

## Starting the Mission

**Aim of session:**

- To help the children identify the needs in their local community.
- To learn about the impact Society of St Vincent de Paul has on the people they help.
- To relate their mission of being a Vinnies Youth member to the actions of Jesus.

**What you will need:**

- A *Mintie Moment* worksheet (1 copy per child)
- 1 large piece of paper to create your map of the local area with the children
- Pens and pencils
- *Minutes of the Meeting* template for the Secretary (see website)

**Procedure:**

- Invite the President or another child to read the opening prayer from their handbook.
- Show the children the agenda for the meeting and explain that for every meeting you will help them create their agenda as this helps the flow of the meetings.
- Give each child a *Mintie Moment* worksheet and a few mins to answer the questions.
- Encourage the children to share their answers. Let them lead the conversation.
- Reflect together on Roberta's story on the worksheet.
- Explain that a big part of the Vinnies Youth mission is to see who might need their help.
- Get the children to create a map together of the school and local area to identify where there might be a need for help. Eg; the playground where a child might be lonely, or there might be litter on the ground.
- Once they have gathered their ideas, explain that in the next meeting you are going to think about what Jesus would do to help in these places.
- Finish this session by getting the children to think of a small action they can do for someone else as a 'Mintie Moment'. This could be for a friend, family member, teacher at school or some other relevant person. Get them to write this down on their worksheet.
- The President closes the meeting with a prayer and ensures the children know the date and time of their next meeting.
- Encourage the Secretary to write up the minutes of the meeting to keep a record of what they did in their session.

# A MINTIE MOMENT

As a member of Vinnies Youth, you might never know what impact your small actions have on those you are helping, but if you read Roberta's story below, you'll hear just one example of how your small actions can make a big difference to someone else's life.



*"I was inspired to join the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) to serve for a number of years after two people visited the hospital in which I was a patient. I was in pain and depressed. They made me laugh and gave me some Minties. During lockdown, I got offers of help from SVDP and a beautiful handmade card from Vinnies Youth at a local School. I can't express how much these actions have brightened my life and lifted my soul. Long may their good works continue."*

– Roberta



**What was the last kind thing that someone did for you?  
How did it make you feel?**

**Can you think of a small action you can do for someone else today that will be their 'Mintie' moment?**



# Who needs your help?

As a member of Vinnies Youth, part of your mission is to think about who needs your help.  
*Example:* The playground - there might be children who are lonely at playtime.



## ACTIVITY

Create your large map of the local area with your group and then write down five places where people might need your help. What might the need be there?