



United Way Glenelg

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 16 September 2021

Another Little FREE Pantry established

The *Give what you can, Take what you need* concept is proving to be not only a popular community resource but a necessary one as another Little FREE Pantry (LFP) is established in Portland.

Located in Moorhouse Street on the perimeter of Portland South Primary School grounds, the LFP is providing basic needs and essential household goods for those living in the South Portland community.

The LFP means there is no judgement, no questions, no paperwork and no registration for users.

“One of the advantages of the pantry is access to food is always available,” said Nicole Carr, United Way Glenelg Executive Officer.

“If someone is stuck for food, they can access the pantry to help out until other services are open.”

Food Bank, Australia's largest food relief organisation reports 58% of Victorian residents experiencing food insecurity are accessing food relief at least once a week since the pandemic began.

And this statistic is playing out locally.

“During the lockdown, we were restocking the pantry daily to keep up with the demand, and this was on top of what the community were donating directly,” said Ms Carr.

“Canned food, soup, noodles, breakfast bars and hygiene items are the most sought after items. I would do a daily check and was shocked to find, on most occasions the pantries almost cleaned out!”

“There are no limits or restrictions on how much people can take if they need extra food.”

“We have had tremendous support from the community. Harbour Lights Snack Bar are taking community donations, and matching them personally and anonymous donors are paying it forward with cash donations.”

“Recently we developed a wonderful relationship with Warnambool and District Food Share who assist us in backfilling our LFP when required,” concluded Ms Carr.

The LFP has been designed and painted by local artist Gene Stewart, who said it was a “fun project.”

Constructed by Heywood Men's Shed, there are another two planned for the Shire, one in Heywood and another in Casterton in the coming months.

The LFP is coordinated by United Way Glenelg, and funded with a grant from Glenelg Shire Council and the Victorian State Government.

Everyone is invited to place or take goods from inside the box as they please or need.

If you wish to donate, simply purchase one of the following items [making sure all items are non-perishable, unopened & within best-before/use-by-date] and place it in the library.

- Long-life milk & fruit-juice (200mL & 1L)
- Rice, pasta, pasta sauce
- Non-perishable meat (Eg Jerky, Tinned Chicken/ Tuna/ Sardines/ Spam/ Ham)
- Tinned Fruit and Vegetables
- Breakfast items (Eg Instant Oats Sachets, Kellogs variety packs, breakfast biscuits etc)
- Peanut butter and vegemite (small plastic jars preferred)
- Sachets of Sugar, Tea & Coffee
- Snacks (Eg non-perishable dip and biscuits, salsa, muesli bars, multi-packs of chips/savoury biscuits,)
- Biscuits (Eg Saladas, VitaWeet, breakfast biscuits)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toiletries (Eg toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, sunscreen, combs, soap, cotton buds, body wipes, 2-in-1 shampoo/conditioner)
- First-Aid supplies (eg travel first-aid-kits, bandaids, insect repellent, sanitiser)
- Baby supplies (eg formula, nappies, wipes)

People requiring food, crisis & supported accommodation can visit Salvation Army, 33 Henty Street Portland or call 5521 8134

Photo: Maree Stanford Glenelg Shire Council, Vicki Fisher Portland South Primary School Principal, Gene Stewart and Quinn Stewart thrilled with the result.

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