

CONNECT



In this special edition of *Connect*, we profile how Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has supported our health and not-for-profit sectors.

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Response and recovery

As communities across Victoria began the long journey to recovery and rebuilding after the Black Summer bushfires in January, the healthcare and not-for-profit sectors also began to meet the challenges of the newly emerging COVID-19 pandemic. Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation is providing grants to help ensure that our most vulnerable people are supported during this devastating period in Australian history.

In January, the Foundation had already provided emergency grants under our *Disaster Relief Policy* to The Salvation Army and Foodbank Victoria to support fire-ravaged communities in North East Victoria and East Gippsland and were considering further grants as part of the recovery phase. Two further grants to Victorian Council on Social Service (VCOSS) and Habitat for Humanity have since been approved to support the recovery phase.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic State of Emergency in March, the *Disaster Relief Policy* was again activated and the Foundation identified significant health, social and economic impacts that were quickly emerging.

To date, the Foundation has provided \$490,600 in grants for emergency relief and recovery from the bushfires; and \$905,102 in grants to not-for-profit and research organisations across the homelessness, health and community sectors to help combat COVID-19 and support our healthcare and community partners.

The combined enormous scale and unique nature of the bushfires and pandemic both required an extraordinary and rapid response from the Foundation. While responsive philanthropic grant rounds usually take months for processing and approval, the Foundation’s experience of proactive granting enabled the staff and Board to work collaboratively to have the disaster relief grants approved within weeks of applications being received.

The Foundation’s Chief Executive Officer Dr Catherine Brown OAM said, “The organisations we have funded in response to the bushfires and COVID-19 pandemic are inspiring. Many organisations have mobilised their networks to apply a co-ordinated approach to tackling the challenges of both a natural disaster and then a health pandemic.

“These organisations have been able to adapt quickly to changing situations and play important roles in responding to both disasters. The uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic, its timelines and impacts, has meant that the agility and resilience of health and charitable organisations is especially important.

“Our program managers worked with each organisation to ensure that these projects were fast tracked through the granting process, and that the proposed connections and collaborations would meet current community needs,” added Dr Brown.

The grants continue to provide essential food items and meals to vulnerable communities, as well as providing online self-help resources and information about homelessness, social connection and support. Two grants have specifically responded to the health impacts of COVID-19, supporting research and data sharing about the most effective treatment for vulnerable and critical health data services to people and communities affected by the bushfires and COVID-19, not just in Victoria but right across Australia.

“I would like to pay tribute to the incredible leadership and hard work of the leaders and staff teams of these health and charitable organisations. They continue to provide essential and important services to support the community and build resilience during this very challenging time,” added Dr Brown.



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Cover
Foodbank Victoria

Supporting our most vulnerable communities



First of all, I would like to send my best wishes to all readers of *Connect* as we work together to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope that everyone is safe and well. I especially acknowledge the health and emergency workers who have stepped-up to make sure our health system provides the best medical support. Our charities are demonstrating incredible resilience and agility as they adapt their services to meet unprecedented demand using digital tools and new collaborations.

Our outstanding health system has meant that philanthropy in Australia can support additional research about treatment of vulnerable communities. Two projects we have funded are profiled in this edition of *Connect* on page 5. As I have followed the work that is being funded by foundations in the United States, I am struck by how much of the granting is directed at health responses that government has been able to provide here. We are very fortunate to live in this country.

Our wonderful health system also means that foundations in Australia can also focus on supporting the charitable sector scale-up services to meet unprecedented demand so that people have access to rapid advice to help prevent them entering homelessness and gain personal support.

Examples of this support include our grants to Justice Connect and Ask Izzy to expand their online services and for Gather My Crew to build their new street and health crew platforms. It might be interesting for readers to know that Ask Izzy was first funded by a Google Impact Challenge to build Ask Izzy in 2014. However, there is no ongoing funding for upgrading the platform. We have partnered with Infoxchange to do this work so that it can meet the COVID-19 challenge.

