ACU STUDENTS BRAVE THE COLD TO RAISE MONEY FOR HOMELESSNESS

More than thirty students from Australian Catholic University’s (ACU) Ballarat Campus braved the chilly winter weather and slept outside recently to raise money for homelessness. The annual sleep out was organised by the Aquinas Young Vinnies group, which is made up of ACU students who receive mentoring and project support from the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Students were armed with a sleeping bag and their warmest clothing, and paid $10 registration fee. All proceeds went to the St Vincent de Paul society and the Ballarat Soup Bus.

ACU Ballarat Campus Dean Associate Professor Joe Fleming said that it was unfortunate that homelessness was an issue in Ballarat. “Central to the Catholic mission of the University is a commitment to make the community a better and more compassionate place.” Professor Fleming said. “This event aims to raise the students’ awareness of homelessness in Ballarat. Through this experience it is hoped that ACU students will be galvanised into action to bring about a greater awareness of and the eventual eradication of homelessness in Ballarat.”

Throughout the night students listened to presentations from the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Ballarat Soup Bus about how they support the homeless in the Ballarat region. Students participated in a range of activities on the night, including theatre sports, live music, team challenges, and watched a movie - The Blind Side - a movie about a homeless teenager.

Dinner and breakfast was also provided by the Aquinas Student Association. Aquinas Young Vinnies also run kids camps and kids days out for children from the Ballarat region who would not otherwise have the opportunity to go on camp.

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