Decade of Devotion:  
Vinnies Van Volunteers celebrate 10 years  
By: Alex Crowe / Central Western Daily

St. Vincent de Paul celebrated 10 years of serving the community with a barbecue breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

A decade of dishing out sandwiches to the less fortunate called for a cake and sausages at Ashcroft’s Supa IGA on Peisley Street.

St. Vinnies supporters, many of who volunteer their time every fortnight to make the meals and do the rounds, came out to hear Orange Mayor Reg Kidd thank them for their contribution to the community.

Michelle Lopez is one humble volunteer who puts together sandwiches and helps ensure there’s enough fillings donated and purchased to produce the required meals.

“We have 16 loaves of bread donated by Baker’s Delight and nine barbecue chickens donated by IGA twice a week, every fortnight,” Mrs. Lopez said.

“Using those and what St. Vincent’s purchases, there are four of us making 128 sandwiches in about an hour and a half.”

The Vinnies Van drives to several stops between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays on the off-pension weeks.

Many of the volunteers have been putting their hand up to help since the van first began its rounds a decade ago.

“There is one lady volunteer who comes from Bathurst who has three children that used to join her after school to help out serving sandwiches,” Mrs. Lopez said.

“Now they’re at university and they still come and help out. We are like a big family.”