The Foundation has long supported the charitable sector to remain viable and robust. We are taking a flexible approach to requests from grant partners for extensions of time or redesigning projects. We are committed to listening to our grant partners and helping them get through this crisis. It is important that we come through this crisis with a strong charitable sector. There will be economic challenges ahead. My thoughts are very much with young people and women because they are large parts of the casual workforce and the gig economy. We are looking for further ways to support these groups.

Despite the very major impact that the COVID-19 pandemic and the bushfires have had on the community, I believe that there are opportunities to 'build back better'. This should always be a goal in the recovery phase of a disaster.

Partnerships between government, business, philanthropy and the not-for-profit sector could lead to an increased supply of social and affordable housing and increase employment opportunities through the renewable energy transition. These would be very positive outcomes and we are supporting various partners who are trying to make these opportunities become a reality.

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is based on the notion of a community helping itself through building up financial and social capital over time. Our donors are people who think of others and want to give back to their community. This is a time when foundations must step up to help people with health, social and economic challenges. As we slowly recover from these disasters, it is also a time when we can support a vision for a more equal and sustainable future for the whole community. Together, we will come through this difficult time.

Catherine Brown

Dr Catherine Brown OAM
Chief Executive Officer



GRANTS

Victorian bushfire relief grants to support emergency response and recovery efforts



ORGANISATION: Foodbank Victoria
PROJECT: Victorian Bushfire Relief
GRANT: \$50,000
[📍 foodbank.org.au](https://www.foodbank.org.au)

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation provided a grant to Foodbank Victoria which was used for emergency food relief in Victorian communities impacted by the bushfires. This included the provision of hampers packed with food staples such as cereal, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, tuna, noodles, UHT milk, tinned fruit and vegetables, as well as hot meals prepared at evacuation centres. Other hampers with key staples and household cleaning products were provided to people returning to their homes.

Visit [lmcf.link/Foodbank-clip](https://www.lmcf.link/Foodbank-clip) to see a short video of our earlier support of Foodbank.

ORGANISATION: The Salvation Army
PROJECT: Bushfire Disaster Appeal
GRANT: \$100,000
[📍 salvationarmy.org.au](https://www.salvationarmy.org.au)

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation's grant to The Salvation Army provided quality meals to fire fighters, emergency workers, evacuees and community members with food and water, essential personal care packs and bedding. The Salvation Army also provided cash grants up to \$1,000 to individuals and families.

ORGANISATION: Victorian Council on Social Service (VCOSS)
PROJECT: Bushfire Recovery Project
GRANT: \$160,000
[📍 vcss.org.au](https://www.vcss.org.au)

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation's grant will enable VCOSS to build the capacity of community and social sector organisations to use data about local needs to support their communities' resilience and recovery from the bushfires. As part of the project, VCOSS will advocate for the recovery needs of community organisations and vulnerable people impacted by bushfires and contribute to effective current and future emergency and disaster recovery planning.

Health & Resilient Communities Senior Program Manager Harriet McCallum said, "The Foundation recognises that community and social service organisations are critical actors in supporting bushfire recovery. They are the trusted and informed network of organisations attune to the needs of their community.

"We have collaborated with VCOSS for several years on the issue of community-led disaster planning and recovery. We are pleased to be partnering with VCOSS as they lead this important sector engagement and advocacy work for the communities across Victoria recovering from the Black Summer bushfires.

"We look forward to bringing in other government and philanthropic partners to support the local level recovery initiatives that are identified through this work."

ORGANISATION: Habitat for Humanity
PROJECT: Temporary transportable homes
GRANT: \$180,600
[📍 habitatvic.org.au](https://www.habitatvic.org.au)

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation's grant to Habitat for Humanity is enabling the organisation to build temporary well-designed homes from shipping containers. The grant will provide one, three-bedroom unit and two, two-bedroom units for families living in the bushfire affected area of Towong Shire.

Homelessness & Affordable Housing Program Manager Erin Dolan said, "Losing a home in such devastating circumstances is unimaginable. These temporary houses will allow those people who have been through this major traumatic bushfire event to stay close to their communities, family and friends.

"These houses will shelter affected families and give them time to rebuild and recover."

