

## FUNDED PROJECTS 2014

The following projects will receive funding support from United Way Ballarat and The Ballarat Foundation in 2014:

### **Accommodation and support for homeless youth - Lighthouse Foundation**

Lighthouse supports homeless young people by providing not just a home, but also a family environment, coupled with therapeutic approaches.

### **Community breakfast program for homeless and isolated people - Anglicare Ballarat**

Volunteers share a free nutritious breakfast with people who may suffer homelessness, financial disadvantage and social isolation in a warm, safe and friendly environment.

### **Family violence support services - WRISC**

This program assists women and their accompanying children to live a life free from family violence by providing material resources and services to enhance their safety.

### **Meals for homeless people - UnitingCare Ballarat**

The homeless, those with mental health issues and people in crisis can access a substantial and nutritional midday meal every day of the year in a warm and safe environment.

### **Engaging Indigenous boys - Aboriginal Literacy Foundation**

Providing the opportunity for indigenous boys from Ballarat to be tutored and mentored over twelve months to specifically lift their academic results and inspire them to think of the possibilities that life can offer them.

### **Creswick Men's Friendship Shed - Hepburn Health Service**

The Shed acts as a beacon, providing an inclusive, friendly, non-threatening environment where men can interact with a small group of people and participate in a number of community projects.

### **LARF - (Life skills, Activities, Recreation, Friendship & Fun ) - The Salvation Army Karinya**

This program engages youth volunteers aged 16 - 30 to become mentors to younger mentees aged 7 to 15 who are identified as being at risk of social isolation due to experiences of poverty, mental illness, homelessness, family violence, or family breakdown.

### **Socialisation groups for adults dealing with mental illness - Centacare Ballarat**

This program aims to reduce the social isolation of people with a psychiatric illness through specifically tailored social and recreational activities, allowing for some respite for their carer.

### **Phoenix College Breakfast Club - Ballarat Christian Fellowship**

This program provides a nourishing meal in a safe environment for approximately 250 secondary students per week who do not receive breakfast at home.

### **A youth group for teenagers with Aspergers - Pinarc Disability Support**

The aim of this program is to integrate teenagers with Aspergers Syndrome, over time, into mainstream youth activities or groups as their social skills develop.

### **Programs for vulnerable kids - Aquinas Young Vincentians**

Students volunteer to provide weekend camps and Kids Days Out to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged Ballarat & regional children. The programs provide a respectful and positive group environment that builds confidence and better school behaviours for the children who attend.

### **Therapy groups for children dealing with the effects of domestic violence - WRISC**

Targeting children who have experienced family violence, homelessness or high conflict separation, this program provides therapy for a mixed gender group of children over 12 years old.

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### **Keeping in Touch Program - Meniere's Support Group**

Connecting sufferers of Meniere's with each other and their community, encouraging them to explore available options and improve their emotional wellbeing, as well as providing role models who successfully manage their condition.

### **Emergency grant and financial advocacy for people at risk of homelessness - Pact Community Support**

Pact advocates on behalf of tenants experiencing financial hardship to assist them establish or maintain tenancies that are at risk, as well as enhancing the skills of those same people in the budgeting and management of their finances.

### **Autism Expo – Ballarat Autism Network**

The expo aims to increase community wide understanding and awareness of the impact of autism and the services available to parents, family members, professionals and community members.

### **Day Program for visually impaired older people – Vision Australia**

Vision Australia's Ballarat Day Program provides regular, structured, recreational activities four days a week, to Ballarat LGA residents who are blind or have low vision and are aged over 60 years.

### **Kitchen Garden Community – Golden Point Learning And Cultural Environment (G Place)**

G Place are enhancing the procedures and resources for their kitchen and garden facilities to allow provision of an excellent standard of community kitchen access for events, cooking lessons, catering and other kitchen training.

### **Wendouree Men's Shed – Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre**

The Wendouree Men's Shed offers participants the opportunity to engage in activities in their community, increasing their health and well being through social participation, and the learning of a variety of skills, including carpentry.

### **Mentoring of students who have a refugee background (Mercy Connect) – Mercy Works Ltd**

Mercy Connect volunteers assist newly arrived children on refugee or humanitarian visas with their educational transition. The trained volunteers have an educational background, and spend 3 hours a week nurturing the wellbeing and self esteem of these students.

### **Family Camp for marginalised residents – Wendouree West Exodus Community**

Provides a community camp for families from the Wendouree West area who would otherwise never have the opportunity.

### **Provision of improved drinking water facilities – Ballarat East Community Mens Shed**

The BECS program has been providing a vital service for both retired and at risk men in the Ballarat East community for 7 years. The men learn and share the skills of fabricating wooden and metal items for the general community and organisations as well as providing a BBQ facility for many events around the Ballarat region.

### **Clemente – Centacare Ballarat**

Clemente is a unique program aiming to link the most disadvantaged members of our community into mainstream tertiary education. The students are provided with a valuable networking opportunity mixing with other students, mentors and the Clemente Support Worker.