



Dine out to help out the homeless

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BEHIND the glitz of the golden beaches and glamorous restaurants, homeless people struggle to survive.

A Burleigh restaurateur sees it every day on her way to work and has decided to help.

Oskars on Burleigh owners Mandy and Marty Kollrepp are raising money for StreetSmart Australia's "Dine Out to Help Out" six-week campaign.

Mrs Kollrepp said they were asking customers to donate \$2 to their bill until Christmas eve to help homeless people on the Gold Coast.

"We decided to do it after we received an email from the food critic Lizzie Loel, who asked businesses to participate," Mrs Kollrepp said.

"The sheer rate of homelessness is not something you see every day on the news, but it is there.

■ StreetSmart Australia's Dine Out to Help Out campaign is in its sixth year and has raised \$830,000 since 2003.

■ Funds raised support projects and services including food, shelter, and funding for projects which assist disadvantage people to reconnect with their community and tackle longer term issues.

■ More than 240 restaurants across Australia are participating in the 2009 campaign.

■ Other Gold Coast restaurants participating this year are Absynthe, Moo Moo's, Beluga, Chill on Tedder and Shuck.

"I see it when I go to work; people sleeping in the park or living in a park shelter and it is heart-wrenching."

Mrs Kollrepp said the funds would go directly to organisations that assist home-

less people and helping them to get off the street. Cards on tables explained everything to the customer before they paid their bills.

"Customers are asked to donate \$2 per table, but they can say no and they can also donate more," she said.

"It's such a small ask because it's on a table basis, so that's \$2 on the one table.

"We would never force charity on customers and we thought it would not be an imposition on customers."

Mr and Mrs Kollrepp have owned Oskars for more than 30 years

"This is the first year Oskars has been involved in StreetSmart but it certainly is not the last," Mrs Kollrepp said.

"Funds donated at Oskars will go directly to helping homeless refugees and community centres that are in the most need within a close proximity to the restaurant.

"We felt it was very important that the funds raised at the restaurant went back into helping centres on the Gold Coast."