



ANDREWS CENTRE

ENDEAVOUR MINISTRIES INC.

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EMERGENCY RELIEF

“Jan” came to the Andrews Centre 2 years ago in a desperate situation. She has lost her job as a result of Covid and then suffered a relationship breakdown whilst pregnant with her second child. A series of circumstances, completely out of her control, meant she lost her accommodation and the only place she could find or afford was a room in a share house The Centre provided practical support in the form of rent assistance, food vouchers, clothing, bedding and toys. Nevertheless it was extremely difficult for her in one room with two babies. It was a very low point in her life and she struggled with depression, so counselling sessions were also arranged for her at no cost.

In late October 2025 Judy received a phone call from Jan. She explained that her circumstances had completely changed. She had remarried, started her own very successful business, had a home in Brighton and she wanted to “give back” to the organisation which helped her most in her time of need!



Our team of volunteers who collect and bring in the food each week.

What better introduction could there be to the importance of places like the Andrews Centre, especially at this time when so many are struggling like never before with cost of living! Rentals are so high that some are paying more than 80% of their income just in rent. Utility and food costs have risen so that even people with work are struggling to survive financially. There are more than 2500 homeless just in the Casey area and 2/3rds of those are female! Over the past twelve months we have had 1703 sessions for emergency food relief, and have spent over \$97,000.00 on food and vouchers. A further \$42000 was spent providing help with

rent arrears, short term accommodation, upfront specialist fees, medical scans, dental bills, school expenses, car registration, loan cars, petrol and chemist bills.

This has been supplemented by donations of food notably by Endeavour Hills Uniting Church, local schools such as Gleneagles Secondary, Emerson School, Chalcot Lodge and Thomas Mitchell primary schools.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Andrews Foundation we have been able to afford a new van to help with the weekly delivery of food for our Centre. It has the luxury of a rear view camera – a valuable and much appreciated upgrade on the previous model!!

MEALS



The Centre continues to provide a range of meals prepared and frozen so that the homeless and people in the local boarding houses CAN come in and either have a meals heated up and eaten on the premises, or they take them away and store them to be eaten during the week. In addition to our faithful and very skilled chef, Sue, we have also been assisted by a group from Gleneagles Secondary College who also prepared some meals for us to distribute.

Often those who have enjoyed a meal at the Centre also have a shower and cup of tea while waiting for the meal to be heated! The Centre has also acquired a washing machine and intends to purchase a dryer so that next year we might be able to help some of our homeless visitors with their laundry.

The Monday Meals team continues to do a wonderful job supporting a whole community of people who come for their monthly meal and the opportunity to gather with their friends. On average there are between 70 and 80 at each meal but meals are also made up for the guests to take away. In total they make around 140 meals each time. There is also a mobile shower service for guests who are homeless and a Green Cross nursing service to look after the health of the more vulnerable participants.



On 8 December 140 guests crowded in to enjoy a sumptuous feast of roast turkey, pork and ham with all the other roast vegetables, followed by plum pudding and pavlova! In addition each guest went away with a Christmas hamper and also was gifted a free family or individual portrait generously provided by our professional photographer.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET

Thanks to some very kind and dedicated volunteers willing to rise very early in the morning to offload a truck of fresh vegetables, we were able to offer a free fruit and vegetable market again this year to our most needy families. It is always a very popular and well received addition to our regular emergency food service. All the produce is amazingly fresh and there is a wide variety of vegetables and fruit on offer. With prices so high this year, this is a particularly welcome service and greatly appreciated by all!!



EMERGENCY HOUSING

In the 32 years I have been working as part of this ministry I have never seen a worse time for homelessness and associated housing stress. Shortage of housing and associated high rentals as well as many affected by domestic violence have meant that we have supported many families and individuals this year paying rental arrears and temporary accommodation. Our five emergency accommodation units have been mainly occupied by families affected by domestic violence. In 2025 we have provided accommodation for 7 single parent families, one couple with three children and one refugee male. All are supported, according to their needs, by other services such as counselling, emergency relief, no interest loans etc. Two young girls from one family where the mother is very limited in her ability to leave the house, have been sponsored and transported each week to attend a local girls' club. They have loved this chance to join in the activities and have fun with girls their own age.

