



## The Compounding Good Stories

### The Power of Knowing a Name: Creating Real Community Impact

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**U Ethical Investors is a not-for-profit, B-Corp-certified funds management business with a long-standing history of ethical investing. We operate as an autonomous organisation and proudly manage funds for a range of values-driven clients, including those with a Uniting Church heritage in Victoria and Tasmania, reflecting our commitment to ethical investment practices.**

**Our business generates financial support in two ways: through the investment returns we earn for our clients and through the operating surplus we contribute to the Uniting Church at the end of each financial year. The Uniting Church is one of the largest non-government providers of community services in Australia. Our contribution supports a wide range of impactful initiatives and programs within the community in Victoria and Tasmania.**

**While the surplus we generate is not specifically allocated to individual projects, we take immense pride in knowing that our efforts support vital community services. These services span areas such as social justice, outreach programs, and community support, amplifying the positive impact of our cornerstone clients' work across the region.**

*Compounding good – the better we do, the more we give.*

#### **When I Go to the Drop In**

I am a human. I am me.  
They know my name.

Walking into the lounge area of the 101 Engagement Hub, part of the St Kilda South Port Uniting Church Precinct, feels like stepping into a home where everyone belongs. There's a soft hum of conversation, the familiar click of snooker balls as players lean into their game, and the comforting murmur of a movie in the background. On any given day, someone is organising an outing to grab fish and chips, maybe followed by a stroll along the newly restored St Kilda Pier.

At the heart of this bustling yet peaceful space hangs a poster bearing the simple yet profound words: "They know my name." It's more than a statement—it's a lifeline. For 45 years, the Engagement Hub has been a sanctuary for those who might otherwise be invisible: the unhoused, the lonely, the marginalised. It's a place where names are remembered, stories are shared, and dignity is restored.

Rev. Alex Sangster, of the St Kilda South Port Uniting Church, puts it plainly: "It's a place to reach into loneliness and make a difference in simple yet profound ways." Rev. John Tansey echoes this sentiment, noting that the Hub welcomes around 500 people each year, with 70 to 90 visitors coming through its doors daily during opening hours.

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## A Safe Harbor for All

The Hub offers more than just a warm space; it nourishes every aspect of being. Guests find hot meals, companionship, and a sense of stability often absent from their lives. Facilities that we may take for granted, such as a hot shower, laundry and bathrooms are available. Funerals have been held for those who passed away, ensuring that no one leaves this world unacknowledged.

But the Engagement Hub isn't only about meeting basic needs—it's about creating a space where people can live. Local artists and performers use the Hub for rehearsals and productions, bringing vibrancy and creativity to its halls. Shakespeare on the Lawn performances have drawn the wider community together, blending art with belonging.

"The Engagement Hub was birthed by the St Kilda Congregation over 45 years ago and is now managed by Uniting, whom the Church partners with. Two years ago St Kilda joined with South and Port Melbourne Uniting Churches to make one UCA Church for the Port Phillip area. We've built our new church mission around four pillars: worship, arts and spirituality, connectedness, and social justice," says John. It's a mission underpinned by what Alex calls "the theology of hospitality"—the simple, radical act of opening the doors and saying, come in.



## The Power of Knowing Someone's Name

This sense of belonging extends beyond the Hub's walls. The church's Mission Meals program in South Melbourne serves 60 dinners every Thursday night, most weeks of the year. What started with 3 neighbours popping in from the social housing behind the church has grown into a vital weekly ritual.

But for Alex, the meals are about more than food—they're about connection. "We always need people to help—chopping carrots, for example—but what we really need are people to sit at the table and listen," she says. "The way you make someone feel at home is by knowing their name, by knowing that they've had hip surgery, or asking how their grandkids are doing. That's how we build community—through genuine care."

## Why Belonging Matters

For the people who walk through its doors, the 101 Engagement Hub is more than a drop-in centre—it's a place where they are truly seen. In a world that often looks past them, here they are known, valued, and embraced.

The message is simple, but it resonates deeply: when you know someone's name, you affirm their existence. You tell them they matter. And in doing so, you remind us all of our shared humanity.

**101 Engagement Hub is always welcoming new volunteers to help build community. For more information and to get involved as a volunteer, please call one of the ministers and they will help get you started:**

**Rev. John Tansey** 0433 259 146

**Rev. Alex Sangster** 0411 292 273