Once new family homes have been rebuilt, the temporary homes will be transported to other sites to meet current bushfire housing needs and then for future crisis events. This is an exciting pilot project with potential to be duplicated in other regions in future.



GRANTS

Our response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Grants to support clinical data in healthcare research to combat COVID-19



ORGANISATION:
Alfred Health Department of Infectious Diseases
PROJECT:
Understanding the Impact of COVID-19

In April Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation announced its first major grant in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A grant of \$250,000 was provided to Alfred Health's Department of Infectious Diseases located at Alfred Hospital, which is one of the largest and most comprehensive infectious disease clinical services in Australia.

The Foundation provided the grant to ensure the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people who are at-risk from severe diseases were a priority in the healthcare response during the COVID-19 pandemic. The research is identifying the most effective treatment for these high-risk groups such as older people living in aged residential care and people with compromised immune systems.

GRANT: **\$250,000**
alfredhealth.org.au

Findings from the study have had immediate clinical application at the Alfred and are being shared nationally and internationally enabling other health organisations to increase their capacity to respond to COVID-19.

The Alfred's Department of Infectious Diseases Head of Clinical Research Unit and Infectious Diseases Physician Dr James McMahon said, "The Foundation's grant allowed us to rapidly conduct research on COVID-19 at the beginning of the epidemic in Australia. The forward thinking of Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation to support our project means we were able to begin immediately to try and understand how we can improve outcomes for people with COVID-19."



ORGANISATION: **Monash University**
PROJECT: **National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce**
GRANT: **\$100,000**
covid19evidence.net.au

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation also provided a \$100,000 grant to Monash University to support the National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce, which has been developed by the Australian Living Evidence Consortium, a new national health research collaboration.

Using information gathered from across Australia's healthcare networks, COVID-19 clinical guidelines are being continually updated and made available to clinicians in ICU, respiratory specialists, frontline general practitioners and other health practitioners. These guidelines are a world first in evidence-based 'living guidelines' for the clinical care of COVID-19.

These living guidelines are being updated with new research in real-time to provide reliable, up-to-the-minute advice to clinicians providing frontline care. This will provide reassurance to medical staff that patients are receiving the best possible care based on the latest research during this health crisis.

The Taskforce has a whole of population approach to inform clinicians. The Alfred Hospital initiative funded by the Foundation focuses specifically on highest-risk and those more vulnerable to serious-infection. The outcomes of The Alfred's research can inform these new living guidelines.

GRANTS

Our response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Online resources aim to prevent entry into homelessness



HOMELESSNESS & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

ORGANISATION: **Justice Connect**

PROJECT: **Getting the right help when affected by COVID-19**

GRANT: **\$120,102**

 **Justiceconnect.org.au**

Thousands of Victorians working in retail, travel, hospitality and customer service have become unemployed due to the required public health measures and economic downturn of the COVID-19 pandemic. These newly unemployed Victorians face the prospect of becoming homeless if they are not quickly connected to expert advice. A grant to Justice Connect is enabling them to increase their online resources and self-help tools so that vulnerable people can find expert information about tenancy and advice to remain housed.



HOMELESSNESS & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

ORGANISATION: **Infochange**

PROJECT: **Scaling-up Ask Izzy for COVID-19**

GRANT: **\$120,000**

 **askizzy.org.au**

Infochange supports Australia's social justice sector by providing online technology services including the 'Ask Izzy' website. It is a resource for people seeking information and requiring assistance from not-for-profit organisations.

A grant from Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is enabling Infochange to increase their capacity for Ask Izzy to provide timely, accurate and location-specific information to help people in urgent need of support to connect to critical housing, legal advice, family violence support and emergency relief specific to COVID-19. Ask Izzy also includes a list of all coronavirus clinic locations.

Recognising the critical need to help those newly vulnerable and unemployed, Infochange has improved search results by providing critical guidance not only about where to find help, but how to approach that help, and other helpful considerations.

Ask Izzy continues to work with Justice Connect and other expert agencies to provide COVID-19 related information online to prevent people from entering a cycle of poverty.