LOAN CARS



One of our loan cars “died” this year but it has been replaced with this Ford Festiva currently on loan to a single mother struggling with her own and her daughter’s health issues. The car has just made it so much easier for her to attend the many necessary health related appointments. Our other loan car (our little red Honda) is still going strong and is currently allowing one of our emergency house tenants to get to work when her own car was written off in an accident

CENTRELINK SERVICE

Helen from Centrelink has provided a very valuable support this year helping families who struggle to understand how to effectively access Centrelink support.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS AND TOYS



Over 250 hampers and a generous supply of toys were distributed in early December, both at the Andrews Centre and at the Monday Meals Christmas break up in Dandenong. We are very grateful for those who have helped us to provide this support to make sure even the most financially struggling families could have a happy Christmas!

Thank you to the Andrews Foundation for their generous financial support specifically to support the Christmas gifts. Thank you too to St Paul Apostle and to Maranatha for the beautiful hampers they contributed

COUNSELLING

Counselling remains a vital part of the work of The Andrews Centre, providing long term supports that are often the key to moving people from crisis situations to a place where they feel in control of their circumstances, and able to overcome what might have seemed overwhelming challenges. The Centre currently has a team of six psychologists and two counselors, all working part time and providing support for a wide range of issues, each with their particular areas of expertise. These include relationship issues including conflict management, workplace or school bullying, family and/or marriage breakdown, boundaries and responsibilities, meeting challenging relationships with greater courage and integrity, recognizing and identifying dangerous relationships and what to do, social isolation and how to make and keep positive friendships. They see many with trauma related issues including domestic violence, accident, chronic illness, PTSD, grief and loss) as well as emotional/ psychological issues such as anxiety, depression, ADHD (providing self -management strategies), autism, OCD, mental illness, dealing with personality disordered patterns in close relationship etc etc.

The Andrews Centre has long been recognized for its commitment to accessible, compassionate and evidence-based care and, as such, continues to be a rock and a safe place in the community where people of all ages can seek support and refuge. In counselling, specifically, people gain emotional support and a feeling of worth as they are given time, love, skills and support no matter what they can afford. Clients have been enabled to do things they were too anxious to do -students to stay in school or university whilst others have gained confidence through the counselling to achieve employment. Other families have been helped to reunite following conflict, be it husband/wife conflict or mother /daughter etc

The counselling services provided by The Andrews Centre are well known and well regarded in the Casey, Cardinia, Dandenong areas and even wider afield! We receive a large number

of referrals from doctors, specialists, schools, churches, hospitals or individuals who have used the services themselves in the past.

The psychologists and counsellors have all undertaken to work at a rate much less than they could earn in private practice (A clinical psychologist under the APS guidelines can charge well over \$300 per session and other psychologists and qualified counsellors can charge \$260 a session). This means that the Andrews Centre can help keep this vital service affordable for low income families. In addition, all pensioners and people in particularly difficult financial circumstances are supported either in full (\$60 per session) or in part (\$30) by the Centre. Around \$87,000.00 has been spent this year to provide this service to the community.



The psychologists and counsellors meet together regularly to support one another and share expertise. Rosemary continues to head up the team and provides both supervision and professional development to other team members. They also went on a team retreat in August.

She also hosts a monthly meeting of a wider group of psychologists who meet at the Andrews Centre.

This year we have welcomed a new psychologist Dr Gabrielle Autard-Barry onto the team. Gabriella has already seen a number of clients with issues such as:- anxiety and panic, chronic illness and chronic pain, co-dependency, coping skills, depression, emotional disturbance, grief, life transitions, mood disorders, OCD, relationship issues, sexual abuse, sleep or insomnia, stress, suicidal ideation, trauma and PTSD.

Karen Shirt MAPS continues to provide the psychological assessments to identify learning difficulties and/or discerning whether a child or adult is on the Autism spectrum. The assessments are key to both adult and children gaining access to help through NDIS and school assistance, as well as helping parents work out what school might be best given a child's particular learning challenges.

It is largely due to the support of The Andrews Foundation that this service has been able to continue and we are grateful beyond words for the support they have provided. So many families and individuals are really struggling at the moment due to the housing crisis and this is reflected in the amount of domestic violence and family breakdown in our community. Casey is amongst the largest for reported incidents of family violence over the past year.

KEY ABILITIES

One of our psychologists also runs a monthly group for young adults who have a ASD diagnosis and intellectual disability. Throughout the year they have participated in a range of social activities including Adventure Park on the Mornington Peninsula, a train ride to Walhalla, Harlem Globe Trotters, Healsville Sanctuary, Bounce and more. They are also learning valuable social skills and teamwork. This group provides a really important outlet and a place where they can learn to interact well with each other and others outside their group.



