

25 FEBRUARY 2024



Allan thinks that Dollars 4 Doers is pretty sweet. He recently had his volunteer hours matched by Hand Heart Pocket, with a donation going towards medical research into heart disease, lung disease, mental health and ageing. Photo courtesy The Common Good.

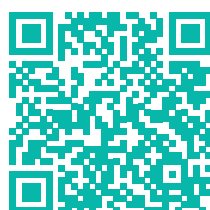
Allan serves up a treat and has his hours matched for medical research

If you're at the Brisbane EKKA (Exhibition) you can't go past the iconic Strawberry Sundae. For generations families have enjoyed the EKKA staple, that not only puts smiles on faces but also raises funds for life-saving medical research at the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation, through the Common Good charity. Allan Connors of Athole Lodge is one of 2,000 volunteers that roll up their sleeves to help run the stall during the 9-day event, serving up to 100,000 sundaes each year.

Now in his 11th year volunteering at the Strawberry Sundae stall, Allan has had this years' hours matched with a \$500 donation from Hand Heart Pocket. He simply completed his volunteering, obtained a letter from the Common Good charity verifying his hours and applied for Personal Dollars 4 Doers.

According to a spokesperson at the Common Good charity, Allan's volunteering over many years has supported 4,100 hours of medical research into heart disease, lung disease, mental health and ageing, while Hand Heart Pocket's \$500 donation will support an additional 10 hours of medical research.

Scan the QR code
to get started



Dollars 4 Doers spotlight



1,725 hours

matched by Hand Heart Pocket
since the expansion of our
Matched Giving program to include
Members' volunteering in their
local communities

From the Chairman



Even though we are two months into the year, this is the first opportunity I have had to wish all our Members a Happy New Year! Our thoughts have been with the many Queensland communities affected by natural disasters over the summer. These communities have demonstrated great strength and resilience through the enormous challenges they have faced, and it has been heartening to see their fellow Queenslanders stepping up to back them in their recovery efforts.

Helping communities recover

As each natural disaster unfolded, Hand Heart Pocket responded quickly, working with our partner GIVIT to understand what was needed on the ground. On behalf of the Freemasons of Queensland, Hand Heart Pocket donated a total of \$150,000 to support affected communities in both the immediate aftermath and recovery

phases of the summer’s disasters, which you can read more about on page 4 of this newsletter.

Double matching online

It has been great to see Lodges and Members getting online to apply for matching from Hand Heart Pocket, following the launch of our online portal late last year. Our Double Matching offer for all online applications made between October 2023 and February 2024 is almost at a close, and we are on track to provide an additional \$78,020 to Members’ nominated charities as a result of your online applications. This is a wonderful result that will really support the excellent work that your charities do in your local communities. Paper- based applications will continue to be accepted, however online applications are encouraged. Scan the QR code on page 1 to start.

Our charitable giving

Our financial position remains strong despite market turbulence, with our Net Assets as at December 2023 at \$205.49 million, representing a -0.16% decrease since 1 July 2023. Our total charitable giving for the financial year to-date is \$4.48 million. I am also keen for you to learn more about some of our new strategic partners and how we are working together to support young people in need across Queensland. Read more on page 6. On behalf of the Board, I would like to wish all Members a safe and productive 2024.

Alasdair Begley

Chairman

Good Governance series: Our corpus and inflation

Our investment strategy is clear – to protect and leverage the value of the assets we hold on behalf of the Freemasons of Queensland. To do that, it has been our long-term goal to earn a return of 4.5% plus the average rate of inflation. This means that, if we earn enough each year we can make donations and afford expenses that total 4.5% of our financial assets, and the value of our remaining assets will keep pace with inflation.

As with all investments, annual returns on our portfolio will fluctuate. Our commitment to responsible stewardship of our asset base, however, does not. We take a long-term view of risk, return and opportunity and at all times we keep a steady hand, and strategic view, on how our portfolio is invested.

This measured approach to investment means that over the past 5 years we have achieved an average internal rate of return of 8.2% and have outperformed our chosen benchmarks over 3 and 5 years. Because of this performance we have been able to continue giving to the Queensland community where it is needed most, while maintaining the real value of our financial assets. We welcome Members’ interest in our investment approach. Please send your questions to our info@ email.

