CONVERSE MAGAZINE AUGUST 2022

supporting young refugees

How your donations are helping

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK Kids+

EdConnect Australia Geelong Food Assistance Network

Pursuing

reconciliation with courage & care: Our Commitment to the Wadawurrung People



GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE FOUNDATION



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A NEW DIRECTION

PITCHING IN FOR PITCH UP

PURSUING RECONCILIATION WITH COURAGE & CARE:

OUR COMMITMENT TO THE WADAWURRUNG PEOPLE

'BE BRAVE. MAKE CHANGE.' THAT WAS THE CHALLENGE SET TO ALL AUSTRALIANS DURING 2022 NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK.

Welcome to Conversations Magazine

For almost 70 years the Give Where You Live Foundation has worked to assist people experiencing crisis, promote food security and improve education and employment opportunities across the region.

Please enjoy our free magazine sharing stories about how your donations are creating a fairer G21 community where all people and places thrive.



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I'D LIKE TO BEGIN this edition by acknowledging the Wadawurrung people, Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and where we are striving to create a fairer community.

During Reconciliation Week (27 May - 3 June) I was very proud that the Foundation took a significant step towards reconciliation, announcing we will be making an ongoing financial commitment to support the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Corporation (page 3).

I would also like to thank all of our donors for continuing to support the Foundation. This year, for the first time our End of Financial Year Appeal raised over \$100,000, which is a testament to the incredible support and generosity from our community.

This support is more important than ever, as we continue to see the effects the increased cost of living

and impact COVID-19 is having on our community.

In this edition, we share how our new Partnership Impact Fund is providing vital support to our food relief agencies operating across the region (page 10) to help them meet this increasing need.

Also in this edition, we share more inspiring stories about the impact your donations are having, with Arreeda Nor Wab revealing how she is supporting people with a refugee background to find education and employment opportunities (page 5), while funding at Kids+ is helping non-verbal children to communicate (page 14).

I hope you enjoy reading this update on your community and learning about the difference your donation is making in our community.



CEO GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE FOUNDATION, BILL MITHEN, JOINS WADAWURRUNG TRADITIONAL OWNER AND CULTURAL MANAGER CORINNA ECCLES AND CEO WADAWURRUNG TRADITIONAL OWNERS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, PAUL DAVIS

HELD ANNUALLY, NATIONAL **RECONCILIATION WEEK** is an

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opportunity for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and this year, to explore how we can Be Brave in pursuing the unfinished business of reconciliation and Make Change for the benefit of all Australians.

Bill Mithen, CEO of the Give Where You Live Foundation, said the Foundation took action to make change this National Reconciliation Week and beyond.

"During Reconciliation Week, the Give Where You Live Foundation was incredibly proud to announce, that we will be making an ongoing financial commitment of 1% of our total revenue each year, to the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation."

"At our 2022 AGM later this year, the Foundation will officially change our rules of incorporation to enshrine this ongoing and enduring commitment to the Wadawurrung People," Bill added.



PARTNERING FOR A

FAIRER COMMUNITY

Bill Mithen Chief Executive Officer Give Where You Live Foundation

onversati







The Give Where You Live Foundation is committed to working towards reconciliation between the Wadawurrung People who are the Traditional Owners of the land in the Geelong region.

Wadawurrung Traditional Owner and Manager Cultural Education Corinna Eccles said, "It is time for Wadawurrung People to be rightfully acknowledged."

This is an important decision, for the Foundation and strongly aligns with Give Where You Live Foundation's purpose of building a fairer G21 Community.

"The Give Where You Live Foundation values being bold, imagining a better way and then pursuing that with courage and care."

"While this commitment in no way truly represents the value we all gain from the care and custodianship of the land the Wadawurrung have undertaken for millennia, it will be an enduring commitment towards achieving reconciliation and creating a fairer G21 community," Bill said.

During Reconciliation Week, the Give Where You Live Foundation encouraged the wider community to consider how they can also be Be Brave and Make Change throughout the year.

"There is a real opportunity for all organisations to play a role in contributing to a more reconciled nation. Philanthropy generates hundreds of billions of dollars of revenue each year, and public companies distribute the same in dividends. All of this wealth is built on foundations of our First Nations Peoples. Imagine the change that would occur if philanthropy and business, made payments to our First Nations People simply as a matter of course. Allowing them the right to focus on their ambitions and aims and determine where that funding is spent." Bill said.

The Give Where You Live Foundation wants to take a leadership role and inspire other philanthropic organisations and businesses across the country, to be brave and make meaningful change.



This year the Give Where You Live Foundation has only been able to fill 65% of local requests for food vouchers.

10-14 October

Visit: feedgeelong.org.au

How you can help Feed Geelong

Get involved in **Brown Paper Bag Day**

We're calling on the community to get involved in Brown Paper Bag Day on 14 October.

Register your workplace, sports club, friendship group and donate your lunch money to help fight hunger in our region. Email: sophie@givewhereyoulive.com.au

Donate to Feed Geelong now! feedgeelong.org.au

HELP MAKE SURE NOBODY IN OUR COMMUNITY GOES HUNGRY



ARREEDA NOR WAB SUPPORTS PEOPLE IN THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY TO ACCESS EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

Your donations at work

SUPPORTING YOUNG **REFUGEES WITH EDUCATION** AND EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

DID YOU KNOW that Geelong is a priority location for the resettlement of refugees in regional Australia, including Women at Risk?

Thanks to generous donations from the community, the Give Where You Live Foundation provided a \$40,000 Education and Employment grant in 2021 to CatholicCare Victoria to fund a new Job Readiness Worker.

Give Where You Live Foundation CEO, Bill Mithen said the Foundation is proud to fund this important new role to support our refugee community.

"The Give Where You Live Foundation is proud to fund CatholicCare to support young people with a refugee or asylum seeker background, into further education or meaningful employment pathways," he added.

22

We know that people thrive when they have access to educational opportunities and the support they need to gain quality employment.

