



GIVE
WHERE
YOU LIVE.

#givewhereyoulive



OUR MISSION:

Unlocking Central Victoria's opportunities through philanthropy.

PENNY WILKINSON Chair, Community Foundation for Central Victoria

FROM THE CHAIR

We are passionate about Bendigo and Central Victoria and we provide easy ways for communities to invest in their future. You don't have to be George Lansell to make a difference (our cover model and a Bendigo philanthropist). You can *give where you live* and play a vital part in strengthening our community.



We all share a genuine passion and commitment for Central Victoria. We live in a great part of the world with outstanding community organisations and champions. We also know that our region faces significant challenges and disadvantage particularly in health, education and employment. The role of the Foundation is to encourage local giving, to fund high impact, grassroots projects across Central Victoria. Our efforts enable us to support a range of initiatives that support regional sustainability, lifelong learning, and community capacity.

The Foundation has had the privilege of partnering with a range of organisations and community champions who individually and collectively make an enormous contribution to our community.

Projects like the "Read along Dads and Mums" program provide children of prisoners with a recording of their parent reading a book, along with the book itself.

Projects like Bendigo Foodshare who already support 14,000 people a month and who were able to raise over \$39,000 from a marketing grant of \$10,000.

These, and other projects like them, have only been possible through the continued support of organisations who share our commitment to invest in Rural and Regional Victoria. I would like to thank Adroit Insurance Group, the Central Victorian General Practitioners Network, Bank Australia, Bendigo Stadium Ltd and the City of Greater Bendigo for their ongoing help without which none of this would be possible. The ongoing support and commitment to this community is a defining characteristic of what makes our region so great.

In the last two years the Foundation has distributed over \$220,000 to support important local community projects and initiatives.



KERRY ASHLEY Executive Director, Program Development, Sidney Myer Haven

A SAFE HAVEN

The *Sidney Myer Haven* is an innovative program which we believe to be the first of its kind in Australia. The aim is to break the cycle of homelessness for young people, including single people, couples and young families in Bendigo. Clients participating in the program will be living in a gated communal setting with 23 households for two years.

An education and administration building with a 24 hour staffing model will support clients on site with the aim to provide a range of learning opportunities so residents can develop the living skills needed so they can live a sustainable and successful life.

One of our first learning opportunities will be teaching computer skills. The grant from the *Community Foundation for Central Victoria* has enabled us to purchase an internet kiosk. It's a whole set-up with a computer, desk and printer in the education centre so we can teach residents computer skills. In today's society, we all communicate through phones and computers and the majority of jobs use computers. Most homeless people have a low capacity in their computer skills and can't type.

Residents can use the kiosk for coursework, job applications, accessing information and connecting socially which is very important. It's a fundamental connection, but most people can't afford to have a computer. Over time, we will be working towards people having their own computer.

We want participants to see themselves as learners with a capacity to learn more. An education is the one thing that can change people's lives. The education centre on site will be providing a range of opportunities in partnership with training and employment services. They will also have mentors to help them get ahead.

A lot of these young people often come from disjointed families so they've not had a stable environment to learn the living skills needed – we know 50 percent of their parents experienced homelessness themselves.

Our aim is for all participants to exit the *Sidney Myer Haven* program after two years and live completely independently and support themselves in the community. We expect people to be well on their way so they are ready to participate in education and training or to have a job.

“Being a student on welfare benefits and a single mother, I didn't have much opportunity in the rental market... I [now] live in a two-bedroomed apartment.. it's amazing.”

— Rebecca

A PLACE TO BELONG

Saltworks is the community arm of the Anglican Church in Eaglehawk and we serve a free two course hot meal to around 50 people every Friday, except for public holidays.

The people who come here are disadvantaged. This is an opportunity for families, people with disabilities, the elderly and those in emergency accommodation to enjoy a nutritious meal, have a chat and feel special.

It starts with food, but it's much more than that. It's about connecting people back into the community so they feel valued and supported. They need food, they need shelter, but they also need a sense of belonging.

We have 9 volunteers each Friday who serve and wait on tables so it resembles a restaurant, not a production line. The meal is served at 6pm in the hall and we all sit down together, have a chat and eat. Over 1890 meals are served each year.

One lady said she and her partner were only eating every three days before they started coming to *Saltworks*. Emergency accommodation is very expensive and we've got a lot of people in that situation. They don't have cooking facilities apart from a microwave and a toaster so this will be their only home-cooked meal in a week.

The \$4,000 grant from the *Community Foundation for Central Victoria* saved us. If we hadn't received that money, this meal program would have closed after 20 years. The grant has given us enough money to buy food until the end of the year. It will also pay for our community Christmas dinner. Last year, 90 people attended the meal.

