

Turning Point Camden Spring Newsletter 2019

When you plant a seed of hope into a person's life, an immediate transformation takes place. We all play a small part in that transformation which is a slow process. So, weather you donate food, prepare a meal, share Facebook posts or fundraise, together our acts of kindness and commitment, enable people to reach a turning point without looking back. It is a privilege and blessing to walk alongside individuals and families in these moments.

Since our last newsletter, 100 interviews have taken place, 500 meals have been served, our pantry has been accessed 480 times, we have provided documents assistance and advocacy services on 80 occasions and combined counselling/chaplaincy support on 80 occasions. There has been a rise in the need for assistance in relation to Domestic and Family Violence matters and the need for Mental Health support through local GP's and specialist Mental Health Services for clients with who are and have experienced complex trauma. At present we are providing intense support for 15 families. On a weekly basis an average of 25 families are accessing the community pantry Friends your support is very much needed so we as a community can support individuals and families facing insurmountable pressures.

Bunnings BBQ: What a day we had. All 1000 sausages cooked and enjoyed. Just about everything we needed on the day was donated which meant we could purchase even more supplies for our crisis pantry due to less overheads. The team enjoyed a hectic day talking to people about our services and just having a great time together.

Argyle Affair: Thanks to the incredible support of the Argyle Affair team of Brooke and Peta who again invited us to share in the proceeds of door entry donations. Once again, we all enjoyed a day of connecting with community with some expressing an interest in volunteering and further fundraising. From the days proceeds we purchased food and fuel gift cards.

Christmas In July:

This year we held our first Christmas in July with both our Men's and Women's Support groups. A huge success enjoyed by all. A glorious spread of hot roast pork with all the trimmings plus Christmas pudding. The volunteers were up early each morning to prepare such a generous feast. Everyone went home with a gift and some treats. There's talk already about next year's celebrations!





Young Supporters: This year we have met several children from as young as 5, whose parents have been teaching them about the needs of others. They have spent their pocket money on food for our crisis pantry and selected the food themselves. They enjoyed packing the pantry shelves and talking to volunteers. They want to help other kids who might be hungry. Students from Camden Public school supplied lunch on a Wednesday during August, with the support of a Teacher's Aide. Morning Tea, lunch and dessert. Very much enjoyed by all our visitors. From this activity, two students took it upon themselves to make jewellery which they have been selling at school to raise further funds to buy more food the pantry. It is so encouraging to see our youth stepping up with a very loud voice to help others.

Fundraising: Our generous community once again have continued to come up with creative ways to fundraise for the centre. Pre-schools having gold coin lunchbox days, Camden Rugby Club running a food drive, Wests Leagues Club staff collection baskets and Gift cards and food from our local Honeysuckle singing duo donations from their street performances. We were the recipients of a sales from a lamington drive and a local photographer is snapping family photos with the proceeds from the fee going directly to Turning Point in the form of a food or fuel gift card and groceries.

Community Partners: Our relationships continue to grow within the community as the message spreads about the support we are delivering and the need for our service provision. Thank you to Camden Council's Library fines amnesty for providing around 60 boxes of much needed non-perishable food and to Bunnings Narellan staff for their generous donation of time and service to our Friday Breakfast Program.

Employment Opportunities: Two local businesses have offered employment opportunities for some of our clients. We have been able to provide training and information for clients both practically and through our Basic Computer Training Program. These work opportunities will prove to be major turning points and enable change to some dire circumstances.

Farewells: Sadly, we farewelled two very special people that belonged to the Turning Point family. We remember them fondly for their unique qualities and smiles they brought to the people around them.

Need Support? Would like to become a volunteer or have a fundraising idea? Head to our Website and enter your details under CONTACT US or VOLUNTEER, and we will get back to you.

