

Where has the year gone?

Since February, 2015, 31 new consumers have received assistance related to food, counselling, information and Chaplaincy support.

A combined total of 66 fruit, vegetable and meat vouchers have been issued, 36 consumers received 84 bags of pantry food and 32 counselling/ chaplaincy interviews have been conducted.

We have received donations from the community at large, from local businesses with proceeds of gift wrapping, pledges for services and from community groups. Huge amounts of pantry food from Camden/Narellan Library's "Cash for Fines" amnesty, First South Camden Scouts, Curran's Hill OOSH, 15 Can Challenge, toiletry packs from Brand New Day and individuals with huge hearts for the community. Quota International of Macarthur offered their support to Turning Point and I look forward to meeting with them later this year.

New computers have been purchased with funds from Camden Councils Small Grants Program for the Basic Computer Program that continues to grow and provide students with the confidence to tackle life head on. The Sisterhood group from

Camden Uniting Church collected goods to make Rough Sleeper Care Packs and we will be handing them out to those struggling with homelessness at the Macarthur Homeless Hub Day held at Civic Hall Campbelltown 29th May from 10am. The pack also lets people know what services are available at Turning Point.



A beautiful blanket was gifted to Baptist Care's Chisolm Women's DV Service created by our Women's Support Network and this year's project is knitting berets and beanies as a means of fundraising for the centre.



Gemma's Healthy Living Series has been met with great enthusiasm where the group have looked at the food we eat and lifestyle habits, and how our mental health can be improved by making some adjustments in these

areas. We have looked at recipes and even indulged in Chocolate Cake that is guilt free. Call Gemma from Total Health Performance on 0437 308 915.



The team enjoyed two days at this year's Camden Show where we were able to connect personally with 130 members of our community. Show bags were handed out containing information about our services and business cards promoting the businesses supporting us. We have been inundated with pantry food, pre-loved clothing and expressions of interest for volunteering.



The initiation of a facebook page has been a huge success with a growing number of followers. We have connected with many new supporters and are able to use the page as a call out for emergency stock for the pantry.

A Basic Photography Course has begun that is co-ordinated by Natalie a professional photographer. The group use their iphones, mobiles and cameras beginning with theory then venture into Camden to take photographs. The course will run throughout 2015 finishing with an exhibition at Camden Library March 2016.

Relationships continue to develop with local services to better support the community. We are engaging with UWS School of Medicine's MIC (Medicine in Context) program. The program provides students with opportunities to learn the wider context of practice in the community. A third year medical student will complete a five week block where they will have an opportunity for community engaged learning. This program is undertaken by many service providers in Macarthur with great enthusiasm.



Our Women's Support Network continues to bless the women of

our community. Three of the women shared their experiences about the challenges they and the women in their families faced over the generations, in recognition of International Women's Day. Great discussion held after reflecting on how many of those struggles experienced many years ago are still faced by so many women today.



Over the Easter Long Weekend we had the opportunity to run the BBQ at Bunnings Narellan. Great atmosphere celebrating Easter with face painting, hot cross buns and chocolate eggs and of course a sausage sizzle. A really fun day regardless of the torrential rain.



Thanksgiving

- Thanks for the provisions of finances
- Thanks for the amazing team of support from volunteers and the community
- Thanks for opportunities to share the vision of the centre with community groups
- Thanks for the blessing of opportunities to bless others



Requests

- Donations of takeaway plastic containers
- Donations of shelf milk, pasta, noodles, biscuits, canned meats, toilet paper & tissues