Our philanthropy 2023-24 (as at December 2023)

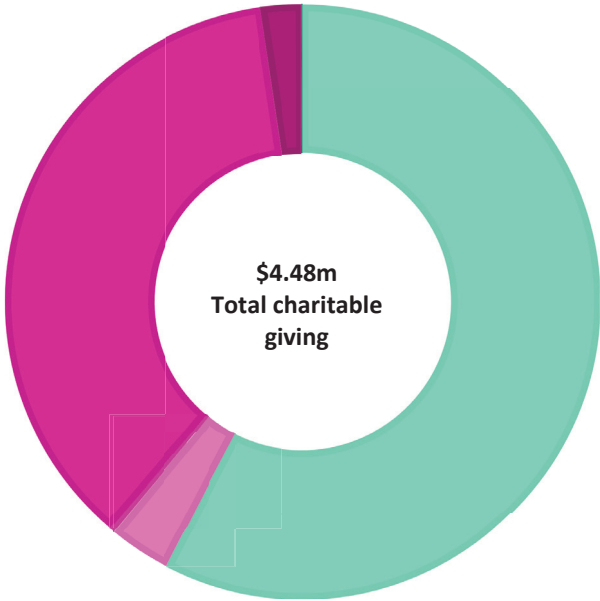
Giving distributed \$1,900,835

- 2.2% Disaster Relief
- 36.5% Youth at risk giving
- 0.3% Hardship Assistance
- 3.3% Member-led local giving

Giving committed \$2,580,000

- 57.6% Youth at risk committed

Note: A copy of our audited financials are published each year in our Annual Report and on our website.



Champions spotlight: Wide Bay region



If you're from the Wide Bay region, get your questions answered by local Hand Heart Pocket Champions John Smith and Russell Darcy.

Meet John, our newest Champion for the Wide Bay region. John joins Russell who has been a Champion in the same region for over six years. Formerly the Commodore of Volunteer Marine Rescue Hervey Bay, John joined Mundubbera-Burnett Lodge in 2021 and as a Hand Heart Pocket Champion, has recently been supporting four Lodges with the formation of a Local Community Partnership with Maryborough Special School.

Co-Champion Russell is also supporting two Lodges to explore a potential Local Community partnership with a local disability service provider. Members in the Wide Bay are active in their community and as regional Champions, Russell and John are there to help them maximise their community impact, by supporting them to access Hand Heart Pocket's backing through Matched Giving, Local Community Partnerships and more.

Doug puts wind in the sails of Sailability



Christmas came early for Sailability Sunshine Coast when Doug McGill of Maroochydhore Lodge surprised the charity with a \$1,000 donation from Hand Heart Pocket, to match his volunteer hours with them. Doug has been a volunteer with Sailability for over five years and this latest donation comes as part of Hand Heart Pocket's Double Matching Campaign, for all applications submitted online via our new online portal between October 2023 and February 2024.

Sailability Sunshine Coast provides people with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy freedom on the water. You'll find Doug on the banks of Mooloolah River most Tuesday and Friday mornings, helping up to 28 people enjoy the social and health benefits of being outdoors. The \$1,000 donation from Hand Heart Pocket will go towards new equipment to ensure participants have a good experience. Keep up the great work Doug!

Think you've got what it takes to be a HHP Champion? Get in touch today!



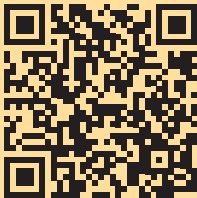
Are you passionate about community and good at bringing people together? Are you a natural at building relationships and collaborations? Then why not apply to become a Hand Heart Pocket Champion! We currently have 13 volunteer Champions across Queensland but more are needed. Our goal is to ensure every region has an active Champion, to help maximise Member' community impact.

What does a HHP Champion do?

- ☒ Promote HHP's programs and outcomes within Lodges
- ☒ Be the go-to person in your area to assist with applications for Hand Heart Pocket's Matched Giving program, Local Community Partnerships, Hardship Assistance and more.

To enquire about becoming a HHP Champion, please scan the QR code below or call us on (07) 3493 6000.

