



# 2015 Funding Recipients

Recipients of funding for 2015 from The Ballarat Foundation and United Way Ballarat announced December 17 2014.

## **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



## **The Salvation Army Karinya: 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.

## **Child & 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.



## **Lighthouse Foundation: Launch**

A Program that helps homeless young people in Ballarat learn the skills needed to plan successful lives and find work through mentoring.



### **Creswick Dance & Fitness: Community Health & Fitness Hub**

Recognising the need for specialised classes to support the needs of certain groups within the community such as pregnant women, the elderly, Diabetes and obesity sufferers and new mums, funding is provided for materials to renovate a venue handed over to this group by Hepburn Shire for development into a new health and fitness community hub.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Keeping in Touch Program (Meniere's Australia)**



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.

### **Ballarat Centre Against Sexual Assault: Ballarat Survivors Group**

Ballarat CASA facilitates a fortnightly support group for men who have experienced childhood sexual assault. The group creates connection for men who have been significantly isolated throughout their lives, due to the abuse, and provides a sense of belonging and support, enabling them to share their experiences and feel validated. Many of the men have participated in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse and the group has also provided them support throughout this process.

### **The Salvation Army - Ballarat North Neighbourhood House: Creative Connections - Younger Onset of Dementia**

A multimedia art program for people who have been diagnosed with early onset of dementia (pre-65 years) and who are involved in the workshops where they have the opportunity to socialise, maintain finer motor skills and improve self-esteem, thereby feeling a part of the community and a sense of normalcy.

### **Aquinas Young Vincentians: Aquinas Young Vinnies Kids Camps**



2 cost-free weekend camps and 1-2 kids days out a year 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.

### **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.

### **State Emergency Services - Ballarat: Operation Rescue Riders**

This is a dedicated team of 8 SES Volunteers who are specifically trained in effective search techniques, and who are regularly called on to assist the Police search for missing persons. As searches are often in bushland where time is critical, this team on their motorbikes significantly reduces risk to the missing person and exhaustion on the part of the riders. Funding provides a trailer for transporting the motorbikes and 2 sets of personal protective equipment.

### **Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre: Making Mosaics, Making Our Community Garden**

A multimedia art program for people who have been diagnosed with early onset of dementia (pre-65 years). They are involved in workshops where they have the opportunity to socialise, maintain finer motor skills and improve self-esteem, thereby feeling a part of the community and a sense of normalcy.

### **WRISC Family Violence Support: Safety Assist**

This project promotes the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable women and their children through 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.

**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.

**Karden Disability Support Foundation: The Arthur Range Launch**

Launch of "The Arthur Range" being a social enterprise where artists with disability are supported to make and sell product. Funds raised from the sale of products go directly to artists and contribute to further development of the social enterprise.

**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.

**Very Special Kids: Ballarat Family Support Services**

VSK supports families throughout their experience of caring for children with life-threatening conditions, from diagnosis through to recovery or bereavement. This program seeks to understand their needs and offer appropriate support, such as counselling and advocacy.

**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, wellbeing, friendships, confidence and life potential to engage society to 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.