

Monday, 7 April 2008
3:00 pm WST

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RESPIRE IN SIGHT FOR ALBANY

The Albany Lions Community Care Centre champions have successfully raised more than A\$380,000 thanks to the generosity of the local community supporting the community respite project. With a target of A\$500,000, the group is well over half way to reaching its goal.

The Lions Club of Albany first established the community care centre in 1987. Today, Albany Lions Community Care Centre provides a service to over 600 clients, 6 days a week with a team of 32 staff and volunteers.

In 2007, the Great Southern Development Commission and Western Australian Community Foundation collaborated to establish a Challenge Grant Program to support philanthropy in the region. The proactive Albany Lions Community Care Centre raised \$10,500 through a range of fundraising activities, which was matched dollar-for-dollar by the Great Southern Development Commission to boost their deposit to establish a donation fund with Western Australian Community Foundation.

The Albany Lions Community Care Centre sustainable fund, under the Trusteeship of Western Australian Community Foundation, will help address the increasing need to offer flexible respite options to carers and self-carers in the Albany region.

Over the last nine months, staff and volunteers have been actively raising funds to enable a purpose built facility to be developed at the centre's current premises on Hardie Road in Albany. Once complete, the facility will support carers, and those being cared for, in Albany and the surrounding community.

To date, the project has received support from Lotterywest, local businesses and service clubs through financial and in-kind donations, forming a current fundraising balance of A\$380,000. To ensure sufficient funds are raised to complete the community respite project, the Albany Lions Community Care Centre is appealing to the community for their further support.

"For those who have already donated or pledged support, thank you," said Colleen Tombleson of the Albany Lions Community Care Centre.

"Our fundraising target is A\$500,000. The endowment will grow to support the construction of a respite facility – an urgent requirement for Albany. We are now over half way there, but are appealing to the community to further support the project."

"Albany Lions are to be congratulated for their strategic approach towards the construction and management of the proposed respite facility," said Tonia Swetman, Chief Executive Officer, Western Australian Community Foundation.

Those interested in making a contribution, monetary or in-kind donation, to assist with site works, building supplies, equipment or furnishings are invited to contact the centre on (08) 9841 8668 for further information.

(ENDS)

Western Australian Community Foundation

The first of its kind in the state, Western Australian Community Foundation provides a unique opportunity for communities to establish long-term sustainability.

Western Australian Community Foundation is an independent organisation created to build stronger, sustainable communities, by growing and distributing endowed funds, and encouraging the sharing of knowledge to meet emerging needs.

Western Australian Community Foundation, supported by our Patron His Excellency Dr Kenneth Michael AC, Governor of Western Australia, and by the Premier and Leader of the Opposition as Vice Patrons, is a viable, well governed and administered tool that WA communities can utilise to invest in their community for the long term.

Western Australian Community Foundation's key aim is to assist communities across the state of Western Australia to establish sustainable financial models for community funding options in a framework and environment that is conducive to sharing, learning, mentoring and open communication.

As Trustee, the Foundation is the umbrella organisation for WA communities to benefit from philanthropy without the burden of administration and governance responsibilities. Donations (gifts) are accepted and managed to earn annual income which is reinvested in the nominated community as a regular source of funds for future generations.

Desired long term outcomes include an increased focus on building social capital in communities, leading to stronger, self reliant communities and a vibrant and sustainable state.

CONTACTS:

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