



MEDIA RELEASE

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BACK TO SCHOOL RELIEF

Local families have received back to school relief thanks to an initiative delivered by Western Australian Community Foundation and the *South West Community Foundation* local advisory committee. To help reduce the burden of costs associated with the commencement of a new school year, a number of vouchers have been distributed locally, in partnership with the Salvation Army.

Recent research has revealed that it costs more than \$2,000 on average per year to send a child to a public primary school and more than \$4,000 a year to send a child to a government high school. In response to this need, the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) in partnership with the Sidney Myer Fund, is working with community foundations across Australia to provide practical help.

Through a FRRR grant to Western Australian Community Foundation, a number of WA communities including the *South West Community Foundation* were successful in receiving 90 vouchers for local families to assist with the purchase of books, school uniforms and other essentials.

The *South West Community Foundation* was established in 2006 to directly benefit local people and local projects. It is one of many regional funds established under the trusteeship of Western Australian Community Foundation. Western Australian Community Foundation is an independent organisation set up to strengthen WA communities by promoting philanthropic community-business partnerships.

"This is an excellent opportunity for the *South West Community Foundation* to partner with the Salvation Army to support a number of local families through the use of the vouchers," said Wendy Perdon, local advisory committee chairperson.

"Western Australian Community Foundation is very grateful to FRRR and the Sidney Myer Fund for providing this opportunity for our communities to support their communities," said Tonia Swetman, Chief Executive Officer.

"The Foundation's key aim is to assist communities across WA establish a sustainable financial model in order to strengthen their community for the long-term. The *South West Community Foundation* advisory committee is to be commended for their commitment in taking advantage of the 'Back to School' program. The initiative is a wonderful example of community capacity building at work."

For more information on the *South West Community Foundation* call (08) 9224 6000.

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