

HOPE ST TOM'S HOPE

2018 is the second year of operations for St Tom's Hope. This year we have been able to build on our belief that St Thomas' ought to be known for its love and kindness to the community around us.

In 2017 we launched St Tom's Hope with the food drive in our local community. This year we nearly doubled the number of local households participating with us in giving food to those in need and we collected an estimated **\$40,800** of food that we then distributed to 5-6 local Emergency Relief agencies. The number of people from the local community joining us in to this opportunity to help others means that our major problem with the food drive now is how to store the amount of bags we have for reuse in 2019!

In 2017 we wanted to start some mentoring programs with children and families in need. In 2018 we have an established Kid's Hope Mentoring program at Parkview Primary School with 7 mentors meeting for an hour a week with a child at the school. We are making a difference in the lives of kids with various challenges and we have room for a few more church mentors to join us in 2019.

In 2017 we planned to join a family mentoring and support program called COACH. In 2018 we have joined this program with Paula Adams being trained as our church co-ordinator and two people undertaking the training to become family mentors in 2019.

In 2017 we dreamed of expanding the reach of our ESL classes and their impact in the lives of students, refugees and recently arrived families. In 2018 we have appointed Josephine Armstrong as the part-time co-ordinator of this service and have begun to work on expanding this kind of service of others.

In 2017 the board of St Tom's Hope established it as a tax-deductible community service organisation. In 2018 we worked towards expanding our opportunities to serve others as described above. In 2019 we hope to recruit some extra board members to broaden our skills and ideas for community service.

Our Vision is to see people transformed by hope, and to inspire our community to get involved in practical compassionate service. We want St Thomas' church members and our volunteers to be known for real love and kindness.

John Altmann on behalf of the board of St Tom's Hope being Trami Truong, Geoff Pearson, Melinda Van Der Westerhuizen and John Carrick