

20.01.2011

Volunteers at evacuation centre receive well deserved thanks

The small army of volunteers who supported people staying at the RNA Showgrounds evacuation centre were thanked and praised today for their tireless efforts during the recent flood disaster.

“People in Brisbane who had to evacuate their homes were treated to caring support from a multitude of volunteers, workers and organisations from the not for profit sector,” says Micah Projects Coordinator Karyn Walsh.

“We cannot thank them enough for their amazing practical and emotional support and for the thousand of hours volunteers gave to work with people during an incredibly traumatic and distressing time.

“More than 200 volunteers gave their time freely to meet the needs of people who had to leave their homes.

“From all at Micah Projects we thank the wonderful volunteers who assisted us at the RNA Evacuation Centre in Bowen Hills over the last nine days.

“These volunteers met people on arrival and showed them the facilities that were spread over three large pavilions.

“Volunteers assisted Micah Projects to register new arrivals, blow up air mattresses, shop for essentials, sort donations, fold piles of clothing, transport people home or back to the centre as well as listening to their stories and concerns with empathy and care.

“One volunteer, Mitch, sat with 95 year old Jim all day not wanting to leave his side. Jim was the oldest evacuee.

“A couple of women blew up air mattresses all day and then returned the next day with home-made goodies ready to assist again.

“Health professional volunteers set up an ‘Acupuncture Recovery Clinic’ and treated over 500 people for free.

“The strong community spirit was evident everywhere and reaffirms our organisation’s vision to build community. It is an experience that will resonate with us for a long time.

“Led by Australian Red Cross, many organisations from the community and government sector worked together to meet the needs of Queenslanders in crisis. Micah Projects was privileged to work alongside organisations including The Salvation Army, UnitingCare’s Lifeline, St John Ambulance, Save the Children Fund, Volunteering Queensland and many others.

“Again, we say thank you,” says Karyn.

For more information contact:

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