Give Where You Live Foundation

- Bill Mithen

ARREEDA'S **STORY**

Give Where You Live Foundation.

help my people and I love that."

"My role at CatholicCare is really helping empower refugee women to find work and also support young people and families."

support the community.

ARREEDA'S IMPACT

Sarah Cunningham who works alongside Arreeda at CatholicCare, says this new role is bringing many benefits to the local refugee community.

"Funding from Give Where You Live has enabled us to employ Arreeda to support families directly. Her multilingual skills means that she can get information and deliver workshops and programs to our clients in their language, so they understand our systems," Sarah said.

"I couldn't do my job without Arreeda. She has made everything so much more efficient because she has the language skills that I don't have. We really complement each other, as I understand the systems and the structures, and she understands the community. So, we're a really great team," Sarah added.

Over the past six months, the focus for CatholicCare has been keeping young people engaged in education.

"Arreeda has really been able to communicate to the families how important it is for young people to stay in education. She's also been able to reengage some young people back into education and support families to understand why that's so important," Sarah said.

66

One of the best outcomes from the program has been seeing women in my community getting a job after receiving support from this program.

- Arreeda Nor Wab CatholicCare

ARREEDA NOR WAB, who lived in a refugee camp in Thailand for more than 25 years, has recently joined CatholicCare in the new position, funded by the

Arreeda says after arriving in Australia and finding employment as a Bilingual Support Worker she wanted to help support others in similar situations to herself, who don't know where to begin

"When I first came to Australia, I felt like I couldn't do anything. But when I started as a bilingual worker, I felt that I could get a connection and I could

Arreeda said having a refugee background has helped her connect and

"When I first started as an interpreter there was not much engagement in my community. But because I speak both Karen and Karenni and I already have connection with the community, the community always came to me and asked when they needed help."

IN MAY 2022, THE GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCED THE DISTRIBUTION OF OVER \$525,000 IN GRANTS TO SUPPORT PEOPLE IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY THROUGH THE 2022 SURVIVE & THRIVE ANNUAL GRANTS PROGRAM.

2022 Survive and Thrive grants



ANAM CARA HOUSE COLAC \$23.879.36

This grant will allow Anam Cara House Colac to fund the recruitment, training. and support of volunteers to increase the amount of in-home volunteer support that is available to the community.

BARWON DISABILITY RESOURCE COUNCIL \$33.655

This grant will allow Barwon Disability Resource Council to continue their individual advocacy work and provide crisis support. It will also support people with disability to strengthen their community connections, reduce social isolation and build selfadvocacy skills.

CULTURA

This grant will fund the Geelong Community Connections (GCC) program which will create culturally sensitive orientation information for new arrivals who come to Geelong as part of the Humanitarian Settlement Program. These resources will be designed with recently arrived individuals and families and be coordinated by a local community member with a refugee background.

ENCOMPASS COMMUNITY SERVICES \$6,000

This grant will support the Encompass Homestart Material Aid program to provide families and individuals experiencing immediate crisis with basic household goods.

GEELONG ARTS CENTRE

This grant will fund the 'This is me' project which uses creative mediums including animation, theatre, visual arts, and music as a tool to engage First Nations young people. It will empower them to share their stories of identity, develop confidence and skills, and to engage in their local community.

HOPE BEREAVEMENT CARE

LIFELINE GEELONG & SOUTH WEST VICTORIA

OCEAN MIND

our community.

ONECARE GEELONG

This grant will allow OneCare Geelong to run its COACH Community Mentoring Program, which empowers individuals and families who are experiencing family crisis and social isolation through one-to-one mentoring.

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED - BARWON

SAMARITAN HOUSE GEELONG

SOLVE - TAD LIMITED

Solve-TAD's project will reduce social isolation and increase the capacity of people with disability in the Geelong region by providing custom-built equipment that meets their individual needs. It will also enable them to participate more fully at home, school, work and in their community.

SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER THEATRE COMPANY

\$40,000

\$25,400

THE POWER IN YOU PROJECT

This grant will be used to cover the cost of client services and programs. These include personal training, gym sessions, yoga, self-defence classes, cooking, art therapy & Community Connection Days. These programs aim to support the mental health of clients and engage them in positive activities interrupting drug and alcohol use while helping clients positively reconnect with the community.

UNITING VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

This grant will enable Uniting to continue employing a Housing and Homelessness Worker to help reduce accommodation insecurity across our region. It will provide people who are experiencing homelessness with access to advice, information and practical help to assist in their transition into housing



22

Hope Bereavement Care's Hope Baby and Child Loss program provides information, connection, groupwork and counselling to reduce isolation and build resilience for those grieving the death of a baby or child.

Currently 10-15% of calls to Lifeline Geelong are unable to be answered. This grant will enable Lifeline Geelong to train 30 new community members to become volunteer Crisis Supporters. These volunteers will help to meet the increased demand and are expected to answer 8,250 calls to Lifeline Geelong annually.

Ocean Mind programs change the lives of young people by delivering evidence-based therapeutic surfing interventions that build confidence, connection with the community and develop new skills. This grant will support Ocean Mind to meet the increased demand for their services and improve access to mental health services. It will support the delivery of up to 15 six-week programs and weekly surf club sessions fir young people in

This grant will cover the cost of legal registration for the riders to ensure that payment is not a barrier for participation in the program.

Samaritan House Geelong was granted funding to support their Accommodation Living Skills Program (ALSP), a 12-week program to provide men experiencing homelessness with the knowledge and skills to help them to secure long-term, stable accommodation.

This grant will fund the creation of a short film addressing the issue of consent, based on the song 'No Means No' from the new Nobody's Fool Theatre play 'When the Light Went Walking'.

