

# House Officers announce focus charities for 2024

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In the Senior School, each House is provided opportunities throughout the year to connect with a focus charity. Guided by their House Officers during pastoral sessions, House members engage in various ways to serve their focus charity. When done effectively, service learning can teach students about civic responsibility and engagement, while developing their empathy, resilience and self-confidence.

Each House has been allocated a day during the school term to raise funds for their selected charity. This engagement aims to provide students across all year groups with the opportunity to discover purpose, learn new skills and take meaningful action to support our community.

It gives me great pleasure to include the below overviews written by the Year 11 House Officers on their chosen charities for 2024.

## **Mrs Vanessa Kirolos**

Dean of Community Learning

### **Cumberland Charity: The Blue Hand Group**

The Blue Hand Group is a not-for-profit organisation based in Redfern and Newtown. The charity aims to support people seeking relief from poverty, sickness, disability, destitution, suffering, misfortune or helplessness.

They provide a variety of supplies to people in need, including nappies, toys, school equipment and more. Encouraging donations of these items to provide to people in need saves these items from going to landfill, which also helps to combat greenhouse gas emissions.

We are very excited to work with the Blue Hand Group throughout the year! Learn more about the charity at [The Blue Hand Group website](#).

*Cumberland House Officers: Joyce Chung, Josephine Graham, Nadine Jassani, Olivia Lee and Caitlin Yeoh*



### **Durham Charity: Tearfund Australia**

This year the House officers for Durham House have selected Tearfund Australia as their charity for 2024. Tearfund Australia is an Australian-based organisation whose mission is to assist communities impacted by poverty and marginalisation.



Tearfund is a Christian-based charity that has committed to conveying the Gospel and God's love through service. Being a catalyst for extraordinary change through humanitarian projects is also a focus of Tearfund - and an admirable service model for Durham House.

Tearfund works in partnership with locally based Christian organisations because they understand the culture and needs of their communities. Using this approach, Tearfund can empower individuals in targeted ways for specific communities.

Another important arm of Tearfund is the promotion of education to combat the cycle of poverty in needy communities, especially First Nations communities. In one initiative, the charity is working with community

leaders, helping elders to support people with trauma and those suffering domestic violence in their communities. This faithful case-by-case service means that the growth made in these places is organic and specific to the people who live there, as opposed to a one-size-fits-all solution.

Durham House looks forward to presenting opportunities for the Meriden Community to support Tearfund Australia this year.

You can learn more about the charity at the [Tearfund Australia](#) website.

*Durham House Officers: Jenna Aylett, Tara Kalantar, Alexandra Katanasho, Katrina Ling and Celeste Ryan*

### **Kent Charity: The Tie Dye Project**

In 2024, Kent will be supporting the Tie Dye Project. Beginning its journey in 2017, the charity was supported by an amazing community of volunteers who came together to raise funds and awareness for sarcoma cancer - a rare cancer originating within the bones or tissues, and a leading cause of cancer-related deaths for young people.

The Tie Dye Project was founded by Giants Netballer and Australian Diamond, Amy Parmenter, and two-time osteosarcoma survivor and student, Molly Croft. The charity tie-dyes and sells thousands of products every year to raise money for sarcoma-related projects.

Since 2017, the Tie Dye Project has raised over \$500,000 including over \$230,000 in partnership with the Kids Cancer Project to help fund a CAR T cell therapy clinical trial. The Tie Dye Project is committed to contributing \$100,000 to the Sarcoma Workflow Project, which aims to determine effective therapeutic options specific to individual tumours.

We are excited to be part of this initiative and look forward to learning more about the Tie Dye Project's ongoing efforts in the fight against sarcoma throughout this year.

You can learn more about this charity at [The Tie Dye Project](#) website.

*Kent House Officers: Canice Lei, Sophie Loane, Violet Loane, Chantelle Ma and Keira Nguyen*

### **Oxford Charity: Dignity**

For our charity this year, Oxford has chosen to support Dignity. Dignity is a charity that aims to empower people who are experiencing homelessness. Currently, more than 122,000 Australians are suffering from homelessness. The charity provides temporary accommodation, longer term housing and employment programs to help people get their lives back on track.

Dignity also partners with a number of community-based organisations to provide easy access meals for vulnerable members of the community. Its Food Relief program assists people in need, easing the financial burden of putting food on the table.

Dignity believes that every person should be treated with respect, and that together, we can end homelessness in Australia, one person at a time.

You can find out more about the charity at the [Dignity](#) website.

*Oxford House Officers: Claudia Brown, Grace Hargreaves, Sophia Sidhom, Emily Yang and Alina Yuan*



### **Sussex Charity: Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre**

This year, Sussex will be supporting the Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre (WAGEC). This Sydney-based charity is focused on ending gender-based violence by providing essential goods and services to women and children impacted by homelessness, domestic violence and systematic disadvantage. Their work also includes crisis response, prevention work, community education and supporting victims' resilience and recovery.

WAGEC currently provides temporary accommodation to over two hundred women and children escaping domestic violence or homelessness through three crisis refuges and 40 transitional properties. The charity also works to raise awareness around these issues so people can recognise and support those who may be struggling every day.

You can find out more about the charity at the [Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre website](#).

*Sussex House Officers: Melody Chia, Isabella Morkos, Susana Sun, Youya Wei and Victoria Yenson*



### **Warwick Charity: Second Chance Animal Rescue**

This year Warwick has chosen to support Second Chance Animal Rescue (SCAR), a non-for-profit animal charity. Our choice was motivated by wanting to try something new through supporting an organisation that protects and cares for animals. In choosing a smaller charity, we recognise the importance of elevating their platforms.



**second  
chance**  
ANIMAL RESCUE

SCAR does immense work for the community and are very resourceful despite having larger barriers compared to similar charities. Second Chance hopes to rescue, rehome and rehabilitate displaced and abandoned pets, and support vulnerable owners by lessening the financial hardships that come with pet ownership. This is done through work in community animal hospitals, shelters and outreach programs. The charity has saved over ten thousand animals since their establishment, opening many facilities to care for and provide medical support to animals – this is supported through fundraising, which is why they need our support.

We can't wait to work together with Second Chance Animal Rescue and make an impact on the lives of animals in need.

You can find out more about the charity at the [Second Chance Animal Rescue website](#).

*Warwick House Officers: Olivia Lim, Mikhayla Lobo, Sydney Nguyen, Victoria Tjonadi and Cordelia Xie*