N.B. applications to become a Champion must be broadly supported by the region you are looking to represent.



GIVIT's co-ordinated approach means disaster affected communities get exactly what they need in a dignified way. Check if your local community organisation is eligible to receive support from GIVIT when disaster strikes.

\$150,000 donated on behalf of Members to help communities recover after a summer of extreme weather

Since 2022, thanks to our partnership with GIVIT, Hand Heart Pocket has been able to respond quickly each time a natural disaster strikes our State.

Building on our Members' tradition of supporting communities in the immediate aftermath of disasters, a total of \$150,000 has been recently donated on behalf of the Freemasons of Queensland, to multiple disaster relief appeals since December 2023.

100% of these donations to GIVIT directly support communities across affected regions, through experienced local community organisations and charities.

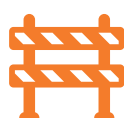
1) During the emergency response period – to help people with their immediate needs (such as vouchers for food, clothing, medication and fuel vouchers to run generators), and

2) During the recovery period – to help people with longer term needs (such as replacing essential household furniture and whitegoods, clothing, school supplies and uniforms).

Hand Heart Pocket will inform Members each time a Disaster Relief donation is being made to GIVIT on your behalf, and invite you to contribute as well.

Members can also encourage their local community organisation to check their eligibility to register with GIVIT in advance of a disaster, so that support made possible by our partnership with GIVIT can flow through to people in your community in their time of need. It is free for local community organisations to register, simply go to: www.givit.org.au/sign-up.

GIVIT's co-ordinated approach means communities get exactly what they need in a dignified way. What's more, vouchers and goods are purchased as locally as possible to support local businesses in their recovery as well. Scan the QR codes below for more.



Donations to GIVIT from 2022-24:

- \$20,000 for the Wide Bay floods in 2022
- \$80,000 for the South East Queensland floods in 2022
- \$15,000 for the North West Queensland floods in 2023
- \$50,000 for bushfires in Tara, Atherton and Gladstone in 2023
- \$100,000 for Tropical Cyclones Jasper and Kirrily in 2023/24
- \$50,000 for the South East Queensland storms in 2023/24



Scan the QR code for more about GIVIT's role in natural disasters



Scan the QR code to support recovery efforts today

If you would like to join the efforts to help Queenslanders affected by these disasters, you can donate funds directly to GIVIT, through the Hand Heart Pocket Disaster Relief Appeals. 100% of your donation will go directly to people affected by these disasters, so don't delay.



Supporting regional, rural and remote communities to build resilience



Not only are we ready to respond when disaster strikes, our partnership with the Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal (FRRR) goes one step further.

Through our partnership with FRRR, we are also doing our bit to help communities better prepare for natural disasters, and to have better long-term social and economic outcomes as a result.

With our funding, community groups from rural and regional communities can apply to FRRR for Climate Solutions Grants that will support community-led projects to:

- Reduce their carbon emissions;
- Prepare for energy transition to renewable sources; and
- Build their resilience to a changing climate.

FRRR's expertise and connections across Queensland means we can support disaster preparedness and resilience in many more local communities than ever before.

Scan the QR code for more about our approach to disaster resilience



Helping Queenslanders navigate the rising cost of living, through financial counselling and practical assistance



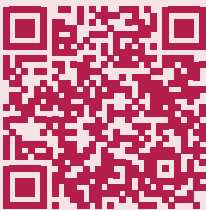
It doesn't take much these days to fall behind with your rent, mortgage or credit card repayments. Often after a lifetime of managing money well, a sudden illness, relationship breakdown or job loss can have a big impact on our financial stability. Through Hand Heart Pocket's partnership with UnitingCare we bring the right people around the table, to help people get back on their feet.

If you or someone you know in your community is struggling financially, please contact us to request a referral to UnitingCare. We don't ask personal questions, only your name, best contact number and consent for us to pass your details to UnitingCare so they can contact you to see how they can help. A financial counsellor can do much more than just help you budget.

They can:

- Speak to financial institutions and service providers on your behalf to negotiate payment plans, and even potentially debt forgiveness;
- Connect you with other organisations that offer practical relief, such as hampers, vouchers for groceries or help with school books and uniforms; and
- Help you improve your overall financial literacy skills.

