



MEDIA RELEASE

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RETURN TO REGION

Thanks to the generosity of the local community, more than \$9,000 of income earned from donations made to the South West Community Foundation, will be shared amongst grass roots initiatives across the South West region.

Administered by Western Australian Community Foundation, the South West Community Foundation has been created to build a local fund for local communities to access forever. The regional fund has grown over the last two years, earning sufficient income to fund five deserving projects as part of the fund's 2008 grant round. As the fund grows, the increasing income earned from the fund will continue to be returned to the region.

The worthy South West initiatives include the Walpole Community Telecentre, Volunteer South West, Escape Youth Group, Smart Events and the St John Ambulance Sub-Centre at Boyup Brook.

The Walpole Community Resource Centre will receive a grant for the purchase and installation of a fixed projector screen for the community centre. The equipment will provide opportunities for youth, families and seniors to access culture, learning and entertainment for personal and community wellbeing.

An application from Volunteer South West to support its 'Enhancing Access Program' has also been approved. The program encourages people to be active in the community through volunteering. The grant will assist in the delivery of a range of training resources.

'Express yourself', a project run by Escape Youth Group in Harvey to assist in the delivery of life skills and learning opportunities for young girls aged 12 to 17 years, will also receive a grant. 'Express yourself' is a series of workshops delivered by professional facilitators and female leaders within the community to develop and increase self esteem, confidence and wellbeing.

Funding will also be provided to support the purchase of an equipment trailer by Smart Events, to create a mobile event kit available to communities across the South West. Current equipment has been in circulation for three years, covering twelve shires and benefiting over 500 event volunteers. This grant will renew items needing replacement or repair.

St John Ambulance Sub-Centre at Boyup Brook will receive a grant to support the purchase of a specialised battery charger and a wheelchair. The sub-centre was also successful in receiving a grant from *Future Boyup Brook* to purchase a treatment bag for protecting portable medical equipment contained for transport outside the ambulance.

"Following the great success of our pilot project, the 'Out There Mobile Youth Space', focus was directed towards smaller, grass roots projects that require support within communities across the South West," said Wendy Perdon, local advisory committee chairperson.

"This year's grant round sees a variety of local projects receiving support and we are excited to see donations from South West community members directly benefiting the South West region."

Tonia Swetman, Chief Executive Officer, Western Australian Community Foundation added "The 2008 grants are a tangible result of South West communities taking control over their own destiny by supporting the South West Community Foundation, the perfect vehicle to ensure the community benefits in perpetuity."

To make an online credit card donation today and support communities across the South West region, please visit <https://wacf.org.au/DonationGateway.asp> .

For more information on *South West Community Foundation*, or to speak with a local advisory committee member, contact Western Australian Community Foundation on (08) 9224 6000 for details.

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