ALANON

For as long as the Centre has been running the Al Anon group has faithfully met each week to support the families of alcoholics.

FINANCIAL COUNSELLING AND NO INTEREST LOANS



Associated, too, with counselling people towards greater confidence to cope with stresses is our volunteers providing budgeting advice and support to achieve financial management. They also provide help for families to apply for no interest loans to keep them from falling into the hands of unscrupulous money lenders. Around 70 loans have been provided amounting to over \$100,000.00.

With a grant from the State Government we were able to replace our computers – months before they would all have been obsolete!!! It has certainly been a great help with all the general administrative work of the Centre and is greatly appreciated!

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Centre is happy to assist those seeking to improve their English skills and have supported a lady from Cambodia and another from Afghanistan this year with a combination of computer based and syllabus based lessons. It is gratifying to see just how much they have improved in 12 months.

SUPPORTING THE BEREAVED



Sadly this year we have been called up to give support to a family who have lost two family members within three months of each other. At the request of the family, we held two memorial services at the Andrews Centre to celebrate the life of both the father and son.

In the week before he died “John” asked Judy to visit him at his home. He sent his son into the kitchen to fetch an electric frypan. “You gave this to me 20 years ago when I was struggling. I just wanted you to know I still have it!!”

OUTING TO THE ENCHANTED MAIZE



Early March this year the Andrews Centre hired a 52 -seater bus and took financially struggling families on a memorable and enjoyable all expenses paid trip to the Enchanted Maize at Arthur’s Seat. There was lots of activity including taboggans and tree climbing and a variety of maizes to negotiate! It was a lot of fun and a highlight was the trip home where we enjoyed amazing views from the bus of the Mornington Peninsula!

COMMUNITY GARDEN



There has been a real growth of interest in this particular area of our ministry this year. There was actually a waiting list for garden beds with more people wanting beds than beds available. The garden and surrounds are looking better than they have ever looked thanks to the new management team led by Sue Wild.

The fruit trees have all been trimmed and treated and we have four new hen who are contributing daily a lovely supply of fresh eggs! The garden beds continue to produce a variety of vegetables, some of which is distributed to the Centre and used in the meals. There have been meetings throughout the year which include morning teas in our “Diggers Den” meeting room and an end of year Christmas breakup.

OP SHOP



This is where it all began and the Op Shop continues to do an amazing job sorting through a regular pile of donations from so many in our community. Each year they raise valuable funds for us to use for emergency food and vouchers amounting this year to around \$74,000 profit. The shop has also proved a valuable resource for clothing and household items donated to the homeless

(from left Liz McLennan, Peg Clarke and Geoff Reid during the morning sort)

WIDER COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Endeavour Ministries would not be able to do all that it has achieved to support families in crisis if it were not for the support of so many in our community. We are so grateful to the many who support us, either directly with financial donations, or with food help, and even with the amazing array of donations to keep our Op Shop running.

Thank you to the schools like Gleneagles Secondary, Maranatha Christian School, Emerson, Chalcot Lodge and Thomas Mitchel Primary Schools who have all donated food this year to help keep up a steady supply of food in the cupboards. Thank you to faithful individuals and to Endeavour Hills Uniting Church for their regular supply of food donations.

Finally I have to thank sincerely the wonderful team of over 80 volunteers who give their time in a whole range of capacities - making meals, serving in the shop, helping people apply for no interest loans, social work, educational support, administrative work, gardening, cleaning, sorting, maintenance, management – so many roles and such a faithful team fulfilling them!!

We acknowledge with sincere gratitude the following organizations who have provided valuable funding to support the work of Endeavour Ministries Inc in 2025

The Andrews Foundation, Peter and Lyndy White Foundation, City of Casey, State Government, Department of Social Services, Endeavour Hills Neighbourhood Centre, Specsavers, Endeavour Hills Hillside Pantry and Kogo, Dandenong/Endeavour Hills Rotary and Men's Shed.

Churches including Endeavour Hills Uniting, St Matthews Anglican, St Paul Apostle Catholic Church, Victory in Jesus, Narre Hills Community Church, Crossway Baptist, Narre Warren Baptist and St James Church Dandenong