

Lions rally in a show of support for those in need

By Angela Norval

Appreciating that this time of year can often be hard for families and wanting to give back, the Bundaberg Lions Club have once again rallied around to show their support for those in need.

Bundaberg Lions Club's Alan Williams said members recognised the hard work of other volunteers in the community who were working away, quietly helping those in need.

"Because of that Bundaberg Lions Club decided to help with supporting donations to Andy's Place and The Harvest Kitchen and were also given extra appreciated support from ALDI Avoca with food donations," Mr Williams said.

Harvest Kitchen director Shirley Hobbs said Harvest Kirchen had been helping the disadvantaged in the community, providing meals, hampers, clothing and blankets, as well as friendship and support for over 15 years.

"We would like to thank Bundaberg Lions and ALDI Avoca for their generous donations to Harvest Kitchen as their support is much appreciated, especially at this time of year," she said.

"It is wonderful to see our community organisations working together to help others in our local area."

Andy's Place is another organisation that has a strong history locally, having begun 23 years ago because of a desire to help others less fortunate by providing them with a hot meal.



Pastor Dallas Hobbs, Mary Visser from Harvest Kitchen, Judith Galletly, Judy Gallagher and Robyn Ballantyne from Andy's Place, Bundaberg Lions Club secretary Alan Williams, ALDI manager Mark Peters and Bundaberg Lions Club president Gail McKewen come together to share some community spirit and donations.
Picture: INGRID BARHAM

Andy's Place Judy Gallagher said at that time, apart from St Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army giving out food parcels, there was no help whatsoever in Bundaberg.

"So, with donations to Andy's Place and with volunteers who had given away over 109,000 meals since the end of October at our meals four times a week we are able to make a real difference," she said.

"The clients who come regularly are always very grateful and come from all walks of life and when we give to a family who are

living in their car, we know we are doing what we can to help.

"Given we receive no Government assistance, we would not be able to help without donations from supporters who are compassionate in their giving such as the Bundaberg Lions Club, the service clubs who give generously each year as well as businesses, some who have supported us since the beginning."

Mr Williams said this time of year often saw an increased need in the community for volunteer support.

"Volunteers don't take time off for holidays, they just keep going.

"Bundaberg Lions Club always attempts to share its support across a wide front of need in our region. developed through selling of Lions Christmas Cakes and cooking many sausage sizzles throughout the year.

"On behalf of all the Bundaberg volunteers I would like to thank everyone for their support and wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all."