

Appeal needs your help

BY MICHELLE SMITH

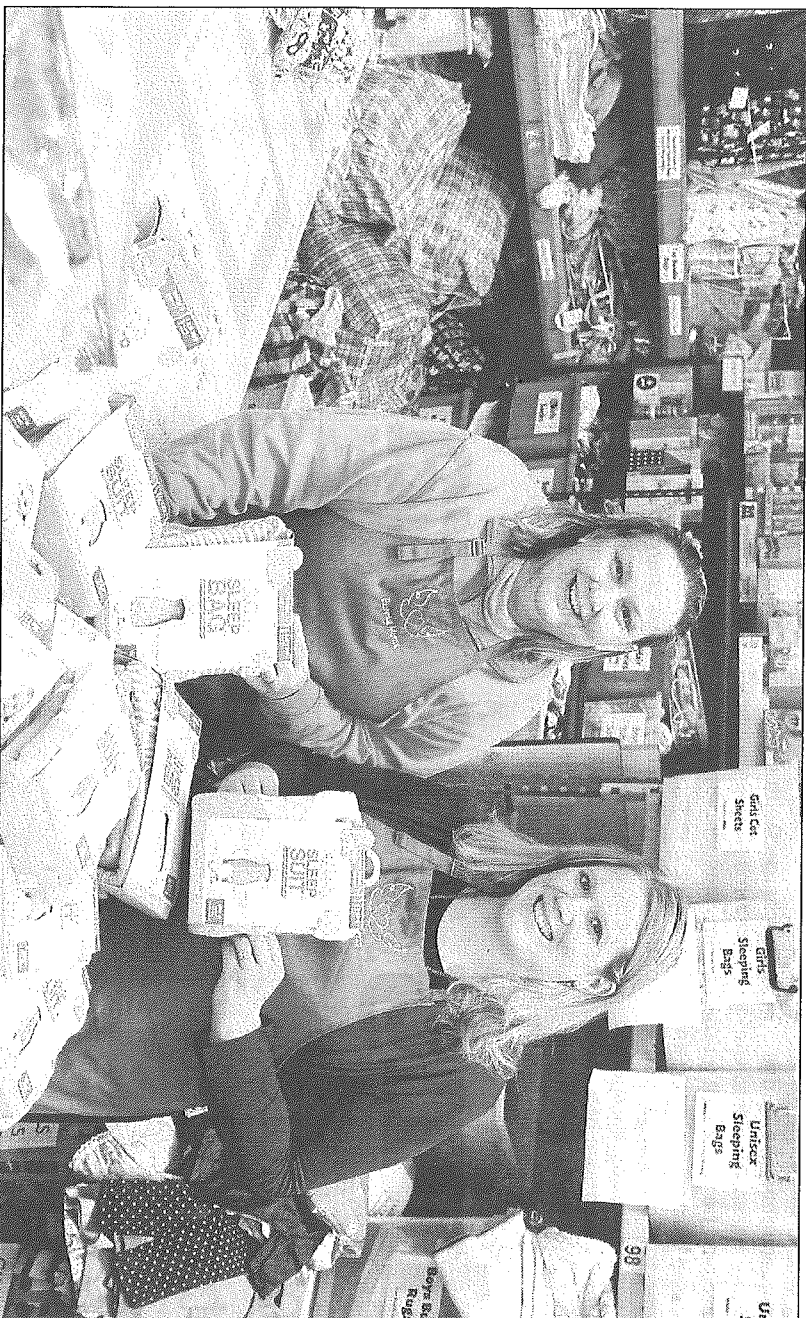
LAST month Eureka Mums supported parents to meet the needs of a record 182 children - almost twice as many as the month before.

And where they usually send about 50 bundles of clothing a month out to families through case managers and social workers, in May almost 80 bundles of clothes went out ahead of winter.

The families receiving aid were in dire need, victims of domestic violence, those living in poverty, and families for whom the loss of Job Seeker payments had struck hard, and include three babies born who needed the basics such as a bassinet and car seat before they could be sent home from hospital.

Eureka Mums operations manager Trinsa Lewis said demand had never been higher.

Today is Eureka Mums' Giving Day appeal when individual donations are quadrupled by philanthropic and corporate supporters - so a \$5 donation ends up being \$20 in the charity's accounts. "People have been amaz-



GIVING: Eureka Mums operations manager Trinsa Lewis and volunteer Felicity Smolenaers. Picture: Kate Healy

ing when it comes to donations but unfortunately we can't live without cash," Ms Lewis said. "We need to be able to pay the rent, pay utilities and those sort of things so giving day is a chance for

people who ... can help with cash donations."

"We had our biggest month in history last month. A lot of that is to do with Job Keeper. For a lot of people that have lost their job through COVID

over the last 12 months, Job Keeper has stopped and it's making it difficult. A lot of families seeking assistance from us never have before.

Ms Lewis said case workers supporting domestic violence victims weren't necessarily reaching out for

all the essentials to start a new life, but the essentials of daily living. "Domestic violence doesn't always mean physical violence, it can also be financial control. "It might be a family where there's not enough money left for nappies and formula and that sort of thing, the very basics, because the partner is using financial control over the client ... so they just don't have the items they need to be able to support their children."

The goal amount for the Eureka Mums Giving Day is \$19,000 from the community, which will translate to almost \$80,000 in their coffers after the matched donations are taken in to account.

While all material donations are welcomed, Eureka Mums is particularly short of clothing in sizes three to eight and 14-16, and new underwear and socks.

Giving Day donations can be made from 9am to 9pm Wednesday at www.eurekamums.org or drop cash or a cheque in to their warehouse at 13 Gray Street, Sebastopol.