



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 – MARCH 2024

In December last year Endeavour Ministries Inc. celebrated 30 years over which period many thousands of families have been helped at their time of need with a whole variety of different supports according to their particular circumstances - Financial support, food, transport and chemist vouchers, meals, material aid, medical equipment, emergency accommodation, no interest loans, free loan cars, services addressing mental health, psychological assessments, programs encouraging community participation (outing and community garden) etc.

Over the years there have been a number of faithful volunteers, many of whom still work in various capacities as part of the Endeavour Ministries' team. We are forever grateful for all that has been made possible through their generous contribution of time, skill and commitment. We continue to also be very grateful to the wider community for the support they provide in areas such as donations of non-perishable food for emergency relief, items for the Op Shop, help with cleaning and maintenance etc. It is really affirming to have this support from so many individuals, churches, schools and the local library and council.

EMERGENCY RELIEF



The current cost of living crisis has been very much felt by so many in our local community who have struggled to keep on top of rising utility costs and the increased cost of groceries. The most significant increase, however, has been in the cost of rental. The average rental now for a three -bedroom home is around \$450 a week. For people relying on pension payments, this equates to anything from half to three quarters of their total fortnightly income.

There has never been a time when housing stress has been at such a level due, not only to the cost of rentals, but also the drastic shortage of rentals available.

“Jenny” is a single mother with five children who is really struggling financially as her rent has increased from \$390 per week to \$470.

“Karen” has been living in a motel with her daughters for the past three months after moving to Victoria from interstate to begin a job in the Frankston area, Unfortunately her car broke down soon after she arrived here and she was unable to get to work and is now unemployed. She is paying almost her entire income (\$700 a week) to stay in the motel. The Centre has helped with rental costs and provided her with food and vouchers to help her manage until she is able to secure work and hopefully find some accommodation.

The Andrews Centre continues to provide emergency accommodation in four units for a period of up to six months to allow time for alternate accommodation to be found. We are currently housing three families impacted by domestic violence and one single mother with two children reliant on casual work with no Centrelink entitlements and struggling just to find a place to live.

Many families reliant on casual work really struggled over the Christmas period when work simply was not available. Others needed help as they sought to find the money to cover back to school expenses. Still others were caught with delays in Centrelink after employment ceased and they became reliant on jobseeker payments. Over the first two months of 2024 we saw a total of 259 families for emergency relief.

“Helen” has recently separated due to her husband’s addiction issues. She has really struggled to support her 7 children on a single mother’s pension, especially with the return to school costs. The Centre was able to support her financially to help keep her on top of expenses whilst she searched for work to support her family. Finally she was delighted to find work but was then in trouble because the car she relied on to get to work broke down. Fortunately we were able to supply her with one of our free loan cars to keep her in work.

Endeavour Hills and Doveton have been two areas where a number of new families from Afghanistan have settled over the past three to six months. The Centre has provided many helps, including furniture, bedding, clothing, toys, food and vouchers.

MEALS

After a wonderful Christmas dinner with take-home hampers for all the guests, the Monday Meals began again on the first Monday in February. There were meals for 140 guests and extra “goodies” were provided after the meal including apples and pears for the guests to take home!





Sue, our “chef extraordinaire”, continues to come each fortnight to make up some delicious and very popular take home meals for those coming for food relief who are either homeless or living in boarding houses where they often neglect to eat proper meals. The meals are frozen in special biopak biodegradable containers able to be frozen and then microwaved when needed. We have some homeless men who come in quite regularly for a shower followed by one of these hot meals!

FREE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET



Thanks to the help from five local university students who helped us organize the day, we were able to provide our most needy families with a variety of beautifully fresh fruit and vegetables. A large number of families were invited to pre-order online so that on the day they simply came in and picked up their pre-packed items

MIGRANT ENGLISH

Judy continues to teach English to our Cambodian mother who has had to learn not only to speak our language, but also how to read because Cambodia has an entirely different alphabet.

ENDEAVOUR OP SHOP

As well as being a valuable source of funding for the activities of the Andrews Centre, the Op Shop provides a very important function supplying, at no cost to people in special need, such items as cutlery, crockery, saucepans and good quality clothing and linen to those who have just moved into new accommodation or who have had to leave their belongings behind and start afresh in a new location.

The volunteer team at the shop continue to do a wonderful job sorting the many donations and keeping the shop running well.

NO INTEREST LOANS



We have welcomed a new volunteer, Geoff, to assist Bill to help people apply for no interest loans. They both do a great job helping people access these no interest loans and keeping them away from the hands of the hungry “loan sharks” who would cause vulnerable people to become ever more debt ridden if other options were not available. This is such an important service!

Over the past three months \$27,439.00 has been borrowed for the purchase of computers, beds, rent in advance and arrears, school books and uniforms, hot water service, a mower and car repairs. People are allowed to borrow up to \$2000 for any of these items.

OUTING TO GUMBUYA WORLD



Every year the Andrews Centre seeks to arrange a couple of very special outings for families who struggle to afford everyday expenses let alone indulge in the luxury of a day of fun with their families. Thus on 2 March a busload of happy families were invited to an all-expenses-paid day at Gumbuya World. Adults and children alike enjoyed the water activities, the rides and the animals. It was great fun for all.

COUNSELLING

This remains a very integral part of the work of Endeavour Ministries, ensuring that all who need counselling and psychology services are able to afford to do so. Last year, thanks to the support of the Andrews Foundation, the Centre spent over \$25,000.00 just subsidizing the cost of these services to those most in need. The Centre continues to receive a large volume of referrals from both local doctors and specialists and from wider afield. Addressing mental health issues for people of all ages is such an important part of the work we do and it certainly affects the lives of those seeking help as well as their families.

There remains a whole range of reasons why people seek counselling including the “common cold” (but nonetheless significant and life impacting) issues such as anxiety and depression, stress, grief, addiction, eating disorders, trauma, relationship breakdown and workplace bullying. There are also those with the need to be assessed to identify conditions such as autism, ADHD, bipolar disorder etc.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

There has been an abundance of summer crops at the garden with tomatoes, cucumbers and corn a-plenty! The gardening community also sought to “beat the birds” to an abundant supply of apricots and plums from the fruit trees!



Sue and Phil have taken over management of the garden and have already done a lot of work organizing our three compost bins and arranging for compost to go around all our many fruit trees. There is a meeting on Saturday for all the gardeners to get together, “compare notes”, enjoy a “cuppa” and do some necessary maintenance around the beds.

It is a great way to bring people together and very rewarding to be able to grow healthy vegetables all year round.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

As always, I remain incredibly grateful to the many people who support us financially – both individuals and organizations. The constant flow of donations to the shop and food for distribution as part of the emergency relief are so valued and so appreciated. There is such a feeling of the community supporting their community in the way all this happens and it is truly heartwarming. Thank you to all who give in so many different ways so that we can help those in our community who need it the most!



Judy Martin

Manager – The Andrews Centre

Thank you to all the organizations and individuals without whose support we could not keep doing this very important work.

The Andrews Foundation; Peter and Lyndy White Foundation; City of Casey; DSS;; Specsavers; Felton Bequest, Endeavour Hills Uniting, Anglican, Catholic, Narre Hills Churches Community Church, Victory in Jesus, Narre Hills Community Church, St Paul Apostle Catholic Church, Endeavour Hills Neighbourhood Centre, St James Anglican Dandenong and Maranatha Christian School

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

ALL DONATIONS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE

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