\$30,000

\$10,000

\$22,900

\$40.000

\$10,000

\$20,000

\$30,000

\$40,000

\$40,000

\$30,000

ABOVE: TAC VISITED SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON THEIR GRANT

Grants promoting food security



2022 SURVIVE & THRIVE **GRANTS IMPACT:**

Number of meals provided to support food relief and reduced food insecurity.	120,000
Number of people supported to access food relief assistance and reduce food insecurity.	48,940
Number of people experiencing homelessness provided assistance.	854
Number of people assisted with prevention and early intervention efforts related to family violence, sexual assault, addiction, mental health, and family breakdown.	8,550
Number of people supported to increase capacity and coping strategies.	885
Number of people supported to reduce social isolation.	261

ABOVE: FAGGS MITRE 10 VISITED ENCOMPASS HOMESTART TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON THEIR GRANT

3216 CONNECT

\$2,400

\$30,000

\$30,000

\$20,000

\$5,000

\$5,000

\$20,000

\$15.000

This grant will enable 3216 Connect to provide nutritious meals to community members in the 3216 postcode.

BELLARINE LIVING AND LEARNING CENTRE INC

This grant will enable Bellarine Living and Learning Centre to fund their food security project where participants can access food, pantry and personal items at a weekly foodbank market day. It also supports people to develop their skills to grow food at local community gardens and access a community meal program.

DRYSDALE FAMILY SUPPORT

This grant will enable the Drysdale Family Support Foodbank to continue providing nutritious and fresh food to people facing food insecurity.

GEELONG FOOD RELIEF CENTRE

This grant will contribute to the Geelong Food Relief Centre (GFRC)'s rising operational costs associated with the provision of Emergency Food Relief throughout the G21 region.

LAZARUS COMMUNITY CENTRE

This grant will provide Lazarus Community Centre with funds to purchase food and other consumables to support community members with a daily volunteer-cooked hot lunch.

THE WELCOME PLACE

This grant will provide people seeking asylum, or who have only temporary protection in Australia, and are also experiencing financial difficulty, to access culturally appropriate food on a regular basis.

FEED ME BELLARINE

This grant will allow Feed Me Bellarine to increase their cooking capacity and enable them to purchase additional produce to meet an increasing community demand.

THE OUTPOST

This grant will assist The Outpost to continue providing hot meals and drinks to those who are homeless or doing it tough.

> AWA VISITED OCEAN MIND TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON THEIR GRANT



GIVING COMMUNITY A CHOICE

AN INITIATIVE OF THE GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE FOUNDATION, THE COMMUNITY CHOICE PROGRAM BRINGS TOGETHER FOOD RELIEF AND LOCAL HOSPITALITY VENUES TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY AND BRING THE DIGNITY OF CHOICE TO PEOPLE ACROSS OUR REGION.

SINCE 2020, there has been a 24% increase in demand from local support agencies for voucher assistance. In the Foundation's July 2022 voucher allocation, we received requests over \$150,000, however we were only able to provide funding for just under \$100,000.

THE IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY

FROM JANUARY TO JUNE 2022, WE PROVIDED

- \$60,627 in Community Choice food & pharmacy vouchers
- 3,163 vouchers distributed

WE WORKED IN **PARTNERSHIP WITH**

- 25 local community agencies to distribute vouchers and
- 10 local businesses exchanging voucher for food and pharmacy items

WHO COMMUNITY CHOICE **HAS SUPPORTED**

- 24% were single parents
- 20% people with disability
- 10% culturally diverse
- 80% reported being a recipient of government benefits
- **33%** unemployed
- 23% impacted by health issues
- 14% on a low income or had unstable working hour



- Bethanv

8/9 givewhereyoulive.com.au



STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

A family in emergency accommodation were provided with multiple Community Choice vouchers. The family members were extremely stressed for money due to having a limited income. They were so appreciative of the vouchers and had a very positive experience buying food from the Geelong Food Relief Centre who were so friendly and kind. The family has now been successful for Transition Housing, and when they find long-term housing intend to give back to the community as they are so grateful for the help they received. - BCYF

A young mother who fled family violence moved into a new home and needed to utilise all her funds just to take possession of the property to cover rent and bond. Having left her previous home with next to nothing, Community Choice vouchers helped her to replenish basic food stables in her new home plus a few extras. Having access to the Community Choice food voucher enabled her kids to attend school with snacks like the other kids have.

A father whose wife had recently passed away and who had lost his job due to the pandemic, was sleeping in his car with his teenage daughter. He had managed to find a new home but had nothing in the way of furniture or household goods to set it up. He arrived at Homestart quite distressed and after we explained how we could help him, he was just so relieved and thankful. We provided beds, fridge, washing machine, dining setting, linen packs and a kitchen pack to help them set up their house and make a fresh start. People who are in this situation find it very hard to think about what they need and we are always there to help them figure out the essential items needed. He has also now gone on to find employment. - Encompass Homestart

Partnership Impact Fund:

SUPPORTING FOOD SECURITY IN OUR REGION

WE KNOW THAT WORKING THROUGH CRISIS, INNOVATING, TRYING SOMETHING NEW AND FOCUSING ON BIG PICTURE CHALLENGES, IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DO ALONE.

22

Through this funding we hope to be seen as a 'critical friend' that walks alongside our partners to understand an issue, provide support at critical points, brainstorm ideas and partner in taking risks and trying something new.

- Kerry Farrance Give Where You Live Foundation





KERRY FARRANCE. HEAD OF **IMPACT,** said the Foundation has developed the new Partnership Impact Fund to support the community to test, try and learn to tackle challenges in the community.

"Through this funding we hope to be seen as a 'critical friend' that walks alongside our partners to understand an issue, provide support at critical points, brainstorm ideas and partner in taking risks and trying something new," she said.

Under the new Partnership Impact Fund, the Foundation has provided multi-year funding to the Geelong Food Assistance Network (GFAN) and OneCare to support the appointment of a new Geelong Food Assistance Network Coordinator role.

This new role, which has been funded by the Foundation along with the Anthony Costa Foundation and the Geelong Community Foundation, was created to provide support to food relief agencies operating throughout the region.

