



# ANDREWS CENTRE

## ENDEAVOUR MINISTRIES

2-6 Hanna Drive, Endeavour Hills, 3802

Telephone 03 9700 4944

Fax 03 9700 0822

ABN 70 891 996 288

## QUARTERLY REPORT

JANUARY TO MARCH 2022

### EMERGENCY RELIEF AND REFERRAL SERVICES

The last three months have been the busiest we have ever been at this time of the year with well over 300 already just for food relief!. Many families have really struggled with costs related to getting their children back to school as well as the usual causes such as high rental and utility prices. The Andrews Centre has provided many with help to cover the cost of uniform, books and other requirements.

*“Sara” was referred to us by another agency seeking to get help for her to purchase the books she needed to study Year 12 this year. Unfortunately her parents who are asylum seekers had to move house because the landlord sold the house from under them and they exhausted all their savings securing a new property, so there was no money left to cover her texts.*

*Mary is a single mother recently separated and left to manage five young children. She is really struggling because her car needs repairs and she has other bills related to her children’s health issues. Mary was given vouchers and around \$50 in food and toiletry items. She also received some financial assistance with the cost of car repairs as well as a no interest loan to cover the remaining gap in the bill. Part of the no interest loan process is to make sure the loan is able to be repaid at a rate that does not put the client under any further financial strain. Mary was also given information on how she would be able to access a \$250 rebate on her electricity bill. She was very grateful!*

*“Jason” until recently worked casually and was able to pay for his accommodation. Unfortunately he contracted Covid and was out of work for two weeks and lost his job as a result. He applied for Centrelink payments but these took over four weeks to arrive and, as a result, he lost his accommodation. He is now homeless and living in his car. We were able to provide help with some meals and other food and a petrol voucher as well as a doona to at least make him a bit more comfortable. He was also referred to the main housing provider WAYSS and given assistance by Jayan from Jobs Victoria working out of our Centre to help him find work.*

The Andrews Centre unfortunately sees a number of homeless men and women, as well as a number of homeless women with children who have been placed “temporarily” by WAYSS for a number of months in motel rooms. The Centre has provided them with meals, food, clothing, showers, blankets, swags, toiletries etc

In addition The Andrews Centre has been pleased to offer very practical support to new settlers from Afghanistan including everything from food, food vouchers, laundry products to kitchen items such as saucepans, cutlery or crockery. We have also assisted around 15 refugees who rely solely on the Red Cross and Asylum Seeker

payments to survive because their visas have been denied, they are not allowed to work and they are without any income.

## FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD!

Sue has been preparing beautiful meals at the Andrews Centre so that there is a steady supply of frozen meals to be handed out as part of our emergency food relief and referral service. Single men and women who are in boarding houses, homeless or with disabilities making it difficult for them to prepare meals, all love these meals! Last week we received a box of mushrooms from Foodbank which Pam converted into mushroom soup! This is also a very welcome addition for these people. Foodbank and our community garden has also been able to supply fresh vegetables for families to take home



The emergency relief team come from different professional backgrounds and all have committed to doing special training to equip them to effectively interview and refer people coming for helps provided at the Centre or to other places where they might have their particular needs met.

## MONDAY MEALS

The Monday meals began again in February and everyone was very excited to actually be able to sit down back in the hall. The cooks were also delighted to have a lovely new kitchen to cook in!! Anything up to 140 meals are cooked each week and 25-30 of these are still takeaway meals for those not comfortable with sitting with others. The meals include both vegetarian and meat options to cater for different cultures and dietary needs. The shower truck continues to allow some of the homeless attending the meals to have a shower and shave before the meal and the local police are also still helping out each week with serving. Reclink comes each week to provide guests with the opportunity to join in a basketball game on the St James court after the meal!





## **EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION**

Endeavour Ministries continues to operate four emergency accommodation facilities for families who would otherwise be homeless. At the moment in the City of Casey and surrounding areas there is a very serious shortage of affordable housing and there are many families homeless or facing imminent eviction. There are also many who have had to move from their homes because of domestic violence, the incidents of which have escalated due to stress related to Covid lockdowns. All our units currently house mothers and children who were rendered homeless due to family breakdown and/or domestic violence. The residents are supported by WAYSS to help them find alternate more permanent accommodation whilst housed with us. One of our mothers with two children found new accommodation in January and is happily settled there. Another mother and child is now in the unit she was occupying.