The *Community Foundation* grant has inspired us. When somebody outside the program sees and believes in what you're doing, it's a massive encouragement. This has given us a period of about six months to think about how to gain financial security for *Saltworks*.

We are proud of what we do and the way that it's affecting people. People call this their Eaglehawk family. We're a community of people who genuinely care.

"It helps a lot coming to Saltworks... I've got neck and should injuries from a car accident so I'm limited in what I can do. It's also social for me because I don't go out much. It's nice to go out and it does make me feel special."

— Kim



GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE!

HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The *Community Foundation for Central Victoria* is administered by a voluntary board with a collective purpose to responsibly raise, manage and distribute funds to enhance our community and facilitate social wellbeing. As part of our fundraising we work with key stakeholders to attract donations and bequests, and undertake major fund raising initiatives such as the *Glass Slipper*

Ball. Funds are then distributed through grant allocations to a range of different community groups and individuals needing financial support. The *Community Foundation for Central Victoria* facilitates the goodwill of our stakeholders and supporters to makes is easy to connect people who care to causes that matter.

HOW YOU CAN TOO

GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE

The *Community Foundation for Central Victoria* unites the collective generosity and good will of our community to make us stronger together. There are many different ways to give and it all starts with a conversation, so contact us today and start to give where you live.

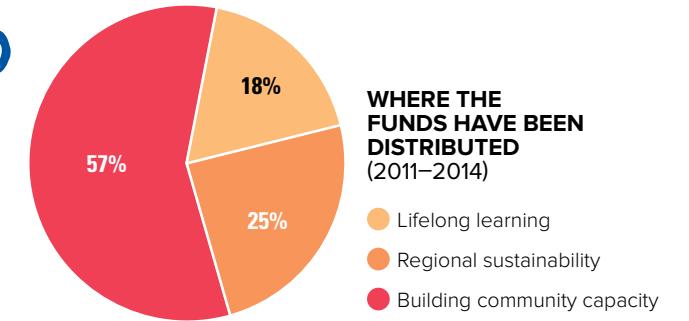
SOME WAYS YOU CAN GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE:

- Make a one-off or ongoing donation to an fund
- Join a workplace giving scheme
- Start your own named sub-fund
- Leave a bequest

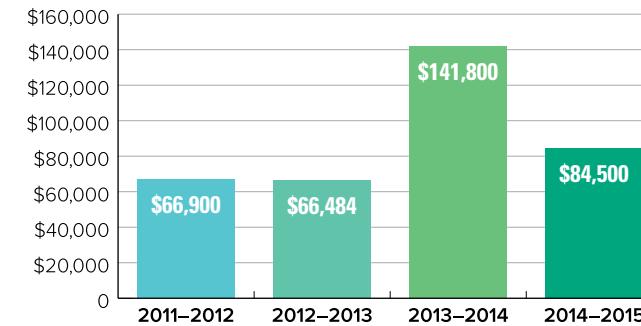
Between 2011–2015 the *Community Foundation for Central Victoria* distributed:

OVER \$247,000 IN GRANTS

TO OVER 34 NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS AND 2,300 SCHOOL CHILDREN ACROSS OUR REGION



VALUE OF GRANTS DISTRIBUTED (2011–2015)



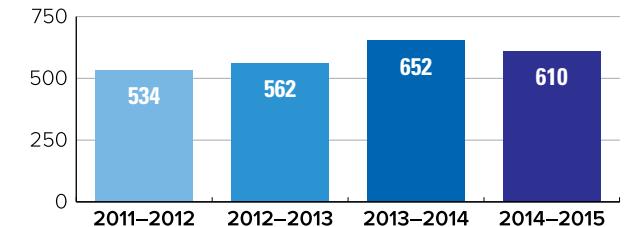
OUR CAPACITY IS BUILDING EACH YEAR

and we have seen **an increase in both the volume and value of financial support** that the *Community Foundation* has been able to provide to important community projects.

FUNDED PROJECTS

are making **an important impact to our strategic priorities**, being regional development, lifelong learning and building community capacity.

NUMBER OF GRANTS ALLOCATED (2011–2015)



GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE!

QUOTES FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

“When the opportunity arose for La Trobe to engage with the Community Foundation we were delighted to contribute. The Community Foundation of Central Victoria share our vision of educational excellence for Regional Victoria and through initiatives such as Bendigo A Thinking Community we have together enriched the community by stimulating new ideas and helping to create the connections to make them happen.”

— LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

“When CFCV agreed to partner with us to improve access to Engineering Futures for Regional Victorians we committed to invest in bringing the latest thinking in cloud education and science technology to Bendigo and surrounds. Our investment in the Deakin Community Foundation for Central Victoria Scholarship will see regional students supported to study at the Centre for Advanced Design Education Training Centre (CADET) from Bendigo through our partnership with Bendigo TAFE bringing CADET on the go.”

— DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

“We see it as a privilege to engage in a meaningful way with community groups throughout Victoria. The Foundation share our values and it has been exciting to see the results of our contribution to communities in Central Victorian.”

— BANK AUSTRALIA

“The option was presented when I started as an opportunity to give to local charities that support local projects. It comes straight out of my pay so I don’t have to think about it. When I found out last year I was amazed by the terrific range of projects that I helped support; they are so varied from programs in prisons, to Foodshare to homelessness. The Foundation are tackling some of the big regional problems.”

— ROBYN, CITY OF GREATER
BENDIGO – WORK PLACE GIVING

“The establishment of a fund with the Community Foundation for Bendigo and Central Victoria was a way of giving a little something back to support children and young people through small grants and we hope this might perhaps encourage others to do the same.”

— SUE & GRAEME CLARKE FUND

“The pride of knowing how Bendigo Stadium supports the Community foundation is shared throughout our organisation from the Board of Directors, staff and business partners. We feel privileged to be able to support our community and the Community Foundation.”

— BENDIGO STADIUM

“We are proud of our local origins and strive to provide support and security to the communities in which we live and work. We endeavour to make a difference by giving willingly of ourselves, our time and our resource in chosen community projects and initiatives. This is the reason we chose to support the Community Foundation for Central Victoria, as we feel our community goals align perfectly.”

— ADROIT



CATHIE STEELE Chair, Bendigo Foodshare

DELIVERING HOPE

Bendigo Foodshare is an independent charity and we source donated and surplus food from food producers, manufacturers and retailers. Food that would have gone to waste is redistributed for free to charities, 44 school meals programs and 22 community meals programs.

We know there's more demand than we can meet but we support about 14,000 people a month. In Bendigo alone, 30 per cent of people live on \$600 or less per week.

These people are our neighbours, friends and family. It doesn't take much to tip the balance. We hear of kids that haven't had a meal at the weekend and come to school exhausted. We have a large group who ultimately need our help.

Bendigo Foodshare has been operating for six years under the auspices of *Uniting Care* and donated food was transported from Melbourne.

Last year we became an independent charity and now source two thirds of our food locally. Our food supply has gone up ten-fold from 100,000 kilograms to one million kilograms of food in a year.

We would not have been able to launch and run a fundraising campaign like this without the *Community Foundation's* grants of \$10,000 and \$2,000. It has allowed us to employ a temporary part-time marketing consultant to develop our fundraising campaign, social media and marketing material. The consultant is also teaching us the specialised skills so we have everything in place to run it ourselves in the long term.

The \$2,000 *Community Foundation* grant is paying for us to bring our website up to date and allow us to accept donations online. We're going to appeal to the community to support us and the only way is to manage it is online.

If people donate \$25 we can feed a family of four for a month; \$40 can provide food for school meals for a month.

I'm confident that we will hit our \$100,000 fundraising target by next May. With the grant from the *Community Foundation*, our fundraising campaign is enabling us to keep providing food for people in need.

LISA D'ONOFRIO Read Along Program Coordinator, Friends of Castlemaine Library

TALES FROM THE HEART

I coordinate and deliver the Friends of Castlemaine Library's Read Along Dad's and Read Along Mum's programs at Loddon and Tarrengower Prisons, providing children of prisoners with a recording of their parent reading a book.

Both the CD recording and the book are sent to the child, who can listen to their parent's voice whilst reading or looking at the book.

It can be a very emotional experience for prisoners. For some, it may be the only contact that they have with their children and for others it serves to enhance their relationship with their kids.

I run individual sessions with each prisoner and we talk about their children's ages and they choose appropriate books. The inmate reads it and I digitally record it which is fantastic because even if they can't read at all or have low literacy skills they can still participate in the program. In those instances, I read each sentence and they repeat it. It's easy to edit my voice out. Sometimes you get unexpected people doing fantastic noises, voices and sound effects whilst reading.

At the beginning of the recording they say hello to their children and at the end they will say goodbye with a personal message. I edit and then burn it to CD and the children get sent the book and the CD. Older children get novels and inmates will record the first chapter and say 'hope you enjoy the rest of this story. Let me know what you think'.

The program is very well subscribed through word of mouth. Inmates recognise that the project is a tangible way to build or keep a relationship with their children.

Without the grant from the Community Foundation for Central Victoria, this program would not happen. It pays for the books, the CDs, postage and packaging, the recording and my time.

I have done a lot of projects as an educator and this is a very high impact one for a relatively small investment. You get a lot of bang for your buck. The reach is extraordinary and this is one program with the most outcomes. With funding, there are many ways to expand the project.

"We're not here for being angels, any of us, but if I can contribute something good to my son, then that's a good thing."

— A prisoner participating in the Read Along Dad's program





EMAIL executive@cfcv.com.au

WEB www.cfcv.com.au

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