

The Capital Region Community Foundation

greater™ good

Newsletter Date June 2009

“the gift that keeps on giving”

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Reflections from the Chair



Margaret Reid AO Chairperson GreaterGood

The devastating bushfires in Victoria remind all of us of the wonderful community spirit and generosity of the Australian people. We pull together in a time of crisis. GreaterGood, whilst still in its infancy, is proud to have been able to donate \$5,000 to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal.

You do not have to be wealthy to be a philanthropist. One way for all citizens to help their community is to establish, or be involved in, a workplace giving fund. It is an easy, cost effective way for each of us to be philanthropists and make a difference to a charitable activity in our community. Talk to GreaterGood about establishing a workplace giving fund. Then the money is available when needed!

GreaterGood into the Future



Doug Gillespie - Deputy Public Trustee

GreaterGood is now into its sixth year of operation having moved from a humble start through initial years of establishment to a more comfortable position of general recognition and public support.

The real success of GreaterGood is in encouraging residents of the region to be more philanthropic, establishing funds to help charitable causes achieve their funding requirements. GreaterGood thereby lives up to its slogan of 'Linking Good People with Good Causes'.

GreaterGood is an umbrella foundation providing people of the region with the infrastructure to settle their own charitable funds with ease and at low cost. GreaterGood now has 28 accounts with a combined capital of \$4.3 million dollars. Six of these ongoing accounts are testamentary (having been set up under a Will), six are corporate, one is regional, another is workplace giving while eight have been established by everyday people who wish to monitor and enjoy their philanthropy during their lifetime. Overall to date over \$450,000 has been distributed to charitable causes.

The philanthropic facility offered by GreaterGood has been well received and it is pleasing to note that every family who has opened a trust fund has returned in later years to make further capital contributions. This indicates strong approval of the operation of their trust fund and an endorsement of the amenity offered by GreaterGood. Donors with GreaterGood are currently sponsoring two young people on Young Endeavour voyages — through Scouts ACT. As well an immediate donation of \$5000 was made to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal.

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The Canberra Community Christmas Lunch supported by GreaterGood and The Snow Foundation - Vashti Biffanti

The St John's Christmas Lunch, co-sponsored by GreaterGood and the Snow Foundation, was a fabulous opportunity and one that I hope to be involved with again.

For some years now I'd been struggling with all the commercialism that is so entrenched in Christmas. Being a believer in the Christmas story I'd been searching for ways to make my Christmas more meaningful.

For many, Christmas is about excesses....a time of joy, abundant food, presents and family. For many it is also a time of great isolation and sadness, void of the joys that so many of us take for

granted.

My Christmas Day 2008 was spent with my family (husband and two children), a hoard of volunteers and roughly 330 of Canberra's needy. It was a day of personal challenge, initially very confronting, but one that finished with a tremendous sense of satisfaction. Amongst the teddy bears for children, carol singing, smiles, hugs, food, empathy and oft expressed appreciation I found the meaning my Christmas' had been missing.

Sue Jordon, Director of St John's Care shared the following sentiments: "This year's Christmas

Lunch was one of the happiest occasions I have been involved in. We served more than 330 meals, but more importantly we had a hall full of happy people, in fact we had so many happy people we had to set up tables on the grass outside.

The music was fantastic and went all day; we had a choir, pianists, and cello and violin players. The turkey and the ham were delicious and everyone had a bonbon to share with the other guests at their table, so there were lots of silly hats and dreadful jokes. It was a happy family Christmas, just a bit bigger than normal."

Partnership with Scouts ACT and the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme

Australian Community

Foundations Statistics for 2008

- Community Foundations are the fastest growing form of philanthropy in Australia
- There are currently 29 established Community Foundations in Australia
- Community Foundations have collectively \$146,700,000 funds under management
- In 2007/08 \$12,000,000 was distributed to charities and charitable activities

In 2008 GreaterGood developed new partnerships with the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme and Scouts ACT. On behalf of the GreaterGood Board, Scouts ACT provided grants for young people to apply to be part of the Young Endeavour Crew in 2009. Two young people were selected. Michael successfully completed his cruise from 23 February to 5 March. *Michael had an awesome trip (his words). He was elected watch leader for command day. He made good friends on the voyage. He was only sea sick once when he was down below doing cleaning duty. He said the food was great.* Natalie will undertake her cruise in May 2009.



