



15th February 2021

Dear Manna Volunteers & Friends

Hope you are all keeping well and have ushered in a peaceful and safe 2021!

Reflecting on the year gone by, 2020 was indeed a year filled with much uncertainty, unforeseen circumstances and troubling situations brought about by COVID-19. As an organisation, I am truly proud to say that we have always risen above through it all and persisted to continue our relief services and provisions into the community – and this would not have at all been possible if it was not for the committed dedication of our volunteers, staff and supporters.

That dedication from each and every one of you who have tirelessly given us the time and support over the years, is the main reason for Manna's success as an organisation over the past 25 years.

The closure of the Weld Square service in December has been worrying for many of us, and the Board have spent the past few months considering the various options available to the future of Manna Inc. Most importantly, we place the utmost significance in our contemplations on how we can still remain relevant and continue to contribute to the community we assist.

The Board have collectively agreed that we will remain committed to servicing our current programs through 2021, whilst we embark on a discovery process towards the future. These programs include our vital Manna Kid's programs, shelter and youth assistance support, and inter-agency support. The current agencies we will continue to support include – Mary Smith Refuge, Starick House, 55 Men's Central, Hope Services, Passages Youth Centre & Street Doctors.

The potential changes in 2021 will inadvertently involve modifications to our operations, procurement of donations and meals, whilst also trying to involve the greater community in giving back to our greater cause of crisis food relief.

Our volunteer-based activities for this year will change fundamentally and whilst we may not immediately have the same number of placement opportunities as before, we encourage all of you to stay connected and consider other volunteering opportunities that will become available over the next few months.

To reduce our financial expenditure, Manna will significantly scale back our operations at the Connect Centre and have only recommitted to a three-month extension at the office location at 249C Albany Highway, Victoria Park. This will allow us to maintain our financial position, whilst we seek different partnership opportunities.

On a brighter note, I am pleased to advise that all our schools have recommenced /or are recommencing their breakfast club/food relief services – and there are currently opportunities for our volunteers to participate in providing support to our school chaplains in the provision of breakfast meal services in the school.

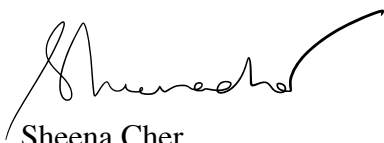
As schools have only just resumed for 2021 last week, there will be more positions and locations made available over the next coming weeks.

This is a great opportunity for all to give back to your local community, and if you have a preferred suburb closer to home – do drop me a line as well!

Currently, there are vacancies at Bibra Lake Primary School & Bentley Primary School – and these positions do include a cooking component. If you are interested, please feel free to email me your EOI at sheena.cher@manna.org.au or alternatively contact me on 0408 888 968.

On behalf of my board, we wish you all the best in 2021 and hope to stay in touch and connected.

Sincerely Yours,



Sheena Cher

Board Secretary & Director of Programs