It assists in assessing the need of the food relief agencies in our region, supports them in finding solutions and develops resources and opportunities across the network.

Since the new role commenced in January, Annette said she has already been able to support various food relief organisations across the region to help them address the

Annette has created a newsletter to share resources including training opportunities and funding opportunities with the GFAN network, which has already proven to be an invaluable resource.

Recently Annette shared information about an opportunity to upgrade existing fridges to new energy efficient fridges at no cost through the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) program.

The Neighbourhood Centre in Forrest who needed to upgrade their fridge, was granted a brand-new fridge through this initiative, freeing up their funds to allow them to directly support their community.

Annette has also used her role to ensure that agencies have access to COVID-19 rapid antigen tests, courtesy of Barwon Health, to distribute to clients as needed. The City of Greater Geelong has also provided Annette with re-usable drink bottles to give to people accessing food relief.

She is also facilitating monthly training sessions through GFAN to ensure the sector has the knowledge it needs to provide the best possible support.

Annette Devereaux, who has been employed in the new GFAN Coordinator role, said food relief services in Geelong are reporting an increase in requests for help across the region.

said Annette.



Increasing demand for food relief

AS A RESULT of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased cost of living, there has been an increase in the number of people in our community experiencing food insecurity, including many who are accessing food relief for the first time in their lives.

"Demand for food relief has increased and remains high. During COVID there was a lot of panic and people getting really concerned about how they would provide food for their family, particularly in isolation. And that's continued to remain high, really high," said Annette. Along with increased demand, Annette said the other issues impacting the sector included volunteer recruitment, retention and training alongside more people needing to access food relief for the first time in their lives.

"During COVID a lot of the food relief agencies continued to operate, but in a limited capacity so volunteers fell away during that time. To get them back now that the services are open for faceto-face support again, has been really difficult for many agencies,"

Volunteer training is another focus area for Annette in her new role.

- "When I've gone to the agencies, I've asked them about what their needs are and one is certainly volunteer retention and recruitment, but the other one is volunteer training. Through COVID they've realised their clients are coming with more complex needs and sometimes presenting in really stressful situations... so knowing how to manage those clients has been really important."
- As often people seeking food assistance are also experiencing a range of other issues, including homelessness and poor mental and physical health, Annette said she is also educating the network about other community services within the region.
- "Agencies have said that people are being referred to their service who are homeless, and so while, they can help with food they are unable to help clients with the other services they may need," said Annette.

Annette has organised a community services expo to help educate volunteers in the Geelong Food Assistance Network about the different supports available and how to refer to those services.

GROWING CONFIDENCE TO CREATE SCHOOL SUCCESS



22

l enjoy every moment of the Café! I have a background in Girl **Guides so have many** handy skills that can be utilised in this program.

- Janine O'Connell EdConnect



EDCONNECT AUSTRALIA PAIRS YOUNG STUDENTS WITH MENTORS TO KEEP THEM ENGAGED IN THEIR I FARNING

A CHILD'S EARLY YEARS form the foundation for their future and having access to high quality education helps give children the best start in life. The Foundation has funded EdConnect Australia to help increase education opportunities for young students at risk of disengaging from their learning.

EdConnect received a \$35,000 Education and Employment grant in 2021 to enable them to pair volunteer mentors with students who may need extra assistance and guidance. Thanks to the grant, EdConnect has this year placed two volunteers at Wangala Primary School in Belmont to support their new 'Hands on Learning' program.

This program offers a group of students the opportunity to engage with specialists and work on projects with the aim of growing their confidence and achieving greater success at school.

It helps foster strong relationships that assist young people develop the skills and abilities they need to succeed in work and life including collaboration, problem solving, communication and resilience.

Steven King, Wangala Primary School Principal and EdConnect School Coordinator said there is lot of excitement about the new Hands on Learning program.

The school has a kitchen that is utilised for Breakfast Club and the Hands on Learning Café. Senior students engage in a cooking program that develops culinary skills and techniques to provide a café experience that all students benefit from. There is a group of junior master-chefs planning, preparing and catering for an opt-in lunch each Tuesday for all our community," Mr King said.

The Hands on Learning Construction program has undertaken a number of refurbishment and improvement tasks at Wangala Primary School.

"They have cleared out an unused site to be the "Hands on Learning Hut" where they can construct and develop their skills. Already BBQ tables have been refurbished, a chicken coop built (nesting boxes planned) plans for murals on plain walls, new bird boxes and their own personalised toolboxes have been constructed," he said.

Janine O'Connell and Rob Bailey volunteer through EdConnect Australia and assist in the new programs offered by the school.

"The EdConnect Australia volunteers we have been connected to the school have bought many different perspectives, life skills and provided varying opportunities for students to flourish both directly and indirectly through their volunteerism," Mr King said.

EdConnect Volunteer Janine O'Connell said she is enjoying assisting with the program.

"I enjoy every moment of the Café! I have a background in Girl Guides so have many handy skills that can be utilised in this program. I have also started by leading a craft activity at lunchtime for the students. We started making bookmarks and are moving to knitting. I love assisting with the Breakfast Club at the school too," she said.

Rob Bailey who assists in the Hands on Learning Construction program is also finding the experience of supporting the students rewarding.

"I am trained as a teacher, and have a mechanical background. I assist the construction crew on Tuesdays. The students have planted out vegetable gardens with hopes to link these to the café/kitchen crew as their crops become established," he said.

As well as the Hands on Learning volunteers, Wangala Primary School benefits from other volunteer roles. The school also have EdConnect volunteers that assist in the Library and Gardens on a weekly basis, all made possible through the support of Give Where You Live.



