



ANDREWS CENTRE

ENDEAVOUR MINISTRIES

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QUARTERLY REPORT

APRIL TO JUNE 2023

Another three months have flown by and, as you would appreciate, we are living in interesting times with many new challenges for us all related to the current economic situation. Despite all the gloom and being confronted daily with people's distressing circumstances, we are also amazed and humbled by the generosity of many who make it possible for us to provide the help they need. Be it from government, or philanthropic trusts, individuals donating time and money, people bringing in food donations or things for the shop to sell- all of it adds up to helping us to provide the supports needed to give people immediate help, relevant supports and renewed hope.

"John" has been in Australia now for over 12 years. He worked for a number of years around the Gippsland area doing farm work. Unfortunately, he lost his job when the farm he was working on was sold. He then moved into a local rental and began work in a factory just as all the Covid lockdowns hit. He lost this employment as a result of the Covid restrictions and, unable to claim any Centrelink benefit, ended up unable to pay rent and having to move out. He began living in his car and sought help from us for basic food. He explained how difficult it was to find and attend work when little sleep happened at night. He spoke of gangs of youth rocking his car parked at a local shopping Bill overnight. While at the Centre he was given access to a hot shower, coffee and a meal. He was given food voucher, food and a microwavable meal to take away with him. It was suggested that he move his car to the Andrews Centre where it might be safer for him to sleep, but he explained that he could not move it because it needed a new battery. This was purchased for him but when he installed it, he discovered there was another problem preventing the car from being moved. To help him on this particularly cold weekend, he was provided with 3 night's accommodation in a local motel. He was very grateful for the help.



When he returned to his car on the Monday morning this is what he found! His car had been totally trashed! He was understandably distressed. One of the volunteers allowed him to stay in their own home until one of our emergency accommodation units became available. He was offered this accommodation on the proviso that he found work - which he did! The Centre has also provided him with a loan car so that he can get to work each day. Hopefully this very practical help might allow this young man a chance to get back on his feet and move forward.

Apart from the tremendous struggle that many are now having to pay high rental costs, we are also seeing families severely impacted by the multiple rises in mortgage interest rates.

“Dani” is a single father with one son. He is on a jobseeker allowance because he has a back injury and is unable to do more than a few hours work each week. He took out a mortgage around three years ago when he was working full time. He borrowed the relatively modest amount of \$456,000- to purchase his house. In April last year the interest only figure for repayments have escalated as follows:-

April 2022 \$894.48. per month

April 2023 \$2146.75 per month

June 2023 \$2480.00 per month

His repayments now are significantly more than his income!

Over the past 3 months we have seen around 320 families or individuals for emergency relief. They generally receive food vouchers, petrol vouchers and sometimes chemist vouchers, when needed. People are able to choose from a range of available food staples such as rice, pasta, pasta sauce, tinned foods, cereals, dairy products, coffee, tea, cakes, spreads, flour, sugar, cooking oil, fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs, biscuits, snacks and bread. The Centre also seeks to cater with foods popular with people within our community from other cultures such as Iran, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. Some have received help with other bills, such as up front specialist fees, school costs, rent, utilities and car related costs.

OUT WITH THE OLD- IN WITH THE NEW!



Sadly one of our loan cars was written off in late March due to an accident which was not the fault of our driver! We did, however, eventually receive a payout and have been able to purchase a little white Hyundai which is already out on loan to a single mother needing a car to get to work!

We have also had an electric scooter donated replacing the one we did have that “died”. This will be loaned out to someone in need in the near future.

MEALS



Unfortunately, due to a particularly busy time in the Daniels family, Rob and Ros, who coordinate our Monday Meals program, have had to limit on site meals to one per month. Sue continues, however, to provide a steady supply of meals that can be accessed through the Centre. They are frozen ready to be microwaved when needed and they are very popular, especially amongst the homeless and those in boarding houses.

CENTRELINK OUTREACH

We have been very pleased to welcome “on board” Helen from Centrelink who now comes once a fortnight to help people who struggle to understand or know how to access available Centrelink supports. She is there to help any clients with complex needs.

OP SHOP

What an amazing job our Op Shop team does! Every morning Andy is there to drag in all the donations from the shop bin and Liz arrives soon after with Peg or Lorraine or Gwen to sort through all the donations. Often items donated might end up at the Centre to be used to help families needing such things as linen, cots, small furniture items. Whenever we have a homeless person moving into a boarding house, we are asking Liz to sort out some cutlery, plates, mugs for them to use. When others are going for job interviews or simply needing warm clothes, the shop volunteers are called to “go on a hunt” for the items needed.

MEDICAL AIDS

To save our most needy from the necessity of hiring medical aids, we keep a steady supply of goods to be donated or lent out. These include wheelchairs, wheelie walkers, crutches, medical boots, commodes, shower chairs – even an electric scooter!