GRANTS

Our response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Creating and building support networks for vulnerable people



HEALTHY & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES
ORGANISATION: **Gather My Crew**
PROJECT: **COVID-19 Gather My Crew initiatives**

GRANT: **\$150,000**
 **Gathermycrew.org.au**

Gather My Crew is an online tool that enables people facing tough times or a crisis, such as the recent bushfires, to reach out to their family and friend networks and develop a schedule of care and support. This resource was first funded by the Foundation as a response to the Bourke Street Attack in 2017.

Since the bushfires and with the onset of COVID-19, Gather My Crew has identified new opportunities to work with emergency response organisations and community sector partners to launch tailored technology solutions that activate and coordinate online 'support crews' around vulnerable and isolated Victorians during this challenging time.

A grant from Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has supported three new initiatives to be added to the core self help platform to create communities of care for the most vulnerable people in our local areas as well as to support the dedicated healthcare professionals who are working through the pandemic.

1. Street Crews for local neighbourhoods

– for local communities to help one another, identify and respond to practical support needs, communicate with each other, and coordinate the best possible care for vulnerable people within their neighbourhood.

2. Volunteer Crews for local government areas

– for groups of volunteers within local government areas that are activated to provide needs-based practical support to the most vulnerable and isolated within communities especially during the social distancing measures.

3. Kindness Crews to support healthcare professionals

– developed in partnership with Pandemic Kindness to provide specific and targeted support to health professionals who are working to support Australia during the COVID-19 crisis.

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

ORGANISATION: **Contemporary Arts Precincts**

PROJECT: **COVID19 Collingwood Yards – Emergency Appeal**

GRANT: **\$50,000**

 **collingwoodyards.org**

For the past three years, the formerly derelict Collingwood Technical College site has been redeveloped into the Contemporary Arts Precincts (CAP), now known as Collingwood Yards. This important cultural asset which supports Melbourne's inner-north arts community is Australia's first contemporary arts precinct.

CAP's newly opened Collingwood Yards is now unable to become fully operational and open to the public as a retail, hospitality and arts community due to the government restrictions and requirements to curb and flatten the COVID-19 curve.

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, along with other philanthropic organisations, are providing grants to CAP's emergency fund to support the range of arts and Indigenous organisations, community not-for-profits and social enterprises with rent relief so that they are able to remain operational and maintain paid staff during these uncertain times.

Visit lmc.f.link/CAP-clip to see a short video of our earlier support of CAP.



GRANTS

Our response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Mobilising Melbourne's food community for emergency relief



EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

ORGANISATION: **StrEAT**

PROJECT: **COVID-19 A moving feast**

GRANT: **\$100,000**

 **movingfeast.net**

StrEAT, a social enterprise established in 2009, provides hospitality training in the cafes around Melbourne to young people experiencing homelessness or who are about to become homeless.

StrEAT has responded to COVID-19 by coordinating a group of social enterprises to create Moving Feast with the aim of providing good, wholesome nutritious food to vulnerable communities across Melbourne. It is also providing much needed support, training and employment to people in our community.

By activating a network of chefs in kitchens, delivery drivers and distribution centre staff, the enterprises are working together to pack and deliver food to vulnerable people and communities. They also have kitchen gardeners growing produce to stock kitchens for future meals.

Education & Employment Program Manager Stephen Torsi said, "Moving Feast is an excellent example of an innovation that responds to immediate needs whilst aiming to create a more just, sustainable and resilient system beyond the crisis."

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has a well-established history of funding individual social enterprises, including some of those participating in the new Moving Feast collective.

The Moving Feast rapid response COvid19 grant provides immediate and urgent funding to address increased community need and enables the enterprises to keep delivering vital services.

Moving Feast collective includes:

- StrEAT
- Asylum Seekers Resource Centre Catering
- Kinfolk
- Common Ground Project
- Fruit2Work
- Community Grocer
- Cultivating Community
- Common Ground Project
- Good Cycles
- Fareshare
- Collingwood Children's Farm

The Foundation's Chief Executive Officer Dr Catherine Brown OAM said, "The collaborative and creative approach of the food social enterprises is a wonderful example of the agility of social enterprises. They are providing important services to the community and, at the same time, ensuring that they remain relevant and viable enterprises."



