable people. Thank you to all who were involved.'

### Katra Shumbayaonda

'Being an international student, originating from a country where literally there are no functional social housing systems, I leapt at once when I was offered a placement with SCH. Throughout my social work studies I had shunned from topics around housing and homelessness, yet my experience at SCH awakened a passion I never knew I had. I firstly took part in developing the LINC Project, an action plan that was developed to address asylum seeker issues in the community.

Secondly, I took part in research data collection of services within City of Port Phillip towards developing a 'Rooming House Survival Guide'. Being actively involved in these projects greatly shaped how I am to identify myself professionally as a Social Worker. The vast amount of support and opportunities SCH provided for me are beyond words. As this was my final part of my final year of Master of Social Work degree, I credit my success to the wonderful SCH staff and management who went all the way out to make my experience memorable.'



Top: Hayley Pitman

Below: Katra Shumbayaonda



## Our Supporters

St Kilda Community Housing would like to thank all those who gave us financial assistance over the past twelve months:

- City of Port Phillip for a Community Grant for the Photography Group
- R.E. Ross Trust for a grant to fund photographic equipment
- Helen Macpherson Smith Trust for funding for equipment and training for T2M maintenance workers

We would like to thank the following organisations for their on-going support and assistance to our tenants:

- HomeGround Services
- Sacred Heart Mission
- Inner South Community Health Services, especially Deb McIntosh
- Salvation Army Crisis Centre
- St Kilda Drop-In, St Kilda UnitingCare
- Port Phillip Community Group
- Prahran Mission
- St Kilda Road Clinic (formerly the Junction Clinic)
- City of Port Phillip Social Meals staff

We would also like to thank those individuals and organisations with whom we work closely:

- City of Port Phillip staff: Gary Spivak, Kate Incerti and Michele Leonard

- The staff at MDB: Bruce Foote, Damien Reeve and Jen Rutherford
- The staff of CHFV: Lesley Dredge, Holly Mullaney, Steve Staikos and Mark Smojlio
- The staff at the Office of the Housing Registrar: Christine Witton, Chamath Fernando, Michael Forbes and Anthony Hardy
- The staff at DHS: Catherine Merrick, Joanne Holl, Phillip Hamling
- Janet and her staff at Southport Community Housing Group Ltd
- Karen and her staff at Port Phillip Housing Association
- Steve Skurnik
- Leo de Jong
- Arrow International
- T2M Maintenance Services would like to thank the following agencies for their on-going support:
  - HomeGround Services
  - Inner East Social Housing Group
  - Prahran/Malvern Community Housing
  - The Haven Foundation
  - United Housing

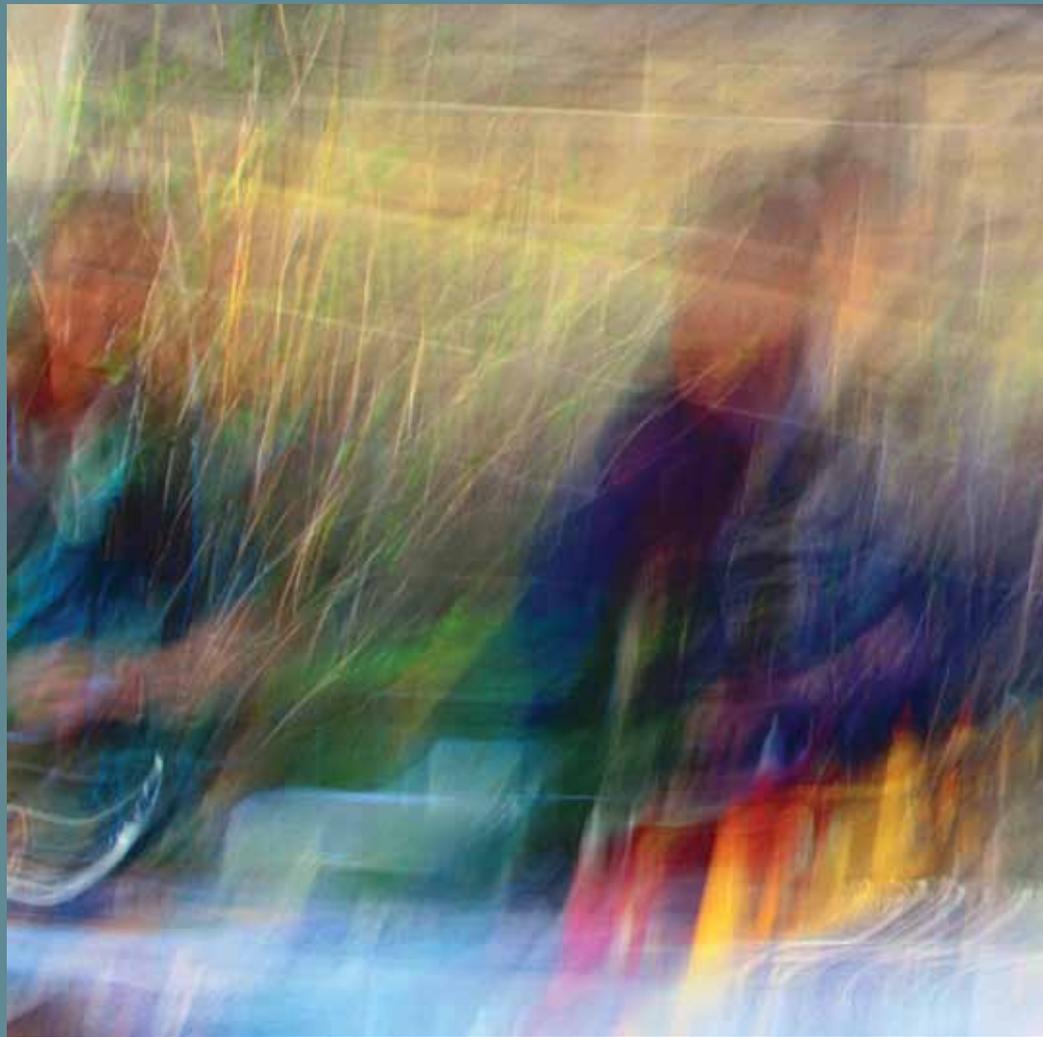
Finally we would like to thank Dr Aron Paul for writing the thirty year history of the St Kilda Rooming House Issues Group and Kellie Nagle for overseeing the project looking at the housing needs of the residents of the Gatwick Hotel.



Anyone wishing to donate to the work of St Kilda Community Housing can do so by contacting Linda O'Meara on 9534 1809. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



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