EMERGENCY HOUSING

As indicated above, one of our units is currently occupied by a homeless young man who has really embraced this opportunity to get his life back on track. He has full time employment and is doing really well. Before him, in the same unit, we housed a single mother and child for a period of six months and then a single homeless woman for a few weeks until she found another option in share accommodation. One of our units continues to be used for a small refugee family where one daughter is currently doing her VCE and the other daughter has just completed a Management course at her place of employment. Units 3 and 4 have just been vacated after housing a victim of domestic violence and her two children and a homeless single mother recovering from injuries sustained in a car accident. Both units are now occupied with single mothers with two children who have been victims of domestic violence.

LOANS

The Centre continues to also provide no interest loans for a range of things including white goods, furniture, educational costs, medical bills, car repairs and registration etc This is such an important help to keep families from being desperate enough to access finance through payday lenders and becoming trapped into paying exorbitant interest rates on moneys borrowed.

“COOL MONEY”



Gleneagles Secondary College Year 9 students have been privileged to learn from our very dedicated volunteer, Ameet, all about financial literacy. He ran two different classes this term for the students.

COUNSELLING

The six psychologists and three counsellors remain in high demand, with referrals from doctors and specialists from far and wide encompassing Casey, Cardinia, Greater Dandenong and other areas. They deal with a wide range of issues such as depression (from mild to severe leading to self harm and even suicidality) stress and anxiety, grief, family breakdown and trauma associated with domestic violence or accident. They also support individuals with eating disorders, conditions such as Obsessive Compulsive or Bi-Polar disorders. The psychologists do a lot of work to help adolescents (and their parents) who have been diagnosed with neurological and developmental disorders, including Autism Spectrum Disorder and ADHD. Their help includes assessment, emotional and behavioural regulation support, social skills support and executive functioning skills development.

Two group counselling programs have been developed by the psychology team in recognition of the importance of social skills in helping teenagers who would otherwise struggle with everything from poor self-esteem, depression, anxiety, school refusal, bullying – all that can be associated with a deficit in social skills.

PEERS – GROUP SESSIONS FOR TEENAGERS WITH SOCIAL SKILLS ISSUES

Starting next term two psychologists are running this program where teenagers are helped to develop skills to make and keep friends. The parents meet at the same time and are instructed as to how best support their teenagers as they seek to put into practice the very practical skills they have been taught.. The course was run last year and was very successful with teenagers really benefitting from very practical skills taught. The parents also have reported very positive outcomes for their teenagers in building social skills, confidence and self esteem

KEYS TO CONNECT- KEY ABILITIES – SOCIAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The key abilities program aims to support a specially selected group of adolescents with autism spectrum disorders and/or intellectual disabilities with the opportunity to develop and maintain peer relationships through the provision of regular group sessions. The program will focus on building self –awareness, social understanding and interpersonal skills that are necessary for the development of friendships and positive community engagement.

“Jenny” is in Year 12 but living away from home in a youth hostel. She is receiving counselling from one of our psychologists because of a range of issues she is struggling to overcome. The Centre is covering the cost for her to receive an assessment she requires and have provided very practical support with a warm blanket and a microwave for her to cook her own meals.

AL ANON

Al Anon continues to meet every week and provide an amazing supportive community for families of alcoholics.

MIGRANT ENGLISH



As part of helping people successfully enter the workforce, understand written communications and/or engage with others in their community, The Centre offers one on one help to individuals to learn to read, write or speak English. Judy continues to assist a Cambodian woman whilst Heather has begun English classes with a very enthusiastic student newly arrived from Afghanistan.

COMMUNITY GARDEN



Winter crops are now in and all the gardening community are grateful to Year 8 & 9 students from both Maranatha Christian School and Gleneagles Secondary College who helped us in the rather difficult job of repairing one of the 16 wicking beds. Repair involves completely emptying the bed of soil, then lining, then a layer of scoria

It is hard work and the students did a great job. The gardeners meet around twice a term for coffee together and to work together to maintain the property around the beds, and prune fruit trees etc We have had a good crop of pumpkins, potatoes, tomatoes, beans corn and other vegies so far this year and it is certainly a help in times where prices are so high! It also helps us to supply vegetables for the meals made at the Centre. Thank you to Karl and Alan who co-ordinated the fixing of two garden beds in need of repair.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Judy Martin

We are so grateful to so many over the last term who have provided some very valuable support with the every day running of the Centre. Thank you to Ian and friend for a most valued supply of wood to keep us warm over winter. Thank you to Taj who helped chop down dead branches and provide mulch for the garden and fix blinds at our emergency unit. Thank you to Brian who repaired the garden fence and installed a clothesline at the emergency unit.

Thank you to all the organizations and individuals without whose support we could not keep doing this very important work in our community.
The Andrews Foundation; Peter and Lyndy White Foundation; City of Casey; DSS;; Specsavers; St Andrews Foundation, Felton Bequest, Endeavour Hills Uniting, Anglican, Catholic, Narre Hills Churches Community Church, Victory in Jesus, Narre Hills, St James Anglican Dandenong.



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

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BSB 063610

Acct 10419490

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

Email Address admin@andrewscentre.org

ALL DONATIONS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE

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