FOOD SECURITY

Foodbank Victoria

PROJECT:

COVID19 emergency food relief funding

GRANT: **\$15,000**

 **foodbank.org.au**

COVID-19 has had a major impact on the availability of everyday grocery store items, Foodbank Victoria's supply chain of donated food goods became depleted each day.

As stock levels have become alarmingly low, Foodbank faced the prospect of having to buy food items and goods to meet the unprecedented demand. Foodbank found itself in the unusual situation of competing with supermarkets to access produce, especially fresh and chilled items for people in need in Melbourne.

To assist in meeting the urgent need, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation provided a \$15,000 grant to help Foodbank increase their stock levels with critical goods enabling them to continue distributing much needed food and goods to the most vulnerable people in our community.

Impact Area Updates



ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Improving health and wellbeing with greater energy efficiency

ORGANISATION: **Brotherhood of St Lawrence**

PROJECT: **Climate Safe Homes**

GRANT: **\$150,000 over 2 years**

bsl.org.au

The Brotherhood of St Lawrence and Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation have developed a program that reduces the energy bills and temperature related health impacts of our most vulnerable households.

The project will increase the energy efficiency and climate resilience of vulnerable households by providing rooftop solar systems, efficient reverse cycle heating/cooling, insulation and assistance during times of temperature related risk. People with health conditions who are sensitive to the increasing heat of summer or the extended cold of winter will be made a priority to receive support.

The project has reduced costs by working with existing service providers, encouraging discounts from suppliers, utilising state government subsidies and using a small range of energy upgrades, as opposed to costly site-specific energy audits and retrofits.

Environment & Sustainability Senior Program Manager Daniel Padiaditis said, “This project is a component of the Foundation’s ‘Energy Efficiency and Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Homes Initiative’. We aim to increase the energy efficiency and climate resilience of vulnerable households to reduce the cost of living, reduce emissions and provide protection from temperature related health impacts.

“The broader Initiative is also seeking to secure higher energy efficiency standards for new homes in the National Construction Code, as well as the associated measures for existing homes and appliances. Improving building efficiency is consistently identified as a ‘least-cost’ option for reducing emissions across the Australian economy.

“These households are particularly vulnerable to COVID19 impacts. Their pre-existing health conditions make them more susceptible to contracting the disease and experiencing severe health outcomes, so self-isolation will likely be more pronounced in this part of the community. Equally, people referred to the program will likely have compounded economic pressures from unemployment or underemployment, where utility cost savings will really help.”

HOMELESSNESS & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

New accommodation for women is a safe place to call home

ORGANISATION: **YWCA Housing**

PROJECT: **Richmond House redevelopment**

GRANT: **\$500,000**

ywca.org.au

Richmond House is the largest women-only rooming house in Australia and is owned and managed by YWCA. The 69-bed single room facility provides accommodation for women experiencing severe hardship, including family violence.

With the support of Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation, YWCA Housing plans to redevelop Richmond House, to provide a further 28 units of one-, two- and three-bedroom residences to house women and children escaping family violence.

This redevelopment will provide a safe and secure ‘forever home’ for residents, enabling women to be accommodated whilst also being part of a supportive community.

Homelessness & Affordable Housing Program Manager Erin Dolan said, “Women escaping violence need long-term solutions including the ability to access employment, schools and amenities so they can thrive. The location of Richmond House is close to all these facilities and opportunities.

“This development will give women and children not just a temporary shelter, but a home and an opportunity to rebuild their lives.”

Another innovative aspect of the redevelopment is YWCA’s commitment to hire women tradespeople to increase women’s participation in the construction industry.

Investment strategy report

Weathering the economic uncertainty



Chief Financial and Operating Officer, Darren McConnell with Board Member and Chair of the Investment Committee, Dr Raphael Arndt.

Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation’s strategic asset allocation maintains both growth and defensive assets. The change in its investment allocation and strategy to a more institutional quality investment model over the past three to four years, with greater diversification has put the Foundation in a sound position during these uncertain economic times.

