

POCKET

FROM THE



23 FEBRUARY 2022

Generosity helps lighten the load for flood-affected people in Wide Bay

Community support is crucial when disaster strikes, so people don't have to face the recovery challenge alone. Local community organisations in the Wide Bay-Burnett region are continuing to help people affected by the recent floods to get back on their feet. Through our Disaster Relief Appeal \$23,620 has already been distributed to help those most in need.

Our new partnership with GIVIT means we can respond quickly when or where disasters occur across Queensland. File photo supplied by GIVIT.



Good together: matched giving and Member-led initiatives

Bowen Meals on Wheels received a helping hand with a new commercial dishwasher from funds raised by Kennedy Freemasons Lodge and matched by Hand Heart Pocket.

Each week an army of volunteers help to distribute around 100 meals across the region.



As a thank you to the doctors and nurses for their tireless efforts during the pandemic, the Corinthian Royal Arch Chapter, with the support of Hand Heart Pocket, gave \$22,000 to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (Queensland Section) in Bundaberg for annual flight nurse training and pre-term baby emergency kits.

Funding snapshot

2021-22 (as at February 2022)

\$110,201

Member-led giving to 22 local community organisations

\$2.3M

to youth at risk partnerships
incl. prior year commitments

\$50,000

to River 2 Reef Ride in Mackay

\$24,563

to seven families in need

\$187,500

committed to GIVIT for 3-year disaster relief partnership

From the Chairman

I know many of us didn't expect 2022 to begin the way it has, but it seems our patience is paying off.

We are making good progress on several fronts and I am pleased to provide you with an update here.

Disaster Relief Partnership

As I announced in our e-newsletter just before Christmas, we have partnered with GIVIT, a not-for-profit based in Queensland, to make sure we can provide immediate support to people in need when disasters strike.

I am proud we have launched our first disaster relief appeal with GIVIT. Thank you to everyone that contributed to the appeal to help communities directly impacted by the Wide Bay Burnett floods, in the aftermath of ex-tropical cyclone Seth.

We know it's been particularly difficult for them given they are in the midst of a pandemic as well, which complicates disaster relief efforts.

As soon as GIVIT assessors were on the ground and meeting with local community organisations, we were able to get a clearer picture of the level of need and were able to tailor our support.

A week after the weather event, Hand Heart Pocket donated \$20,000 on behalf of the Freemasons of Queensland and launched a statewide appeal so that our Members could contribute financially if they could. So far our Members have generously donated an additional \$3,620.

GIVIT have now been able to distribute \$23,620 (100%) across local community organisations on the ground to ensure people and communities get exactly what they need, when they need.

Here are some examples of the impact we are making together:

An older gentleman who lives by himself in a caravan lost everything he had in the floods. Located in a rural area, the gentleman doesn't have a car or access to public transport. He is normally taken into town once a month to stock up on his groceries. Through our support alone he received a fridge freezer, boots, a camping table and a dining chair.

A single father and his two children are being supported after their plans to settle in the region were hampered by the floods. They lost the family car and all their belongings. With no family support, they are currently living in a motel and the costs are mounting. As local community organisations help them to find a permanent home, we have helped to provide some of their immediate needs like grocery vouchers, school essentials, toiletries, clothing and shoes. Other generous donors are also pitching in.

Make sure your community is prepared for disaster season by asking your local community organisations to register with GIVIT, so help can flow through quickly. Registration is free. Go to: www.givit.org.au/need-help.

Our philanthropy

So far this year Hand Heart Pocket has committed \$1.59 million in philanthropic giving and has distributed an additional \$1.84 million from prior-year reserves for multi-year commitments to our strategic partnerships. The current year support includes \$1.2 million committed to a new youth focused three-year partnership called Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership. This is the first time Hand Heart Pocket has paid ongoing multi-year commitments from reserves. This will become a usual feature of our multi-year strategic giving.

Not-for-profits continue to feel the pressures of these difficult times and our Members have continued to seek out needs and lend a hand. Member-led initiatives have totalled \$110,201 so far this financial year.

Member Survey

Feedback from our recent Member survey will help us make sure our Dollar 4 Dollar program empowers our Members to be engaged in their local community. It shows that Members would do more community work if Hand Heart Pocket were to provide dollar-matching and other resources. More key insights are shared on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter.

