

2016 Funding Recipients

Recipients of funding for 2016 from The Ballarat Foundation and United Way Ballarat announced December 10, 2015.



UnitingCare Ballarat: Breezeway Meals for the Homeless

Breezeway offers a substantial and nutritious sit-down midday meal every day of the year for the homeless. Breezeway also enables connectivity with essential social services while offering some comfort in terms of nutritional meals, coffee, a place to shower, a post office box for mail and lockers for those who need safe storage for a few personal possessions. Volunteers at Breezeway, now in its 16th year of operation, prepare the meals and make every effort to provide a warm and welcoming environment for those accessing meals.

Child and Family Services: Emergency Grant and Financial Advocacy Program

The project provides coordinated emergency financial relief and budgeting advice, educating tenants who are in financial crisis and at imminent risk of homelessness due to eviction. Crisis assistance is provided in the form of brokerage assessment and assistance to negotiate payment plans for clients to save their tenure.

Centacare Ballarat: Clemente

A collaborative project offering the chance for those least advantaged in our community who have never had the opportunity to access Tertiary education in a supported environment.



Whirled Foundation: Keeping in Touch Program

This project focuses on educating group members on how to manage their Ménière's disease on a daily basis, providing helpful and up to date information and resources, providing support through a bimonthly newsletter, telephone contact and counselling, thereby reducing social isolation and improving overall wellbeing.



Salvo Connect Western: LARF Mentoring Program

LARF is a mentoring program of activities provided to children and youth to reduce the risks associated with social isolation due to a range of factors such as social skills deficits, mental illness, experiences of poverty, homelessness, family violence, or family breakdown. The program engages youth volunteers aged 16 - 30 to become mentors to younger mentees aged 7 to 15 over a minimum period of 12 months.

Ballarat Toy Library: Pre-literacy resources

The Ballarat Toy Library provides families and care-givers in Ballarat affordable access to a varied selection of safe, clean, age-appropriate toys that can help children learn and develop through play.

Anglicare Ballarat: Community Breakfast Program

This program provides a safe, warm, clean, welcoming and accepting environment where people who may have unstable or unreliable housing or living arrangements can have breakfast, enjoy social interaction and where necessary receive clothing, blankets and toiletries. Volunteers organise and cook the breakfast and assess the state of health of the participants and assist where required.



Aquinas Young Vincentians: Aquinas Young Vinnies Kids Camps

Cost-free weekend camps and kids days out are provided to children who are disadvantaged - socially, financially, emotionally, physically and culturally - and who would not otherwise have an opportunity to attend such events. The leaders are well-trained Young Vincentians who model excellent social and communications skills. This program also provides child-free respite to parents.

Ballarat Christian Fellowship: Phoenix College Breakfast Club

This program, run by volunteers, provides a free, substantial breakfast for mostly high school students who, for whatever reason, arrive at school without having had any food. Breakfast gives them the best chance of learning effectively throughout the day and they have the opportunity to form new friendships and interact with the volunteers; the students are encouraged to assist with the Breakfast.

Big Brothers Big Sisters: Ballarat In-School Mentoring

A donor and volunteer supported mentoring network that matches adult volunteers (Bigs) with vulnerable young people, aged 7 - 17 years (Littles), who face a range of issues. Through creating mentoring relationships, young people are more likely to stay engaged in school and avoid the pitfalls of dropping out such as unemployment, incarceration, turning to drugs or alcohol and the need for possible treatment programs.



Aboriginal Literacy Foundation: Aspire

This program aims to relieve entrenched poverty by focusing on education, providing literacy and numeracy training for young indigenous girls aged between 5-14 years. The aim is to give them access to higher education and jobs, as well as the opportunities and choice that come with education.



Hepburn Health Service: Creswick Men's Friendship Shed

This Men's Shed is considered the oldest in Victoria and is a hive of activity attracting men from a variety of ages and backgrounds on a regular basis. Some men come to produce great work, others to socialise and chat or to learn new skills. Their prime motivation in attending is to experience the terrific sense of camaraderie and support which is offered to each and every participant.

Cancer Patients Foundation: Look Good Feel Better Workshops

A free community service program dedicated to teaching cancer patients how to manage the appearance-related side-effects of treatment. Workshops cover skin care, make-up and head wear demonstrations, leaving them empowered and ready to face their cancer diagnosis with confidence.



Wendouree West Exodus Community

Providing an after school learning program to support primary school aged children with their homework and reading. A further drop-in program on Saturdays invites people from all walks of life to share a meal and socialise with other people from their neighbourhood.

WRISC Family Violence Support: Creative Therapies Group Program For Children

Targeting school-aged children who have experienced family violence, trauma, homelessness or high conflict separation, this program utilises art therapy to increase self-awareness and supports children to emerge better equipped to deal with relationships and adverse life issues.



Friends of Livvi's Place - Victoria Park inclusive playspace

A community-driven playspace project using the concept of universal design so that it is accessible to all members of the community. Many people in our community find it difficult to visit our existing playgrounds in Ballarat due to someone in their family having a physical, intellectual or sensory disability.

Ballarat Autism Network: Expo

An expo of autism specific services and autism inclusive organisations, clubs, support services, job network providers and recreational options will be held in May 2016. The expo will provide this for families, carers, people with autism and services that help meet their needs.



Centacare Ballarat - Planned Respite Socialisation and Recreation

A program that seeks to support people with a mental illness who are socially isolated and have limited networks by providing opportunities for participation in socialisation, recreational and education activities outside their usual routines. At the same time, those who are carers for the participants are given planned respite time.

e.motion21: Moving Bodies, Moving Boundaries Through Beat Fit - Ballarat

An innovative and engaging fitness / dance program for children and young adults with Down syndrome that promotes health, well-being, friendships, confidence and life potential in order to engage society and shift common and outdated ideas regarding Down syndrome.



Pinarc Disability Support: Aspergers Teen League

This social club provides an opportunity for young people with Aspergers to meet in a safe, non-judgmental environment to mix and have fun with their peers. Undertaking a range of activities selected by the group, participants get to experience different community-based outings while developing social skills.

Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative - Ballarat Brothers Men's Group

This project aims to reduce the social isolation of Indigenous men with chronic health conditions, mental illness or drug and alcohol issues. The informal, confidential, interactive and culturally safe environment allows them to improve self-esteem, health outcomes, family relationships and community connections.



Mercy Works: Mercy Connect Ballarat

This project began in 2012 and provides in-school academic support and mentoring to refugee and asylum seeker students through the use of trained volunteers with an educational background.

The Royal South Street Society - 125th year Volunteer Celebration

Providing a major event during National Volunteer Week 2016 in order to recognise and thank the 240 RSSS volunteers who not only support the 10,000 young aspiring artists and 40,000 visitors who attend the eisteddfod each year but are the lifeblood of the eisteddfod, without whom it simply wouldn't happen. The event will also thank and celebrate volunteers across our community.

KIDS Foundation - SeeMore Safety

This program provides a variety of activities and ideas for promoting safety that are focused on children's storybooks supported by resources for teachers and parents. Resources are provided to preschool or day care centres that have been identified as less advantaged within our community.



WRISC Family Violence Support: Safety Assist

This project promotes the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable women and their children through the provision of material resources that may allow these clients to reside safely (and with less fear) in their homes and / or community, as well as enhancing their independence and enabling the growth of self-esteem.

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