## **A SPECIAL MOMENT!**



One of our units houses a delightful Cambodian family with a mother and two teenage daughters. The older daughter gets up very early for work – sometimes starting at 6am and travelling to work by public transport. Recently another family donated a car to her so that she and her family had a means of transport – something that will make life a lot easier for them all! It was just wonderful to see the joy on this young girl's face. The same family is providing her with driving lessons!

The Centre also has two loan cars used to help families in need of a car to take children to school or to get to work or medical appointments. At the moment two single mothers both with four children are using our cars to get to medical appointments, school etc

## **NO INTEREST LOANS**

During the Covid lockdown period there were less families applying for loans but that has changed over the past month! People are applying for loans to cover car repairs, education expenses, medical bills and now, under a new NILS loan scheme, there has even been a loan to purchase a car. Budgeting advice is provided as part of the loan process but is also given to others who might be struggling with money management issues.

## **LEGAL ADVICE**

This is a very helpful accompaniment to our emergency relief and counselling services. Many who are amid family breakdown situations struggle to understand what to do legally about their situation. Others need tenancy advice when faced with eviction orders or when dealing with repair issues etc Noel is always a valuable source of legal advice to many feeling powerless in the face of legal problems.

## **MIGRANT ENGLISH CLASSES**

Judy and Heather continue to provide English lessons one on one to students seeking to improve their English speaking and writing skills.

## **PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELLING**

*“John” rang the Centre today to be put on the waiting list to see one of our psychologists. He has developed a serious mental illness as a result of getting Covid and being isolated for fourteen days. This, on top of all the Covid restrictions caused him to reach a place whereby he is now afraid to go out or to touch anything that anyone else has touched. At the same time he is desperately lonely and needs to get out.- a very sad situation.*

Like many others of all ages and walks of life, he has been directly impacted by the Covid lockdowns and has, and is, experiencing high levels of anxiety never experienced before. The situation is reflected in the number of people on our psychology lists waiting multiple months to get an appointment. In the meantime The Andrews Centre has subsidized or fully paid for many -who would otherwise not be able to afford this help - to see our counselors. We are hoping to have all our psychologists and counsellors back “on board” next term as two of them are still only doing tele-health appointments. Their services are certainly in great demand!

## **OP SHOP**

Over the Christmas holiday break the shop received an abundance of donations which has continued right up to the present day. It is wonderful to see how much the community embraces the work of our little shop appreciating all the work they do to raise money for the Andrews Centre.



The Op Shop team do a wonderful job sorting donations and helping the Centre team whenever they are called upon to provide clothing and other items to give to the homeless and others needing help. It is great to have such a variety of items able to give away according to the need – even heaters, fans, toasters, kettles and medical aids!.

## **OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Al Anon meets each Monday to help support families of alcoholics and a church group continues to meet every Sunday.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN



The community garden group met recently just to tidy up around the garden weeding and pruning trees etc. It was wonderful to see the array of vegetables grown in the garden including:-corn, zucchinis, potatoes, beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, capsicum, spring onion, lettuce, basil, strawberries, apples, pears, plums, peaches and nectarines!!! Maranatha VCAL were very proud to come to the Centre a few weeks ago with all the vegetables they had grown in their allocated garden bed and which they now donated back to the Centre for families in need.

It remains to thank the many individuals who faithfully and so generously support the work of Endeavour Ministries Inc. both financially and in many volunteer roles. Thank you also to those who donate food for our emergency relief and/or donate goods to the shop. It all adds up to making possible a very valuable lifeline to many in crisis in our community.

On Behalf of the Management Committee

I acknowledge with thanks the contribution of the following organizations.  
The Andrews Foundation; City of Casey; DSS, State Government, Specsavers; Hire a Hubby; Roman Works; Endeavour Hills Uniting, Anglican, Catholic Churches Victory in Jesus, Narre Hills Community Church, St James Anglican Dandenong

To donate towards the work of Endeavour Ministries the bank details are as follows

Account Name

BSB 063610

Acct 10419490



Please provide email and/or address or name so that a receipt can be sent.

Email Address [admin@andrewscentre.org](mailto:admin@andrewscentre.org)

**ALL DONATIONS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**