Scan the QR code for our Hardship Assistance brochure



A service for all Queenslanders doing it tough

- **Speak to an experienced Financial Counsellor usually within 72 hours of being referred**
- **Your choice of face-to-face, telephone or virtual appointments**
- **Free and confidential advice tailored to your situation and aspirations**
- **Receive a one-off grant from HHP on the recommendation of the Financial Counsellor**
- **Find out what other support is available in your local area**

Contact us:

Hand Heart Pocket, Executive Office, Mosaic, Level 1, 826 Ann St, Fortitude Valley Q 4006
PO Box 1202, Fortitude Valley Q 4006
Tel: 07 3493 6000 Email: info@handheartpocket.org.au Web: www.handheartpocket.org.au

The Board of Benevolence and of Aged Masons, Widows and Orphans' Fund trading as Hand Heart Pocket the Charity of Freemasons Queensland
ABN: 54 216 065 828 Charity No: CH2627

Find Hand Heart Pocket on:



Investing in the future through our strategic partnerships



Partner: Youth Insearch

Region: Bundaberg, Chinchilla, Dalby, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Miles and Roma

\$350,000 for one year

When a young person is supported with their mental health, they build socio-emotional skills, resilience, peer networks and improve their overall wellbeing, giving them hope for their future.

Since partnering with Youth Insearch in 2020, they have supported 804 young people aged 12-24 through weekend workshops, weekly local support groups and peer mentoring, along with case management by Support Workers. Another 120 young people will be supported in the next year.



Save the Children

Partner: Save the Children

Region: Port Moresby, PNG

\$200,000 p.a. for three years

Instilling important life skills early on can help a young person navigate the transition to adulthood more confidently.

Since partnering with Save the Children in 2020, 360 young people aged 14-24 have had training on how to access alternative education pathways and internships, have learnt more about prevention and recovery from drug addiction, prevention of domestic and gender-based violence, avoiding unwanted pregnancies, HIV AIDS and STIs, and resolving issues when involved in the justice system. Another 360 young people will be supported.



Partner: Men & Co. Services

Region: Redlands and Logan

\$496,000 p.a. for two years

Helping a young man to better understand his emotions and ways to deal with stress can lead to a healthier and happier home and healthier happier communities in general.

The Young Men's program is a new initiative of Men & Co. With our support they will be able to train professionals to deliver this program, as well as develop and roll-out additional modules for targeted support. Men & Co. will help 180 young men a year when the program gets underway.



Partner: Lady Musgrave Trust

Region: Ipswich

\$75,000 p.a. for two years

Giving a young mum and her children a roof over their head is the first step to starting over, after being homeless.

Lady Musgrave Trust will run a pilot program at their Ipswich property, providing tenancy support for young mums to nurture their self-confidence and self-determination. Services will include educational and vocational workshops and training and financial literacy programs, supporting the women to make a sustainable transition to independent living. The results will be the evidence base for future funding.



YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTRE INC

Partner: Youth Advocacy Centre

Region: Queensland-wide

\$250,000 for one year

Incorporating the voices of young people with lived experience of vulnerability is the best way to help ensure that future systems truly enable young people to thrive in adult life.

Hand Heart Pocket will partner with the Youth Advocacy Centre (YAC) to facilitate a Youth Ambassador Pilot Program to provide insights to Hand Heart Pocket on the issues affecting young people and how we can best help to shape new systems through our strategy. Having an advisory group inform our Board will strengthen our strategic decision-making.



YILIIYAPINYA
Indigenous Corporation

Partner: Yiliyapinya Indigenous Corporation

Region: Inala, Logan City

\$314,000 p.a. for three years

Our brain's ability to change, grow and recognise is nothing short of amazing.

Indigenous young people who have gone through trauma and adverse childhood experiences will be supported to improve the neuroplasticity of their brain and overall brain health through the Yili program.

The aim of the program is to help young people to improve their cognitive, social and emotional skills, leading to reengagement in schooling, training or employment and to reducing reoffending and further instances of youth detention. 115 young people will be supported over the next three years.