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NEWSLETTER Christmas 2016

If Nothing Changes, Nothing Changes

2016 has flown past far too quickly. It has been an incredibly rewarding year as we have seen so many participant's challenges made a little easier through the support of the team at Turning Point and the services it provides. Seeing firm decisions made, plans put in place and confirmations of change, has seen many *turning points* in the lives of our community. These *turning points* have also been made possible by the overwhelming generosity of the community with its support through donations and spreading the word about us to people who could benefit from our services.



Food and support has been given by Camden Library, Camden Baptist Church, C3 and Uniting Churches Camden, Camden Country and Glenmore. Scouts, Camden High, Camden Council, Camden Park House, Inspirations On Argyle, Sarita's A Clothing Emporium, Curves Camden, After School Care, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, View Club, Rotary, Inner Wheel, Quota Club, Camden Show Society, Aglow, MOPS to name a few and countless individuals who are Facebook friends and compassionate community members.



We have served 450 meals, 520 cups of tea and coffee have been made, 130 people have been interviewed, the pantry has been accessed 200 times for food support, 36 meat and 48 fruit vouchers have been given out, 53 people have needed Telstra mobile phone recharge cards, 150 computer lessons have been taught, the Women's Support Network has been enjoyed by 113 women, 22 people have needed help filling out paperwork, 24 times someone has needed us to support them in a phone call, 35 chaplaincy/counselling sessions, craft has been enjoyed on 106 occasions and 32 referrals made to larger organisations.



Our outreach opportunities grew to include not only Bunnings BBQ and the Camden Show but also Bunnings cake stalls and the Family Mother's Day and Christmas events. We attended Relay for Life, Camden Baptist Church Garage Sale, Waratah Day, Anti-Poverty Week, the Macarthur Homeless Hub and the Combined Churches Picnic Day.



60 Christmas hampers have been prepared from donations made by the community at large. Both food and toys will be distributed mid December to families who have attended the centre for support and who continue to partner with us.



Local businesses have continued to support us with food vouchers, gift wrapping donations, services such as massage and relaxation and health care. The use of their businesses to advertise our services, used as a drop off point for food donations and the sale of Christmas cards made by the Women's Support Network.



It has been a very busy year for all the Turning Point volunteers. We have not only been at Turning Point during the week but also attended BBQ's, cake stalls, training and meetings. The volunteers have been supportive of all our participants and each other. Their generosity and willingness to help has been pivotal to the workings of Turning Point. We have welcomed some new volunteers and farewelled others. Many thanks to all our volunteers for a great year and looking forward to 2017.

Nanette – Volunteer Coordinator



On Friday 28th October, we had the privilege of attending the Homeless Hub at Campbelltown Civic Centre. Many items were distributed to those in need and contacts made for future follow up. The following week, two of the contacts made, visited Turning Point to access further services. It is a blessing to be of assistance to those in need.

Judy Morley – Volunteer



Presentations were given to a number of organisations including Narellan Rotary, Camden View Club, Camden Inner Wheel, Carrington, and for Anti-Poverty Week at Barenz Restaurant, just to name a few. The centre also saw two students complete their work placement hours for University and College degrees.



This year has seen the fruits of trust gained by participants who we have been journeying with for some time now. Through the centre's Chaplaincy service, a number of participants have expressed that they have regained their self - confidence and feel very hopeful for their future due to the chaplaincy support they have received. On a number of occasions, we have been asked for prayer support and had many questions asked about faith when tackling life's big issues.



Thanks to our volunteers and keen community gardeners who have worked very hard and beautified our frontage! Thank you for your generosity and great effort.



So what does next year have in stall for the centre?

A major fundraiser will be held in the Spring and we will continue to attend community events. We will be sourcing new fundraising opportunities to initiate new programs to improve the lives of many in our community experiencing mental illness, domestic violence, food shortage and homelessness.

We plan to build relationships with local pre-schools and medical practices where we have identified many families and individuals that could benefit from our support. There will also be a focus on encouraging those who are carers to attend the centre for some much needed respite by joining in our activities and the development of a men's activity for Friday morning.



Luke 2:11

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.



Mike and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Safe and Happy New Year.