

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

Wednesday 11 November 2021

### **Community food pantry installed at Casterton Primary School**

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 Casterton, the third for the Glenelg Shire.

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

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

The LFP will be under the stewardship of Casterton Primary School, who will maintain it with the help of United Way Glenelg and the school community.

Jill Robertson, Principal of Casterton Primary School said she was thrilled when she heard the school would receive a pantry.

“The school is delighted to be taking part in such a wonderful initiative.”

“The positioning of the pantry just inside our front gate puts it in the minds of our students, staff and families, and the wider school community as they enter the school,” she said.

“This means that we can all keep an eye on the contents to keep it stocked up well, but it also supports our “think kind” philosophy at Casterton Primary School and gives the students an outlet to show kindness to others. Thank you to the Glenelg Shire and United Way Glenelg for making this possible, and thanks to Julie Kent for the beautiful artwork.”

Constructed by Heywood Men's Shed, there are another two planned for the Shire, one in Heywood and another in Portland. The Casterton LFP was painted by local artist Julie Kent.

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, Kellog's 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 Salada's, Vita Weet, 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, band aids, insect repellent, sanitiser)
- Baby supplies (eg formula, nappies, wipes)

People requiring food, crisis & supported accommodation can visit St Vincent de Pauls 32 McPherson St Casterton  
Wed - Fri 10am - 4pm Sat 10am - 12noon or telephone 5581 2161

*Photo: Ella, Ronnie, Nate, Makayla, Ginny, Brooke and Will.*

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Media enquiries to Nicole Carr on 0410 513 305 email [mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au](mailto:mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au)