The two grants were proudly funded by the Harry and Helen Notaras Family Fund and Ray and Claire Young Family Fund.

Nine Young people from the Capital Region attended the December 12 Day Navigator Course with Outward Bound

In December, eight youths from the capital region discovered, developed and achieved their potential through completing an Outward Bound Australia Navigator course sponsored by GreaterGood.

The eight teenagers were selected by their community to develop their potential as leaders. As they are from disadvantaged backgrounds they could not have completed the course without GreaterGood's sponsorship.

Darren Black, CEO Outward Bound Australia said, “The Navigator program is a personal development and self-discovery experience ideal for developing leadership skills in teenagers. Though this group initially struggled to work as a team, they eventually pulled together and amazed us with their change in attitude. Outward Bound Australia is very proud to be associated with this GreaterGood initiative.”

In the Australian wilderness the sponsored participants, aged 15 to 18, experienced both physical and mental challenges including high ropes courses, abseiling and team building activities. The 11 day course ran from the 2nd to the 13th of December 2008 at Outward Bound's Tharwa base in Namadji National Park.

The participants came from Tumut, Braidwood, Tomboye, Queanbeyan, Milton, Frogmore, Captain's Flat and Bungendore.

One instructor reflected on the group's teamwork saying, “It's moments like this that remind me that teenagers these days are not given enough credit, and if given the opportunity can in fact be responsible. They had to pull together—and they did it!”



Grant recipients from the 2008 Outward Bound Navigator Course

My Outward Bound Experience - Anna Jennings Milton NSW

I would like to thank you for giving me the greatest experience of my life. Outward Bound taught me so much about myself and working as a team. I had the most incredible time even though I missed my year 10 formal and my friends said that I was silly for going. The course was very good and very difficult. At the time I thought the best thing was sitting down and having a break but now I look back and find that every little thing was fun. The most difficult thing for me was the abseiling but it ended up being so much fun. I learnt that I can't always get what I want and to deal with problems straight away and not let them drag out for a day and to cook with just the basics. The list could go on for ever. Thank you GreaterGood for the opportunity to grow and meet new people.



Financial Outlook for GreaterGood in 2009



Being a perpetual foundation, GreaterGood's capital funds are invested for the long term and the economic downturn has had its effect on investments. However, income yields remain strong providing the income funds for charitable distributions later in 2009 and capital investments are well placed to take advantage of the economic recovery when this comes.



For more information

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The people behind GreaterGood



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and Margaret Reid AO -
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Patron

Lady Helen Deane - Patron

Trustee

Andrew Taylor - Public Trustee

Board

The Hon Margaret Reid AO - Chair

Diane Kargas - Deputy Chair

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Jennie Cameron

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Richard Gibson

Doug Gillespie

Chic Henry

Larry King

Sarah Palic

Chris Peters AM

Admin Support

Pat Dart OAM - Admin

Vashti Biffanti - Executive Officer

David Stenhouse - Admin

Sponsors & Supporters



Opportunities for business and Government to establish workplace Giving Schemes in their workplace through GreaterGood

What is workplace giving?

Workplace Giving is a simple and effective means of contributing to the community by allowing your staff to regularly donate to a community group with deductible gift recipient status (DGR)* through automated payroll deductions.

What's in it for employers?

Benefits include –

- Demonstrates a strong sense of community commitment.
- Raises corporate profile and recognition in the community.
- Enhances the bond between employees and employers.

- A highly valuable marketing tool for business.
- Capacity to match employee donations.
- A strong team and morale building tool.
- Cost effective with minimal administration.

What's in it for employees?

Benefits include -

- 100% tax deductibility for donors.
- Your group certificate will record the amount you have donated.
- Donation to charity without pres-

sure from fundraisers.

- No more riffling through wallets for spare change for doorknockers.
- No matter how small your donation is, it will make a difference.
- Flexibility to join, alter or withdraw at any time.
- Enhances the relationship between staff members.
- Directly contributes and benefits your chosen community.

It is practical, hassle-free and highly effective.

For more details ring the Public Trustee on

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