NICK VERGINIS (SENVIC), TARA ANDERSON (SOCIAL TRADERS), BILL MITHEN AND MEG PRICE (GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE FOUNDATION)

GROW G21: HEADING IN A NEW AND **EXCITING DIRECTION**





If you are a business seeking to increase your social impact through social procurement, or a social enterprise seeking learning and networking support and opportunities, please contact GROW to discuss how we might be able to help you: grow@givewhereyoulive.com.au

WHERE YOU LIVE IS EVERYTHING

proud to be sponsoring the Give Where You Live Foundation

ramseypropertygroup.com.au



THE GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE FOUNDATION IS VERY EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT IT HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE NEW SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK OF VICTORIA (SENVIC) BARWON SOUTH WEST LOCAL LEAD

SENVIC'S purpose is to grow a thriving social enterprise sector in Victoria, in part through funding regional organisations to connect and support local social enterprises.

As a SENVIC Barwon South West Local Lead, the Foundation through the GROW team will be holding networking and learning opportunities to connect and support social enterprises to deliver on their social purpose.

This will contribute to SENVIC's vision for a just, inclusive and sustainable society, along with the Give Where You Live Foundation's strategy to build community assets and a fairer community across the G21 region.

Meg Price, Head of GROW, said the Foundation was excited to be building on the GROW G21 initiative as the SENVIC Barwon South West Local lead.

"The Foundation is looking forward to further strengthening our support for local social enterprises, and contributing to SENVIC's vision, through building and supporting a connected community of social enterprises in the Barwon South West region."

"Supporting social enterprises with learning and networking opportunities through the new SENVIC contract will further enhance current work under the Foundation's GROW initiative - supporting businesses and the community services, training and employment sectors to address long-term unemployment and improve the social and economic prosperity of our region through social procurement," Meg said.

The Foundation recently supported the SENVIC and Social Traders 'Geelong Social Enterprise Showcase', bringing together local social enterprises and industry buyers for a networking event in May. The event included inspiring presentations from GROW Signatories, genU and Good Cycles, about the positive social outcomes for our community achieved through social procurement and social enterprises working in our region.





Helping children and young people communicate

A LONG-TERM PARTNER OF THE FOUNDATION, KIDS+ PROVIDE SPECIALIST PHYSIOTHERAPY, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE CHILDREN'S ABILITIES ACROSS A RANGE OF DEVELOPMENTAL AREAS.



22

The most powerful and special moment was when Lachie told me he loves me, using his **AAC device.**

- Kylie, Lachlan's mum

ABOVE: NOAH CALLAN FROM KIDS+ WITH LACHLAN

BELOW: THE AACONNECT PROGRAM RUN BY KIDS+ HELPS CHILDREN LIKE LACHLAN LEARN HOW TO COMMUNICATE USING AAC TECHNOLOGY



IN THE 2021 EDUCATION AND **EMPLOYMENT** grant round, the Foundation provided Kids+ with a grant of \$35,000 to support their Alternative and Augmentative

Connect (AAC) Program.

This program provides training to parents, carers, and educators to help support children and young people with complex communication conditions, including those who are non-verbal to remain engaged or re-engage with their education by expanding their speech pathology and communication technology services.

Research has shown that, without training, people don't always demonstrate skills necessary to support communication for individuals who rely on AAC and that short term intervention focused on parent implementation of strategies learned in a clinical setting, and then carried over at home, showed increased AAC use.

The ability to communicate effectively and be understood is a vital part of the human experience. This grant allows children and young people to continue their education and develop their skills and relationships in ways they previously couldn't.

AAConnect is a collaboration between Kids+ staff members, Senior Speech Pathologist, Jenna O'Brien, and AAC Technology Coordinator, Noah Callan.

Noah has lived experience using AAC strategies, with a particular interest in those involving technology.

"When I was younger, I lived in Japan. One of the benefits was how they

embraced the Internet early, and I was

lucky enough to adapt to it... At about three, I can remember accessing our family laptop with AAC software to practice writing sentences," says Noah.

Since then, Noah has been passionate about using technology to assist him in the community.

"Even at such an early age, I could see the power technology could give me in my life. From there, AAC has been my whole life."

This technology has allowed Noah to not only communicate but has provided him with a wide variety of opportunities to help others. Noah delivers AAC related professional development training, including workshops and conferences for users, family members and carers, and allied health professionals.

This includes his work with the AAConnect Program, providing opportunities for people to advance their knowledge of AAC implementation to better support communication and foster more engaging and effective interactions between parents and their children.

One of these families is Lachlan's, who is supported by both Jenna and Noah to help incorporate AAC into everyday life.

Lachlan's AAC journey began when he was nearly three years old. He quickly showed an immense interest and his family has welcomed the technology.

"The most powerful and special moment was when Lachie told me he loves me, using his AAC device," said Lachlan's mum, Kylie.

"His device has been fabulous in him participating in medical appointments, whether it's describing what discomfort he is in, or how he is feeling going into the procedure. The device allows him to participate in conversations in a real meaningful way"

"This device has allowed Lachlan to have a voice! A voice to talk with friends, a voice to raise concerns, worries, and feelings, a voice to be cheeky with his family and friends, and a voice to share his opinions!" his mum added

Not only does this device bring connection, but it opens many doors in Lachlan's future.

"It means he can have a very bright future and one with more independence than he would otherwise have without AAC."

INTRODUCING CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER is a new initiative of the Give Where You Live Foundation to encourage conversations on issues that matter to our community

"We've watched in awe as Grace has rallied the support of a nation and advocated around issues of consent, power, and equity."

The Give Where You Live Foundation knows change occurs when people have a voice. Conversations That Matter is part of the Foundation's commitment to raising issues that can be difficult to talk about, giving people a voice and creating positive change.

region."



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There are so many challenges in our community that are more complex than people think, or more common than people are aware.

Conversations That Matter aims to bring to light the realities facing everyday people across our region.

- Bill Mithen Give Where You Live Foundation

The Foundation's CEO, Bill Mithen, said the Foundation was excited to launch Conversations That Matter with 2021 Australian of the Year Grace Tame (pictured above) speaking at the inaugural event.

"Over the past 18 months, we've seen the formidable force that is Grace Tame truly challenge and inspire change in our society. She has started so many conversations that matter across our country," he said.

