

MEDIA RELEASE

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JOINT EFFORT STRENGTHENS ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL FOODS

United Way Glenelg has joined forces with Portland Bay School in an exciting collaboration aimed at enhancing access to essential food items for individuals and families in need.

Students from Portland Bay School have eagerly taken on the responsibility of managing the maintenance and restocking of United Way Glenelg's Little FREE Pantries (LFP), located in seven key locations across the Portland area.

Recognising the importance of engaging students in community projects and fostering a spirit of giving back, Portland Bay School wholeheartedly embraced the opportunity to contribute.

Under the guidance of Portland Bay School Pathways Coordinator, Sue Hoffman, the students diligently visit the seven pantry locations every week. Their tasks involve cleaning and organising the pantries, as well as restocking them with non-perishable food items.

"We are thrilled to partner with Portland Bay School on this initiative," said Nicole Carr, Executive Officer United Way Glenelg.

"These young individuals have shown immense enthusiasm in their efforts to support our LFP. Their involvement not only contributes to meeting the immediate needs of community members struggling with food insecurity but also instils a sense of compassion and social responsibility among the students."

The LFP, an integral part of United Way Glenelg's community-driven approach, provides a discreet and accessible way for individuals and families to access essential food items.

The pantries, strategically placed in key locations, offer a dignified and non-judgmental solution for those facing challenges related to food accessibility.

Portland Bay School Principal, Steve Crossley, expressed pride in the students' commitment to the initiative.

"At Portland Bay School, we believe in empowering our students to make a positive impact in the community."

"Engaging them in projects like managing the Little FREE Pantries allows them to develop essential life skills while actively contributing to the well-being of others," said Mr Crossley.

"We are immensely grateful for the partnership with United Way Glenelg and the opportunity it provides for our students to make a real difference."

United Way Glenelg extend their heartfelt appreciation to the community for their ongoing donations to the LFP.

"We encourage individuals, businesses, and community groups to continue contributing non-perishable food items to ensure that the pantries remain well-stocked and ready to assist those in need," said Ms Carr.

"A new partnership has been initiated with Foodbank South Australia, further expanding our commitment to addressing food insecurity."

"In addition to our existing collaboration with Warrnambool and District Foodshare, this new alliance enables us to access even more resources and support in our mission to provide essential nourishment to those in need," concluded Ms Carr.

Little FREE Pantries can be located

- Bundarra Primary School – Edgar Street Portland
- Casterton Primary School - McPherson Street Casterton
- Dartmoor Primary School - 76 Greenham Street Dartmoor
- Dhauwurd-Wurrung Elderly and Community Health Service - 18 Wellington Road Portland
- Elsa MacLeod Kindergarten – Henty Street Portland
- Heywood Consolidated Primary School – Kentbruck Road Heywood
- Heywood & District Secondary College - 23 Gorrie Street Heywood
- Kalbarri Kindergarten - Mitchell Crescent Portland
- Portland Primary School – Palmer Street Portland
- Portland South Primary School – Moorhouse Street Portland
- Portland Child and Family Complex - Julia Street Portland

To learn more about United Way Glenelg's initiatives or to get involved, please visit www.unitedwayglenelg.com.au or contact Nicole Carr on 0410513305.

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