Media Release

15 December 2020

Christmas hampers bring joy

This year has been incredibly tough for so many we support at VMCH.

Each December we run a hamper drive, delivering donated gifts to those who are particularly in need of some festive cheer. So in 2020 we are thrilled to have completed our largest drive yet!

On 9 December, 600 hampers were delivered to our affordable homes residents and many accessing our disability services, at-home aged care, specialist school St Paul's College and our early childhood programs.

Our volunteers and people we support all contribute to making or donating items for the hampers, including those living in our residential aged care – through our award-winning Arts in Action program – and retirement living communities. Handmade facemasks, decorations, bonbons, Christmas baubles and magnetic pegs were just some of the items lovingly created. Some of our staff also volunteer to pack and deliver the hampers to many sites across Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Local community groups also chip in. Students from Methodist Ladies' College in Kew made 480 Christmas decorations, and we were thrilled to have the support of Australian charity Good360, who donated Lego and toys and sourced items including food, cosmetics, magazines, jewelry and men's products.

This year has been incredibly tough for the people we support across Victoria, many of whom were isolated within their affordable homes, families homeschooling from our specialist school and other clients coping with financial stress and isolation.

Feedback from hamper recipients was so positive. Here are just a few:

"I came home today to a lovely surprise. Please thank everyone at VMCH for the Christmas Hamper," and "So thankful for all these goodies, you made my Christmas. And thank you for the visit."

Thank you to everyone who took part in this huge effort which has made such a positive difference to the lives of hundreds this Christmas.

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VMCH

About VMCH

Here at VMCH, our services are as diverse as the people we support.

Our values underpin the work we do. As a Catholic not for profit organisation, compassion, respect and inclusion aren't just words to us, they guide us in everything we do.

While we've been around for over a century, we're always moving forward. Always staying true to who we are by supporting people and families to live their best lives; providing a place to call home and spaces to learn and grow.

Our professional and compassionate teams are with you on your life journey; helping you with a wide range of support from early learning and therapy, specialist education, disability services, affordable homes, residential aged care, retirement living and at-home aged care.