

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 15 October 2020

LOCAL FUNDS DIRECTED TO SUPPORT OLDER PEOPLE

The legacy of Lewis Court Home for the Aged continues into its sixth year with four organisations receiving an allocation of funds for projects in 2020.

Grants totalling close to \$20,000 will enhance social inclusion, increase fitness and retain dignity while improving social connectedness for our older people.

The grants are the result of the establishment of the United Way Glenelg Lewis Court Fund made possible by the disbursement of funds from the sale of the Lewis Court Home for the Aged.

Nicole Carr, Executive Officer United Way Glenelg is delighted to see the legacy of Lewis Court play a fundamental role in improving the lives of older people.

"Older people have a wealth of skills and experiences and can continue to be active participants in the community.

"Sometimes additional support is required to ensure older people can lead active, healthy and productive lives," said Mrs Carr.

One of the recipients is Edgarley Assisted living in Casterton who received \$5,000 for the purchase and installation of an electric BBQ.

Olivia Darcy, dedicated advocate for older people and Financial Officer for Edgarley Assisted living is ecstatic to learn they were successful in receiving funds for an electric BBQ.

"Doing a very happy dance right now. We are thrilled that our residents will have access to a BBQ. This will enable our residents to enjoy family gatherings and organised and impromptu get-togethers," Mrs Darcy said.

"This has monumental benefits for the mental well-being of our older community."

The Lewis Court Fund was undersubscribed this year with funds still available for disbursement. United Way Glenelg will re-open the Lewis Court Fund in February 2021.

"This will allow our community to look for projects of the greatest need post-COVID, said Mrs Carr.

"Characteristics of rural areas such as lower population density and more geographically dispersed populations, make it more difficult for older people to socially connect. Older people have been and continue to be the most isolated, particularly in a rural community due to distance."

"If we can remove this isolation through technology and a commitment to making our living environments more age-friendly."

Grants will open Monday 1 February 2021 and close Saturday 28 February 2021. Applications can be made through www.unitedwayglenelg.com.au For further information please call Nicole Carr, Executive Officer on 0410 513 305.

Photo: Thelma Heidemann, Dorothy Milburn and Ron Jordan

The full list of funding recipients for 2021 is;

Edgarley Assisted Living BBQ for residents Garden

Provide safe BBQ facilities for residents and their friends and family to come together.

Portland District Health Singing Strong

Give people living with Parkinson's disease the opportunity to express themselves through music and rhythm.

Rotary Club of Portland – Cycling without age Portland

Reduce social isolation and loneliness by providing older members of the community a trishaw ride around the community.

Seaview House Residents Lifting machine

Providing support and dignity to residents by assisting them back onto their feet, independently through a lifting machine.

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Media enquiries to Nicole Carr on 0410 513 305 or mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au