"There are so many challenges in our community that are more complex than people think, or more common than people are aware. Conversations That Matter aims to bring to light the realities facing everyday people across our

The Foundation would like to thank The Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre, Major Sponsor - The Geelong Port, Community Event Sponsor -WorkSafe Victoria and Wellbeing Sponsor - Ramsey Property Group.

> GeelongPort is building stronger and more sustainable partnerships with our community, customers and industries, to create new long-term opportunities for the Geelong Region.

> GeelongPort is thrilled to partner with Give Where You Live for the Conversations that Matter - Grace Tame event.

For more information **** 1800 979 717 enquiries@geelongport.com.au

geelongport.com.au





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We're absolutely over the moon at what we've been able to raise and that we've been able to connect with these other amazing and beautiful organisations.

- Gee Stewart, Little Dreamers Australia



A lasting legacy: DALE CHECCUCCI

Pitching in for Pitch Up

ON THURSDAY 2 JUNE. THREE LOCAL NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS PITCHED THEIR STORIES IN FRONT OF A LIVE AUDIENCE AT THE GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE FOUNDATION'S PITCH UP GEELONG 2022 EVENT, COLLECTIVELY RAISING MORE THAN \$99,000!

BILL MITHEN, CEO of the Give Where You Live Foundation said its Pitch Up Geelong event, now in its fifth year, was once again a huge success.

"Thanks to the generosity of our matched funding partners and everyone who joined us at Pitch Up Geelong 2022, we raised over \$99,000 for three deserving community organisations who are making a positive difference in the lives of young people across the G21 region."

The three organisations who each raised over \$30,000 at the event were Little Dreamers Australia, Hope Bereavement Care and Wellways Australia.



Hope Bereavement Care raised \$36,145 to extend their Kids Grieve Too program by focussing on the supports young people need after the past few years of isolation. Kids Grieve Too builds resilience and peer connections through meaningful interventions involving music, art, camps, and sports.

Sue Eddy from Hope Bereavement Care was inspired by the thought of how many vital and therapeutic conversations could be had with young people experiencing grief thanks to the funds raised.

"When I saw the result all I could think about was, 'How many conversations is that about grief and pain, and in terms of the ripple effect how many lives will that save?" she said.

wellways

Wellways Australia raised \$30,830 to create programs and deliver much-needed community connection throughout the wider Geelong region to improve mental health and social connection for the LGBTIQ+ community.

Amielle Penny from Wellways Australia was thrilled with the amount raised.

"It was more than I could have imagined. I can't wait to put it toward everything the LGBTQI+ community has been asking for, for years," said Amielle Penny.

Little Dreamers Australia raised \$32.030

in funding to provide case management support for young carers facing a myriad of complex challenges within the Geelong region

"We're absolutely over the moon at what we've been able to raise and that we've been able to connect with these other amazing and beautiful organisations," said Gee Stewart from Little Dreamers Australia.

The Give Where You Live Foundation thanks the Matched Funding Partners: Anthony Costa Foundation, gForce employment + recruitment. Harwood Andrews and Kerr's Hire. It also acknowledges the support of Event Partners: Adroit Insurance & Risk and Evans and Partners.



THIS YEAR'S PITCH UP ORGANISATIONS RAISED A COMBINED \$99,000 FOR THEIR ORGANISATIONS



DALE'S DEDICATION TO THE COMMUNITY WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE ON THROUGH HIS GENEROSITY. AS HIS GIFT WILL HAVE A LASTING IMPACT FOR MANY YEARS TO COME

DALE CHECCUCCI LEFT A LASTING LEGACY

Have you thought about leaving a gift in your will?

A gift in your will to the Give Where You Live Foundation will help create a community where all people and places thrive.

GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE FOUNDATION

For more information on including the Give Where You Live Foundation in your Will please contact: Sophie Harris T: 5229 4364 E: give@givewhereyoulive.com.au

A GENEROUS BEQUEST FROM ROBERT 'DALE' CHECCUCCI, is helping to support the Give Where You Live Foundation's vision to create a fairer G21 community.

The late Dale Checcucci, who died in June 2020 at the age of 75, bequeathed the Foundation over \$100,000 to support the local Geelong community.

Give Where You Live Foundation CEO Bill Mithen said the bequest would make a lasting difference in the lives of many people.

"We are very grateful for the incredibly generous donation Dale bequeathed to the Give Where You Live Foundation." Bill said.

"Dale's dedication to the community will continue to live on through his generosity, as his gift will have a lasting impact for many years to come," Bill said.

Dale moved from Bendigo to the region in 1976, where he settled in Belmont with his wife Jenny and young children Pam, Geoff, Nat and Michelle

Daughters Pam and Nat said their father Dale and the family had a long history of giving back to the community where he lived and worked.

"Dad just loved Geelong and wanted to help people and local charities. He was very passionate about Geelong, and he dedicated so much of his time to volunteering in his local community," Pam and Nat said.

The Give Where You Live Foundation encourages individuals, families and other organisations to consider remembering the Foundation with a gift in your will.

"A bequest through your will to the Give Where you Live Foundation is a wonderful way to ensure your legacy continues to care for your community as it will help support families, children and young people in our community who need it most," Bill said.

People from all walks of life leave gifts in their will, all you need is a desire to create change.





PARTNERING FOR A FAIRER COMMUNITY

SHARING OUR MESSAGE ACROSS THE COMMUNITY

Geelong Broadcasters, more commonly recognised by their radio stations KRock 95.5 and Bay 93.9, have been one of the Give Where You Live Foundation's longstanding media

They have helped to amplify the Foundation's message across our local Geelong airwaves for over two decades.

partners.

As a gold partner, Geelong Broadcasters provide the Foundation with in-kind advertising, support a range of annual fundraising events and their staff also generously donate through to our workplace giving program.

