

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

Thursday 10 December 2020

### **Hampers to bring a little christmas cheer**

Christmas can be one of the loneliest times of the year for those with little to no family nearby, isolated by lack of transport or location, or simply find the festive season “tough.”

To bring a little Christmas cheer United Way Glenelg is distributing hampers to those in the community who need it the most.

The hampers are a community collaboration effort and include handwritten cards from children at Merino Consolidated Primary School, handcrafted soap from students at Casterton Secondary College, a DIY craft package from students at Bayview College, basic foods, Christmas pudding, mince pies, custard, a bespoke Christmas decoration, and a supermarket voucher.

The hampers have been assembled by the Portland Girl Guides.

To assist and guide United Way Glenelg to identify those the communities most vulnerable include Glenelg Shire Council - Aged and Disability Services, Portland District Health – Telehealth, Palliative Care and District Nursing, Dhauwurd-Wurrung Elderly & Community Health Service Inc, Heywood Rural Health, Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, Dartmoor Bush Nursing and St Vincent de Paul in Casterton.

United Way Glenelg Chief Executive Officer, Nicole Carr, said Christmas can be challenging for many people, particularly those who have remained isolated due to COVID restrictions.

“We want people to feel this Christmas that they haven’t been forgotten, we value them and they are important members of our community.”

“Community events such as Carols by Candlelight often act as a conduit for those on their own to mix socially, even once a year, but due to cancellation, it leaves many feeling lonely, said Ms Carr.

“We hope our Christmas hampers will make Christmas just a little happier this year,” concluded Ms Carr said.

Janine Cameron, HACC Co-ordinator from Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation said the Elders loved their hampers.

“A big thank the United Way Glenelg team, also to the children from the Merino school for the beautiful Christmas cards they made for the Elders.”

The packages are funded by 3M through the COVID-19 Impact Fund, who teamed up with United Way Worldwide to support relief projects across the Asia-Pacific region, with their substantial relief grant of over AU\$1.3 Million that comes as part of an AU\$29 million commitment made by 3M at a corporate level to support COVID-19 relief projects, globally.

“It’s important that 3M holds its core values during this pandemic by supporting Australians in need and improving lives. Throughout this global crisis, we will continue to look for ways to help in the fight against COVID-19,” said 3M Australia Managing Director Chris LeBlanc.

This initiative is a follow up to the 200 Hope packages delivered in June and July to community members in the Glenelg Shire.

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