



OUR CHILDREN

One of the most important pillars of the Heads, Hearts and Hands program is dedicated to the wellbeing of children. As part of this commitment, Dimension Data has become a trusted and long-term partner of The Marian Centre and the Starlight Foundation, as well contributing to fundraising efforts of various other children's charities.

"I feel like I am genuinely filling a gap in keeping the Learning Room at the Marian Centre open for kids to play. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience."

Jenny Waite, NSW Credit Controller and Marian Centre volunteer

The Marian Centre Learning Room

The Marian Centre is a shelter run by St Vincent De Paul in Lewisham, Sydney. It provides temporary accommodation, food, shelter and counselling for homeless women and children who have suffered abuse.

In 2005 Dimension Data renovated and converted a room at the centre into a Learning Room for kids. The room provides a valuable release for the kids from the emotional and stressful events that dominate their lives, while also giving their mothers some much-needed time off.

However, since the room was kept locked for security reasons, the kids were not able to visit the room very often. Staff supervision was required at all times and The Marian Centre simply did not have spare resources.

Dimension Data's NSW volunteer committee saw an opportunity to become involved and drew up a roster of Dimension Data volunteers to visit the Learning Room once a week to supervise and play with the children. Due to the regular stream of volunteers, the Learning Room can now open its doors every Thursday afternoon after school.

"It helps the children make use of the room and gives them an outlet to express themselves.

Parents comment on how extraordinary the experience is for the kids," says Billy Smyth, NSW Volunteer Co-Team Leader.

The NSW volunteer committee has plans to increase the opening hours of the Learning Room to other weekdays and take the kids on fun outings further afield.

"This is the first time I have ever volunteered and I realised I had been missing out. The kids are fantastic – very upbeat and often excitable. I feel as though I get as much out of it as the kids do!" says Dimension Data Business Development Manager, Judy Saunders.

Starlight Foundation

Dimension Data's long association with [The Starlight Children's Foundation Australia](#) began over ten years ago, and was further strengthened with the creation of the IT Fund for Kids in 2000. The fund was established specifically for the IT&T industry to support the work and programs of Starlight and Giant Steps to help seriously ill and autistic children.

Dimension Data also contributed to the emerging charity by providing pro bono technical and business support and consulting. In the years since, the partnership between Starlight and Dimension Data has deepened and strengthened, and Dimension Data has introduced the charity to several of its clients.

In 2007, Dimension Data representatives were ambassadors for the Sydney and Melbourne Know IT All Challenge events, with that commitment continuing in 2008.

In 2007 and 2008, Dimension Data galvanised volunteers in all major capital cities to sell merchandise for Starlight's most important fundraising day: Starlight Day.

David Gold: The Beacon Foundation

"Being involved in something that's not corporate has opened my

eyes. It's great to use the lessons I've learned at Dimension Data and apply them in the community." [...more](#)

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