The Foundation’s Investment Committee in consultation with its Asset Allocation Advisors, Frontier, monitor the Foundations’ portfolio closely on a monthly basis. During March and April, the portfolio was monitored on a daily basis as we encountered unprecedented volatility in investment markets all over the world.

The spread of COVID-19 and the concurrent effect on global economies due to the shut down of economic activities culminated in sharp falls in equity markets globally.

The Australian All Ordinaries Index fell to a low of 4,564 by 23 March, a 37% fall from the all-time high of 7,255. The magnitude and speed of the market fall as well as the lock down in global economies, led to a mass of unprecedented emergency government spending and monetary policy measures to support economies throughout the world. These efforts helped to settle the investment markets somewhat in the month of April.

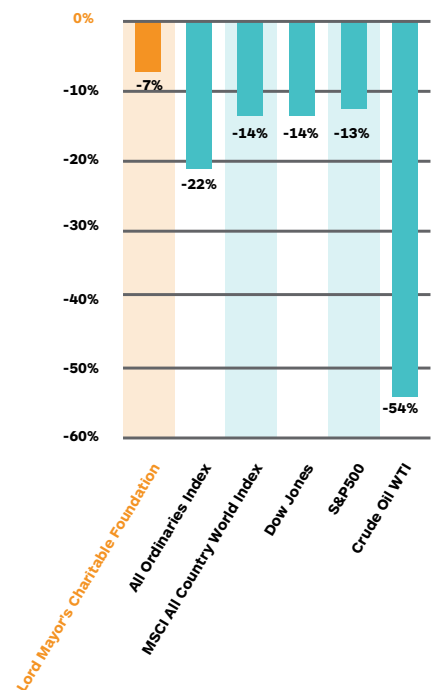
At Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation, our investment portfolio was resilient and

weathered the turbulent market relatively well. The Foundation registered a 7% decline in value in the month of March. This compares very favourably with a 22% fall in the All Ordinaries Index and a 13% decline in the S&P500. The strategy to hold on to high levels of cash prior to the market meltdown worked in our favour. We were able to opportunistically add to our equity positions during the sharp correction.

It is still early days yet, with the economic impact of COVID-19 likened to the Great Depression. However, we believe that a cautious approach during these unprecedented and volatile times, together with a diversified portfolio, will position the Foundation’s investments to weather the economic uncertainty.

The Foundation’s transition to a spending policy and methodology has enabled the Foundation to respond to disasters in the community swiftly and maintain grant distributions during the bushfires and current COVID-19 crisis. The spending methodology will smooth out the level of

1 MONTH PERFORMANCE, END MARCH 2020



grant distributions for current and future beneficiaries over the long term. The development of the Foundation’s spending policy sits within the overall investment risk appetite and investment risk budget. This spending policy will reduce granting volatility over periods of time, whilst also monitoring the overall investment corpus is growing in real terms relative to inflation.

We remain vigilant and nimble and look to deploy capital when opportunity arises. It is important to take a long-term view on investing in order to maintain the future granting ability of the Foundation.

Darren McConnell
Chief Financial and Operating Officer



GRANTS

Responding to community crises is part of the Foundation's history



Looking back through our history, Australians have endured and survived natural disasters, economic downturns and major conflicts, and during these times of crisis, community foundations and charitable organisations have been at the forefront of community-led response and recovery.

Since 1923 Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has been a major contributor to the health and wellbeing of greater Melbourne, often being one of the first to respond to natural disasters or bravely funding early immunisation programs for children in the 1930s and HIV AIDS research in the 1980s. Without hesitation, the Foundation launched public fundraising appeals for the bushfires of 1939, 1983 and 2009, whilst also providing grants for emergency relief and recovery, including in January this year.

The Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund for Metropolitan Hospitals and Charities was established by Lord Mayor Sir John Swanson in 1923 with fundraising campaigns

already underway to support the healthcare needs of returning servicemen and women from World War 1. Public hospitals relied on the Fund's fundraising appeals to generate incomes to support the high-level care required and the purchase of equipment. By 1930, the Fund was supporting Melburnians through the poverty of the Great Depression.

This year, in addition to the COVID-19 rapid response grants, the Foundation launched its COVID-19 Community Resilience Fund Account to receive donations and provide additional funds for further grants.

