



FOUNDATION UPDATE - OCTOBER 2020



From the Chairman

Most of this year has not been without its challenges with so many people and organisations impacted by the pandemic. We hope our company members and Order of the Eastern Star (OES) members are keeping well.

During this time, the Eastern Star Foundation board has continued its commitment to its philanthropic and investment strategies so that we can continue to help our aged to live well. We have also launched our new website www.easternstarfoundation.org.au which gives our stakeholders and potential grant applicants easy access to information about the activities of the foundation and how to apply for a grant. We welcome your feedback on the new website by emailing info@easternstarfoundation.org.au

Our philanthropy in action

In our last newsletter, we announced

the successful grant recipients for our inaugural, annual grant round, which were Lady Musgrave Trust, Blackall Range Care Group, and Palliative Care Queensland's Ambulance Wish program. We are currently accepting applications for our 2020-21 financial year grant round which will close on 30 November 2020. The successful grant recipients from this round are expected to be announced in the earlier part of next year.

The Lady Musgrave Trust held its 2020 annual conference as an online forum on 5 August. This conference formed part of the Ending Homelessness for Older Women Project of which the grant from the Eastern Star Foundation helped to fund. The project also included an online resource platform www.thehandyguide.com.au/older-women and hardcopy Handy Guide for at-risk and homeless older women, so they are aware of where to go for help.

Members of the board also recently attended a small ceremony to unveil the Eastern Star Foundation logo on the Wish Ambulance "Betty". The Eastern Star Foundation's grant to the Palliative Care Queensland Ambulance Wish program will fund their volunteer village coordinator to ensure the smooth scheduling of volunteer activities and to make sure the volunteers receive the required training to perform their roles. You can read more about the unveiling ceremony on page 2.

Investing for the future

Investment markets globally have continued to remain volatile as a result of the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic. The value of our investment portfolio has increased slightly from the end of the last financial year, and as at the end of September, was valued at \$10.6 million. However, we need to take a long-term view on our investments, so our investment policy incorporates a relatively conservative risk profile so that our investments can withstand normal market fluctuations over the long-term.

Our Annual General Meeting is on Thursday 12 November 2020. This year, it will be a smaller event because of COVID-19 and will be held at the OES Hall at Woolloongabba with just our company members. Unfortunately, our usual venue would not have been big enough with the current health guidelines in place. Company members will soon receive their formal notification of the meeting.

I look forward to sharing more information with you about the foundation's work and hope that you all stay well.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Nantes

Chairman, Eastern Star Foundation

Our vision:

To empower those who enhance the quality of life for our ageing communities.

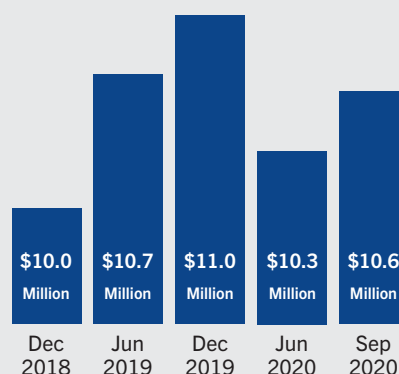
Our mission:

We provide financial assistance to help initiatives become a reality for charities who care for our ageing communities, support their independence, and who are committed to helping them live well.

Our values:

Dignity • Independence • Hope

Value of investment portfolio



The Eastern Star (Australia) Foundation Ltd trading as Eastern Star Foundation

ACN 166 950 321
ABN 36 640 477 592

Registered office:

PO Box 1202,
Fortitude Valley QLD 4006
Mosaic, Level 1, 826 Ann Street,
Fortitude Valley QLD 4006
Ph: 07 3493 6093

info@easternstarfoundation.org.au

Program granting last wishes marks partnership with logo unveiling



A philanthropic partnership that is enabling more terminally ill Queenslanders to fulfil their last wishes and create memories forever has been marked with a special unveiling.

This week, a number of Eastern Star Foundation board members toured Ambulance Wish Queensland's Volunteer Village, met with volunteers and took part in the unveiling of the Eastern Star Foundation logo on "Betty" the Wish Ambulance.

It follows the handover of a \$50,000 grant to Palliative Care Queensland earlier this year, to support the volunteers of the Ambulance Wish Queensland program, which provides specialised transportation and the necessary medical care to empower those faced with a terminal illness to carry out their last wishes.

The grant is being utilised to fund the volunteer village coordinator, to ensure that all program volunteers such as

paramedics, doctors, nurses and members of the community, receive the required training to perform their roles within the requirements of the program. The coordinator also ensures the smooth scheduling of volunteer activities and measures volunteer engagement.

Palliative Care Queensland Chief Executive Officer Shyla Mills said they were proud to finally celebrate this partnership, especially after the program had to be put on hold for a period of time due to COVID-19.

"Through their support, Eastern Star Foundation will enable us to extend our reach," Ms Mills said.

"Our program, although still in its infancy, has really struck a chord with the community, so the recruitment, training and coordination of our ever-growing team of volunteers is a crucial component of our success.

Since launching last year, we had over 200 expressions of interest to volunteer within the first six months.

"The benefits of granting a final wish go far beyond the person requesting it and can equally impact the person's loved ones and their wider support network. Therefore, our ability to provide a safe and enjoyable experience is our priority, so that memories can be made, and patients wellbeing can be improved. In addition, the positive impact this program has on our volunteers is important too.

"Of course, what all of this will allow us to do, in a broader sense is, to change the narrative around positive dying."

The grant was one of three initiatives to be funded by Eastern Star Foundation in its inaugural grant round, since becoming a charitable foundation last year. The group, which was formerly known as Star Aged Living, operated a not-for-profit aged care facility in Beaudesert before it was sold to Whiddon Group.

Eastern Star Foundation Chairman Jonathan Nantes said his organisation was proud to partner with Palliative Care Queensland on this important program.

"Our charitable focus is to empower those who enhance the quality of life for our ageing communities and given that the majority of Ambulance Wish Queensland's clients are in their older years, this partnership was the perfect fit," Mr Nantes said.

"We would like to thank the volunteers for meeting with us today and for sharing their stories, their presence really capped off the special unveiling. We look forward to furthering the work of Ambulance Wish Queensland to give the gift of choice to those nearing the end of life to fulfil their last wishes."

Check out our new website at www.easternstarfoundation.org.au

The Eastern Star Foundation now has a new website which has been designed to give company members, OES members and grant seekers easy access to the information they need, as well as news stories about the foundation's philanthropic work. Visit www.easternstarfoundation.org.au to find out more.