"We've had a long partnership with the Geelong Broadcasters that has continued to evolve in new and exciting ways. The significant coverage they provide to the Give Where You Live Foundation across both of their local KRock 95.5 and Bay 93.9 stations, plays an important role in helping us connect with our community," said CEO of the Give Where You Live Foundation, Bill Mithen

"We'd like to thank the entire team at Geelong Broadcasters for their continued support of the Foundation and their dedication to helping us make a fairer, more equitable community," Bill added.

Most recently, Geelong Broadcasters were involved with the Foundation's Give Geelong Appeal donating the efforts of their creative team, ad slots, and time on-air to help the Foundation raise vital funds for our community.

General Manager of Geelong Broadcasters, Andy Mathers, said they are proud to support the local community through their partnership with the Foundation.

"Geelong Broadcasters are committed to building partnerships that bring out the best in both our local communities and our radio stations."

"Sharing the important work the Give Where You Live Foundation is doing in our community, is also helping us to create great local content for our listeners," Andy said.



It's partnerships like this that are helping us to build a fairer community across the G21 region. The generous support of Geelong Broadcasters allows us to further our message and connect with our community on another level.

MATCHING YOUR DONATIONS FOR A FAIRER COMMUNITY

GMHBA is a long-time supporter of the Foundation and this year they once again provided \$10,000 for the 2022 Give Geelong Appeal

The Appeal, which was launched at the Give Geelong Breakfast, raised over \$30,000 for the Foundation's work to create a fairer community.

David Greig, GMHBA CEO said they were excited to support the Geelong community through their partnership with the Give Where You Live Foundation.

"GMHBA's purpose is to support and empower our communities to live healthier lives, so we were proud to once again be the 2022 Give Geelong Appeal partner. It has been great to see our staff coming together as a team to show their support for our

local community for the Give Geelong Appeal," he said.

The team at GMHBA donned their footy colours on Footy Colours Day and came together to raise \$1,250 via their virtual donation tin - the highest of all organisations who joined in the fun of raising funds for the Foundation.

The Foundation would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone at GMHBA for supporting their community.

THANK YOU FOR FUNDRAISING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Geelong Children's Centre is a local childcare centre that cares about creating a fairer future for the children they look after. The Foundation was thrilled when after two years of postponsed events due to COVID the centre approached us once again to be the the recipient of donations raised from their Winter Solstice event. Thank you to the Geelong Children's Centre for your ongoing commitment to helping us create a fairer community. As a local foundation, it is so heartwarming to see local organisations running fundraisers for us.

THE TEAM AT GEELONG BROADCASTERS IN THEIR FOOTY COLOURS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE GIVE GEELONG APPEAL

GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE FOUNDATION'S BILL MITHEN & KRISTI CLAPINSKI WITH GIVE GEELONG APPEAL AMBASSADOR TRENT SULLIVAN AND GMHBA'S DAVID GREIG

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF CHANGING LIVES!

Congratulations to two of our Community Partners, Ocean Mind and The Power In You Project, who have both recently celebrated five years of changing lives in our community.

Ocean Mind provides therapeutic surfing programs for young people with disability and those experiencing mental health challenges and social isolation.

The Power In You Project aims to support people experiencing drug and/or alcohol addiction, people living with a mental health condition and people who have been in contact with the justice system.

The Foundation is very proud to have partnered with both organisations from the beginning to help support hundreds of people in our community reconnect to their community and find enjoyment and purpose in their lives.

Barwon Water Managing Director, Tracey Slatter said supporting Workplace Giving offered many benefits and helped bring the organisation values to life.

"Barwon Water is a regional corporation and our mission is to contribute to the region's prosperity socially, economically, environmentally and culturally, so the Give Where You Live Workplace Giving Program is an absolute match for us," said Tracey Slatter.

Regular donations through Workplace Giving are one of the most significant and regular sources of income for the Foundation, to support its work to help create a fairer community. Donations support a range of programs that help promote food security, support people experiencing crisis, and increase education and employment opportunities.

Barwon Water is a regional corporation and our mission is to contribute to the region's prosperity socially, economically, environmentally and culturally so the **Give Where You Live Workplace Giving** Program is an absolute match for us.

> - Tracey Slatter Barwon Water

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Barwon Water

GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

THE FOUNDATION'S GOLD PARTNER, BARWON WATER,

is showing the significant impact employees can have when we all give a small amount together.

Last financial year, Barwon Water employees collectively contributed over \$46,000 in workplace giving to the Foundation. This was the result of over 100 employees each donating a small amount from their pay each week.

Barwon Water's matched giving program makes the impact for our community even greater, by generously matching employee contributions - for every dollar an employee donates Barwon Water also donates one dollar.

Barwon Water staff share a common enjoyment of giving back to make a difference to the community where they live, work and play.

- "Giving back through workplace giving is amazing because not only do I get to be a part of a workplace giving group, but Barwon Water matches dollar-for-dollar my donation which increases the money we contribute to Give Where You Live. To know that this could be your family member or your friend who is receiving the benefit of the donation, it just makes so much sense to do it. I couldn't put my money in a better place." Prue Morrison said.
- "By donating a small amount through workplace giving, you're paying forward the power of kindness and knowing you are giving someone else a better future," Anthony Chirnside said.
- "Signing up is a very, very simple process and you get to see the rewards that are being achieved in our local area. There's a bit of pride there knowing we are contributing and making a bit of a change," said Brendan Hanrahan.

If your organisation is interested in workplace giving you can book a presentation with one of our 2022 Loaned Executives, to learn more about how you can help vour community for as little as the cost of a coffee each week.

CREATING A FAIRER COMMUNITY WITH Workplace Giving

Donate a little from your pay through Workplace Giving to help create a fairer Geelong community.

The difference your donation will make each year:



\$5 PER WEEK

Provides over **50** meals for people who may otherwise go without food

Н



\$10 PER WEEK

Provides 10 vouchers for people experiencing crisis to access household goods and furniture



\$15 PER WEEK

Contributes towards providing mentor support to young people at risk of disengaging from school



\$20 PER WEEK

Provides training for a new support worker to assist someone in crisis





Education and **Employment grants**

APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2022 EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT GRANT ROUND ARE OPEN FROM 1 AUGUST 2022 UNTIL 1 SEPTEMBER 2022

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

are keys pillars in the Foundation's strategy to create a fairer G21 community where all people and places thrive.