Alasdair Begley
Chairman

Our philanthropy 2021-22 (as at February 2022)

Giving distributed \$687,000

- 12% Youth at risk giving (awarded this financial year)
- 1% Health and ageing giving
- 3% Disaster relief giving
- 1% Hardship assistance
- 3% Member-led local giving

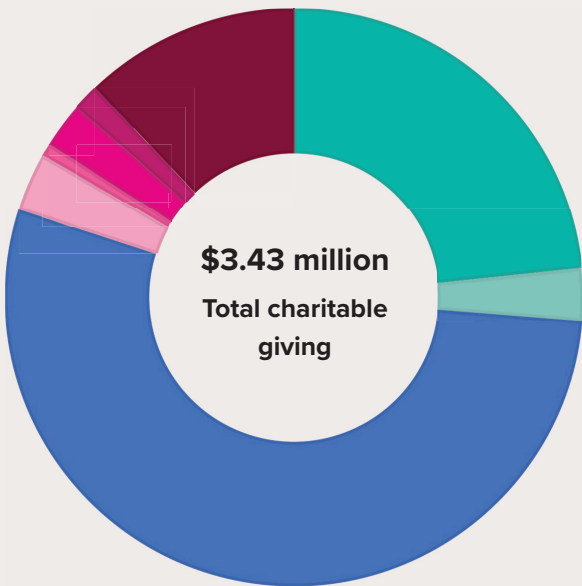
Giving committed \$900,000 (multi-year partnerships payment pending from grant reserves)

- 23% Youth at risk
- 3% Disaster relief

Prior year giving commitments distributed \$1.84 million

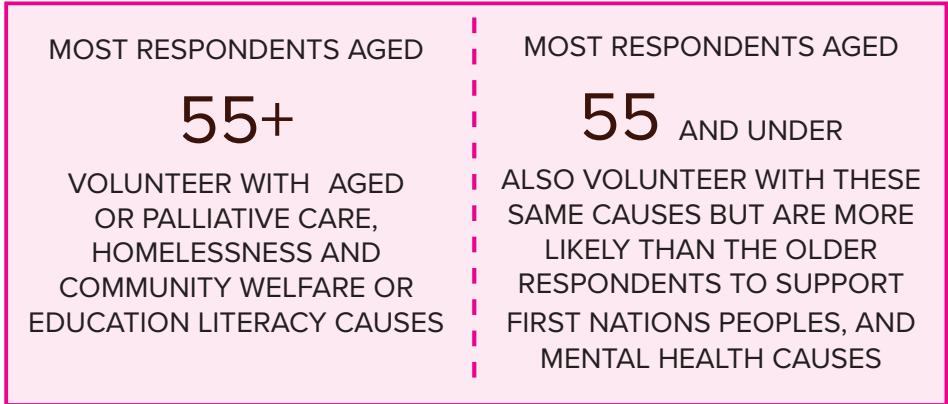
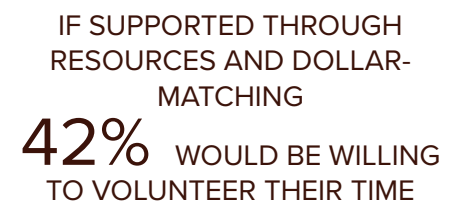
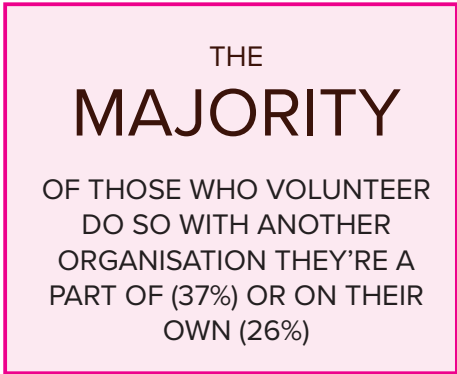
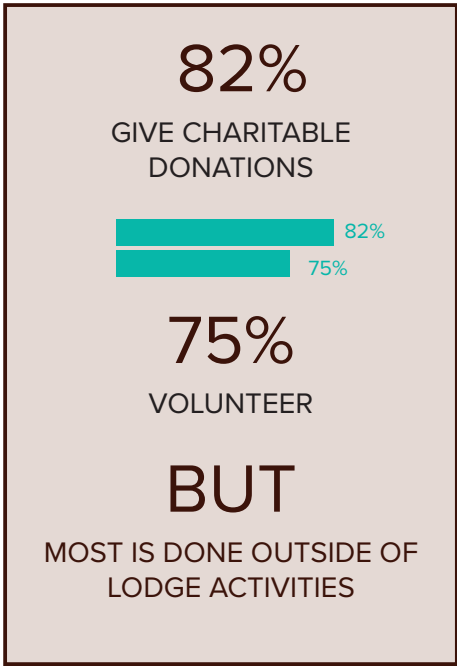
- 54% Youth at risk (multi-year partnerships paid from reserves)

Note: A copy of our audited financials will be published in November.



Member survey: Members engaging with their local communities

Our recent Member survey helped us understand how you prefer to give, fundraise and volunteer as well as the local causes and issues you care about most. This feedback will inform the expansion of our support for Lodges in their community work through our Dollar 4 Dollar program. Thank you for taking the time to ensure Members' voices are represented in this important part of our strategy.



Member survey: Some frequently asked questions and answers

Our Members asked some good questions when completing our survey and we thought it would be helpful to share some of the answers here.

Q: Why does Hand Heart Pocket only give to causes that support the broader community, not Members?

A: Hand Heart Pocket has been a public charity since 1978. We are regulated by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) which enforces, the ACNC Act 2012 (Cth). This government legislation requires public charities to only distribute funds for public, charitable purpose. Initiatives like paying Members' fees or helping Lodges retain their Masonic buildings are considered Member benefit, not public benefit because Masonic buildings primarily benefit Members and not the broader public. Also, Lodges are not charities.

However, the United Grand Lodge of Queensland which is a separate entity, can support Member benefit activities. They also administer the Masonic Fund of Benevolence (MFoB), a Member-benefit fund to support Members and their families in necessitous circumstances. For more information about the MFoB please contact UGLQ directly.

Q: How do we get better recognition of the work of Freemasonry locally?

A: For centuries, Freemasons have been at the heart of local communities. Getting involved in Member-led activities, with the backing of Hand

Heart Pocket behind the scenes, can amplify community recognition of Freemasonry. Whenever you're out in the community raising funds for a Member-led initiative, (which has been approved for matched-giving), make sure you are in your Hand Heart Pocket polo shirt. Talk to people in your community about how your Lodge is continually giving back and helping people in need. Together we can inspire the spirit of benevolence i.e. Hand – practical help, Heart – genuine empathy, Pocket – financial generosity.

Q: Why are we supporting young people in need when there are other groups in need as well?

A: We do both. Our purpose – to partner for change for people in need – is at the heart of everything we do and our Members help to bring this to life in communities across Queensland and Papua New Guinea.

Our Members have the flexibility to support the causes they care about like aged care, health support services and disability care – initiatives and organisations that support people in need more broadly.

We also know that young people in need are facing more challenges across more aspects of their lives than ever before, and we have an opportunity to partner with community organisations to make a difference for them. By supporting these young people to thrive, we are honouring the legacy of our forebears who also addressed the most pressing social issue of their time.

Q: What local charitable causes would qualify for Hand Heart Pocket Dollar 4 Dollar matched giving?

A: Hand Heart Pocket can help enhance Members' community work through Dollar 4 Dollar matched giving.

Causes that would qualify include:

- Aged and palliative care
- Disability support e.g. Guide Dogs
- Homelessness and community welfare
- Mental health
- Volunteer rescue
- Disaster relief
- Child and family welfare, including domestic and family violence support
- Youth at risk
- Health support services e.g. cancer care
- Education for children in necessitous circumstances

Charities supporting animal welfare do not qualify. Other criteria is the organisation must have DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) Category 1 status. You can easily check this on the ABN lookup website at: www.abr.business.gov.au

If your Lodge needs help to identify local charities that would qualify for Dollar 4 Dollar support please get in touch with the team at Hand Heart Pocket. We would be happy to provide a list of organisations for your consideration. You can reach us through the contact details below.

Mental health and wellbeing



Check out the Black Dog Institute's free podcasts and webinar series for all things related to mental health.

Podcasts: blackdoginstitute.org.au/education-services/podcasts

Webinar series: blackdoginstitute.org.au/education-services/webinars/upcoming-community-webinars

Follow My Health for Life on Facebook **MyhealthforlifeQLD** for tips, tools and resources to maintain a healthy lifestyle or take their free online health check at myhealthforlife.com.au

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