

### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### DATE

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### **Local Leadership in Action: Ann Kirkham's 15 years of service with United Way Glenelg**

United Way Glenelg (UWG) proudly acknowledges the significant contribution of Ann Kirkham, who joined the UWG Board in 2010. Over 15 years, Ann played a pivotal role in shaping impactful outcomes for communities across the Glenelg Shire.

"When Ann joined the Board, UWG was focused solely on distributing funds to other not-for-profits," said Marg Wagner, President of United Way Glenelg.

"In those early days, we had just \$8,555 in the bank, but thanks to the dedication of people like Ann, we launched the Giving in Glenelg campaign."

"This initiative laid the foundation for the Workplace Giving Program, which has since enabled thousands of residents to support community change through regular donations," said Ms Wagner.

Ann served on the Community Partners Subcommittee, helping assess and allocate funding where it would have the greatest impact. She brought thoughtful insight and a strong sense of local values to every decision.

During her tenure, Ann oversaw the allocation of over \$1.5 million in grants, supporting initiatives that improve health, education, and financial stability. Her guidance ensured every dollar made a meaningful difference.

"Ann's involvement helped shape the UWG we know today. Local, responsive, and community-led."

Key developments during Ann's time included the establishment of the Lewis Court Fund, following the sale of the Lewis Court Home for the Aged in Portland.

Ann was involved in bringing Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to the community, a program that has delivered over 50,000 free books to hundreds of children, building a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

During Ann's time on the Board, UWG evolved its approach to supporting young people, from providing basic Back to School vouchers to launching the School Resilience Fund, which offers flexible financial support for students facing hardship.

The establishment of SharkPitch, an annual community fundraising event that not only raises vital funds but also shines a spotlight on local initiatives, empowering organisations to grow their impact.

"United Way Glenelg evolved into one of the region's most respected and impactful community organisations. Ann has been part of our growth from humble beginnings to an organisation that plays a significant role in building a thriving community."

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"As we reflect on Ann Kirkham's legacy, we thank her for her support, insight, and passion for our community. Her service leaves a lasting legacy of generosity, vision, and progress across the Glenelg Shire," concluded Ms Wagner.

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