Kerry Farrance, Head of Impact said the Foundation's Education and Employment grants aim to ensure that every person in our region has the support and access they need to set and achieve their education and employment goals.

- "We know that having access to education and quality employment opportunities help support people to participate in their community and improve their life outcomes."
- "Unfortunately, there are many areas in our community where people don't have equal access, so these grants focus on increasing opportunity and helping reduce inequality," said Kerry.

Funding focuses on eight key outcome areas for education and employment.

EDUCATION:

- 1 Parent engagement supporting the important role parents play in their child's learning.
- 2 Early Years Learning supporting and enhancing children's learning age 0-5 years and ensuring they are ready to enter school.
- 3 Transitions ensuring that children and young people experience successful transitions that support their learning.
- 4 Disengaged Young People supporting young people to reengage in learning to support their life aspirations.

EMPLOYMENT:

- 1 Employment Readiness supporting the skills and resources needed for people to be able to get a job.
- 2 Employment Pathways supporting people into appropriate and meaningful employment pathways.
- 3 Supporting Job Retention assisting with problem solving of barriers to ensure ongoing and sustainable employment.
- 4 Supported Employment provision of appropriate, ongoing support for individuals that is necessary for success in a competitive work environment.

These key areas work to create fairer access to education and employment across our region.

Community organisations can find out more by calling:

Hannah Simkin, Grants Team

M: 0492 902 085 E: hannah@givewhereyoulive.com.au

Apply online at: www.givewhereyoulive.com.au

GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE FOUNDATION

To find out more or to register, contact your payroll team or email us at give@givewhereyoulive.com.au



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We know that having access to education and quality employment opportunities help support people to participate in their community and improve their life outcomes.

- Kerry Farrance Give Where You Live Foundation



THE FOUNDATION is calling for volunteers to join our Community Grant Review Panels to review the 2022 Education and Employment Grants.

Volunteering for the Community Grant Review Panels is an engaging opportunity to get involved with your community, and perfect for people who want to:

- Learn more about the issues in our region
- Learn more about the organisations creating change in our region
- Provide input to where donations go
- Share their knowledge and experience to help their community

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

Being a Community Grant Review Panellist involves reading 3-4 grant applications before attending a discussion with other people on your panel to talk about which organisations you think will make the biggest impact in our community.

• Scan here to register your interest in creating change in your community



EVENT SOCIAL PAGES

\$

HAVING **FUN**DRAISING

GIVE GEELONG BREAKFAST

Held in May, our annual Give Geelong Breakfast was an inspiring morning featuring AFLW star and boxer Tayla Harris.

Held at GMHBA Stadium the breakfast launched our 2022 Give Geelong Appeal.

- 1. ABBEY BENNETT, MOLLY JONES, RACHEL DRADY
- 2. GAVIN HEATHCOTE, LOU STEPINS & RICHARD LYLE
- GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE FOUNDATION'S CEO BILL MITHEN, AFLW STAR TAYLA HARRIS & BBC'S ANDREW HALL













PITCH UP GEELONG

We were thrilled to invite three local organisations - Hope Bereavement Care, Wellways Australia and Little Dreamers Australia to share their stories in front of a live audience to crowdfund vital funds to minimise the lasting impacts of COVID-19 on young people.

- AMIELLE PENNY & KATE HIGGINS
- GEORGIA STEWART, MEG MONAGHA & TAYLOR REGISTRO
- ALLISON TOBY, BONNIE RIENECKER & TERI RIENECKER
- 4. BRADLEY COLE & ELOISE NARDI



WHAT'S COMING UP?

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AND SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

FOR THE LATEST EVENT INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT GIVEWHEREYOULIVE.COM.AU/EVENTS

DAWNBUSTER

31 DECEMBER 2022

Held on the morning of New Year's Eve, join hundreds of runners along the 5km course at the Geelong waterfront. Organised in collaboration with the Geelong Cross Country Club.



SURF COAST TREK

The Surf Coast Trek is a 40km or 26km fundraising walk from Airey's Inlet to Torquay along the iconic Surf Coast Walk track. A community challenge, the trek combines fun, friends, and fitness while raising funds for Kids+ and the Give Where You Live Foundation.

BROWN PAPER BAG DAY

14 OCTOBER 2022

Members of the community are encouraged to donate the money they would normally spend on their lunch to the Feed Geelong Appeal.



FEED GEELONG APPEAL

10-16 OCTOBER 2022

The Feed Geelong Appeal raises funds to promote food security for the most vulnerable across the G21 region and supports our regions emergency food relief agencies.



E&S GOLF CLASSIC

27 FEBRUARY 2023

In its 31st year, the e&s Golf Classic is one of our largest fundraising events, raising approximately \$100,000 for the children, families and young people who need it most in our region.



Help create a fairer community

There are many ways you can get involved and make a difference to your community through the Give Where You Live Foundation.



Participate in an Event

The Foundation hosts a number of events including the Surf Coast Trek, Give Geelong Breakfast and Pitch Up Geelong. Find out more online.



Regular Giving

An alternative to Workplace Giving is making a regular monthly donation to the Foundation.



Fundraise for the Foundation

Do you like hosting events? Then why not host an event or campaign with your family and friends to support the Foundation!



Community Grant Review Panels

Volunteers are invited to read and review grant applications to provide feedback on allocating funding.

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Our vision is to create a fairer G21 community where all people and places thrive.

> Scan the QR code to find out more info.



21-23 Fenwick Street, Geelong Vic 3220

givewhereyoulive.com.au

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💟 givegeelong



in Give Where You Live Foundation

Give Where You Live Foundation is supported by these Platinum Partners:







