

Glen Waverley Uniting Church Proposed Congregational Outreach Projects 2019

We received nine applications with a total request of \$32,000. Five of the applications were for overseas projects and four for projects within Australia. Eight of the organisations have received funds from GWUC before. Of these eight, PDI and Friends of Baguia are requesting funds for new projects. GDIM Reidel Congregation Men's group, Indonesia has applied for funding for the first time this year. The COP panel met with all the applicants and we were buoyed by the passion with which each applicant spoke of the project they would like GWUC to support in some way.

Applicant / Name of Organisation	Funds Applied	Proposed funding according to Fete proceeds		
		\$20,000	\$25,000	\$30,000
LOCAL				
Strathdon / Parkmore Faith Community	\$1700	\$500	800	\$1300
GWUC Welfare Committee	\$5000	\$4500	\$5000	\$5000
STATE/NATIONAL				
Uniting Lentara Asylum Seeker Project	\$3500	\$2500	\$3000	\$3500
Frontier Services	\$3000	\$1500	\$2500	\$3000
OVERSEAS				
Friends of Ermera	\$4000	\$1000	\$1200	\$2500
GMIM Reidel Congregation Men's Group	\$3000	\$2500	\$3000	\$3000
Johnsonville UC Solomon Bukama Fiji Project	\$3500	\$2000	\$2500	\$3100
Possible Dreams International (PDI)Swaziland	\$5180	\$2500	\$3500	\$4600
Friends of Baguia	\$4000	\$3000	\$3500	\$4000

Glen Waverley UCA Welfare Committee Congregation Sponsor - Dorothy Lockhart

Our Welfare Committee provides assistance in many forms to those in our local community. This may include listening, sharing a prayer, advocacy, referring a person to an appropriate Community Agency and practical assistance such as a voucher to purchase groceries or food. Some clients are homeless, refugees, victims of family violence or suffering from mental and physical illness. Funds are sought to purchase supermarket vouchers through Uniting Care, supermarket goods and MYKI tickets.

Strathdon/Parkmore Faith Community Congregation sponsor - Graeme Schober

Strathdon Faith Community brings worship, service and a sense of community to residents in the Strathdon Agewell Community (Uniting Church) in Forest Hill. Graeme Schober works as a volunteer at Strathdon. Funds have been requested to provide financial assistance for Chaplaincy work. This includes media clips, birthday and bereavement cards, flowers, speakers and resources for worship with palliative care residents.

Uniting Lentara Asylum Seeker Project Congregation sponsors – Robin Pope & Lyn Maslen

This organisation is one of only three organisations in Victoria which provides accommodation with support for asylum seekers in our community. Since July 2018 the criteria for asylum seekers receiving Federal Government housing support have changed, leaving many in danger of homelessness and without access to trauma counselling and healthcare. Lentara provides support for about 56 asylum seekers, mostly through the use of temporarily donated housing. It provides case workers, and support for residency applications, and a basic living allowance and runs the Welcome Centre in Brunswick. GWUC has an active Asylum Seekers Support Group of 8 members who fund raise and aim to provide accurate information about current policies concerning asylum seekers.

Frontier Services Congregation sponsor – Donna Vanclay

Frontier Services provides pastoral and practical community support to isolated and remote communities in Australia. These include indigenous communities, remote properties and mining sites. Frontier Services' mission is "To support, link and empower the people of Outback Australia by creating connections and mobilising resources". Funds have been requested to assist the Northern Territory Barkly Tableau Patrol to cover the costs of running the pastor's outback vehicle. This involves the servicing of the vehicle, the replacing of tyres and the purchase of fuel. Donna Vanclay and her late husband Fred were Patrol Padres for over seven years with Frontier Services.

Friends of Ermera Congregation sponsor - Bobbie Rooks

This organisation's aim is to improve the level of education services in the region of Ermera, Timor-Leste. It supports many projects which aid the local community. Bobbie Rooks has been actively involved in their work in the past. Funding would be used to purchase a variety of materials – in particular stationery, for the teachers and secondary school students in the English Study Centre Program.

Johnsonville Uniting Church Bukama Village project Fiji Congregation sponsors – Heather Wilkins & Robin Pope

Johnsonville Uniting Church is part of GWUC's broadcast ministry. With only seven active members, outreach work is challenging! It has a long history of aid work in the Pacific region and is seeking to support a project in the remote village of Bukama in Fiji. The village has a population of 1000. There is only solar power and no electricity. The funding would support a program for women in the village to develop skills and knowledge about reproductive health, family violence and protective behaviour with Train the Trainer model of teaching. In addition, it will fund a public speaking and craft program for women and girls.

Possible Dreams International Congregation sponsor – Deborah Leigh

PDI has applied for funding for the SEED (Sanitation, Education, Empowerment and Dignity) project based in Mpaka located in Lubombo, the most poverty-stricken area of Swaziland. This project would fund the construction of 14 pit latrines, water connection and hygiene education for the community. It is estimated that around 140 people will directly benefit from the project. The founder of PDI, Dr Maithri Goonetilleke has spoken at GWUC about his work in Swaziland and Free Spirit members have been active in fundraising for the organisation.

Friends of Baguia Congregation sponsor – Judy Lowe

Friends of Baguia are volunteers who aim to foster friendship and give support to the people of Baguia in Timor-Leste. This group have completed projects related to education, water and food production there. Due to a lack of jobs, almost all people in the Baguia region live a subsistence agricultural life. Judy and Murray Lowe actively support and visit Baguia regularly and GWUC has supported several projects in the past. This year they have applied for funding for the 2020 Computer Training program. It is anticipated the classes will assist up to 500 high school students, adult and teachers gain skills in basic computer literacy and provide employment for the six Computer Program trainers.

GMIM Reidel Congregation Men's Group Congregation sponsor – Lucky Kalonta

The GMIM Reidel congregation in Indonesia is a sister church to GWUC. In May eight members of GWUC visited the congregation in Reidel. The COP Committee is excited to recommend support to the Bedah Rumah project. Many members of the Reidel congregation live in substandard housing without the means to improve it. The Men's Group volunteer labour to renovate houses to make them comfortable to live in. \$3000 would provide materials to renovate two houses. The project is overseen by a committee of the Men's Group and the senior Minister.