

2 June 2023

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Six Wangaratta and district organisations received \$30,000 in funding last night as part of the GIVE Wangaratta grants ceremony.

Three community groups - The Open Door Neighbourhood House Community Pantry, A Better Life for Foster Kids and Boys to the Bush - each received a \$5000 grant.

The Whitfield Community Childcare Centre received \$10,000, while the Goulburn and North-East Arts Alliance (GANEEA) received \$3000 and Wangaratta Artists Society \$2000.

As a sub-fund of the Into Our Hands Community Foundation, GIVE Wangaratta has provided community-strengthening grants worth more \$166,000 since its inception in 2019.

The Whitfield Community Childcare Centre will put its grant towards its current renovation, enabling waterproofing and thermal efficiency works, ensuring the comfort of children and staff year-round.

A total of 64 foster children in emergency care will be given a Crisis Case from A Better Life for Foster Kids, containing essential clothing, personal hygiene products and specialised colouring in books.

Boy to the Bush plan to use their grant funding to support two group school programs providing transport, food, activities and clothing to 20 enrolled boys who are disengaged from traditional schooling.

The Open Door Neighbourhood House Community Pantry, which helps more than 150 local people each week put food on their tables, will buy supplies of toilet paper, long life milk, tea, coffee and other staples to include in food hampers.

GANEEA will direct its funding into supporting four young Wangaratta artists build their creative talents, while Wangaratta Artists Society plans to provide free art classes and supplies to elderly residents to help alleviate loneliness.

“We are so proud to present this funding to six worthy organisations who work tirelessly supporting members of our community, from our youngest and most vulnerable to the elderly,” Give Wangaratta Chair Sarah Thompson said.

“We couldn’t do this without the generous donations from community members, businesses and stakeholders and we thank them.

“Congratulations to all the recipients and thank you for all your hard work in strengthening our community.”

The grant awards ceremony coincided with the launch of GIVE Wangaratta’s Winter Giving Challenge, where community members were given the opportunity to support future funding for similar organisations, providing hope and opportunity to vulnerable children and families in Wangaratta.

It is hoped many other businesses will follow the lead of those already involved and give to the cause.

To donate to the Into Our Hands Community Foundation, go to the website at <https://intoourhandsfoundation.com.au> or phone Executive Officer Peter McCabe on 0466 252 866.

**ENDS**

**For more information, contact [marketing@intoourhands.com.au](mailto:marketing@intoourhands.com.au) or phone Sue on 0417 522 962.**