This will enable the Foundation to support more organisations as we progress through the pandemic to recovery.

The Foundation's Chief Executive Officer Dr Catherine Brown OAM said, "We have always been prepared to identify emerging issues and provide grants to minimise the impact of social issues on our community. 2020 has been a challenging year with the devastation of the bushfires in Victoria and then the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"With the support of the Melbourne community and our donors we can help overcome the challenges presented by COVID-19 whilst also helping communities in regional Victoria affected by the bushfires to recover and rebuild their lives."

DONOR STORY

Ian and Nancy Wood

With an incredible commitment to serving and supporting the community, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation donors Nancy Wood OAM and Ian Wood have participated in every aspect of community life from heritage and history, to community music projects and saving their local environment.

After meeting Nancy at the University of Adelaide, and graduating, Ian purchased a small pharmacy in Port Pirie, South Australia. Then, newly married, Ian operated the pharmacy to make it both an important community asset and a successful business, with Nancy assisting.

Ian recalls they worked very hard as small business owners while also caring for their two children and incredibly, found time to volunteer for several community projects.

"Nancy and I were founding members of the Port Pirie Branch of the National Trust in 1967. Nancy served as president for 38 years and I was treasurer and secretary. Nancy was the first woman Branch president elected in South Australia and perhaps in Australia. Nancy was not only preserving history, but she was also making it," said Ian.

Over the course of 38 years, they worked hard to save a significant number of historic buildings in Port Pirie and established the local museum. Nancy organised fundraisers for their branch including concerts, old style dances and the occasional street parade.

Preserving history and saving heritage were not the only interests for this talented couple.

"We both became involved in Port Pirie Music Club and revived the Club Choir in 1990, with daughter Phillippa as conductor. Since 2003 we have also performed hundreds of duet and quartet concerts at no cost, entertaining residents of aged care and adult day care centres, with the Merry Music Makers Quartet and Nancy at the piano."

In 2004 Nancy was recognised for her wonderful contribution to the Port Pirie community and received an Order of Australia Medal.

Both Nancy and Ian stay fit and on daily walks collect discarded bottles and plastic containers littered on the roadside for a 10c return. "I imagine I would be the only donor who donated \$180 from 1800 drink containers collected last year, in addition to our normal contributions!"

In 2009, Ian, together with Rev Trevor Bensch, was a co-founder of the group Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Assisted Dying. As spokesperson and national co-ordinator, Ian has been very involved in lobbying for this compassionate end of life choice.

Continuing their life-long commitment to serving their community, Nancy and Ian established their Charitable Fund Account 2016 with the Foundation to provide ongoing financial support in perpetuity to their favourite not-for-profit organisations as well as funding a singing scholarship for young performers.

"Being involved and supporting our community has always been important to us. We have experienced both sides of the financial spectrum and this is a major factor in our wish to donate back to the community through Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation," added Ian.



Ian and Nancy Wood were presented Swanson Society pins for their support of the Foundation.

UPDATE

Together, we will overcome

As Australia's oldest and largest independent community foundation we have a deep understanding of what generous and motivated donors like you want to achieve with your giving.

The challenges we are facing locally, be it responding to and recovering from bushfire disasters or globally with the COVID-19 pandemic has meant donors want to know with even more certainty how their giving is creating impact.

Our recently launched 'Together' campaign has been developed to demonstrate how effective, relevant and inspiring a Charitable Fund Account with Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation can be in times like these.

A Charitable Fund Account provides strategic and effective ways to give in perpetuity. Additionally, donors can tailor their giving to the charities and areas they care most about so they can create impact today, and in years to come.

Charitable Fund Account holders benefit from the deep knowledge the Foundation has on over 2,000 charities and the most pressing issues facing our community. A Charitable Fund Account further connects individuals and families with the Foundation's experience and expertise across our four key Impact Areas.

If you would like to know how you can establish your own Charitable Fund Account with as little as \$2,000, please contact us on (03) 9633 0033 or visit lmcf.org.au.

As we know, when our community comes together, we can overcome anything.