**MEDIA RELEASE
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**GIVIT LAUNCHES SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS *GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE* PROGRAM TO IMPROVE WELLBEING IN THE REGION**

In partnership with the Southern Highlands Foundation, not-for-profit donation platform GIVIT has launched a G*ive Where You Live* program to ensure local charities have access to donations that improve the social and economic wellbeing of people in the region. The program will assist people across the Southern Highlands who are suffering from hardship as a result of natural disasters, COVID-19 lockdowns, domestic and family violence and homelessness.

GIVIT New South Wales Manager Scott Barrett said residents can support their community through the donation of items or funds to assist vulnerable people across the region.

“We’re putting a call out to local charities, schools and community groups supporting Southern Highlands residents to register with GIVIT to access donations for their clients,” said Scott.

“GIVIT is free and easy to you use, allowing these organisations to focus on delivering their core services, reducing the administrative and financial cost of managing donations and offers of help.”

100% of donated funds received by GIVIT will be used to purchase what’s needed by residents in the region. GIVIT purchases locally where possible to support local communities.

“We already have a lot of registered needs in the Southern Highlands, including a young couple experiencing hardship due to lockdowns, they have a newborn baby and have just moved into temporary accommodation,” said Scott.  “They’re in need of furniture and essential items to help them to get back on their feet.”

“We also have a single mother with two children fleeing domestic violence. They have just secured a rental home and need a range of essential items to help them rebuild their lives.”

Southern Highlands Chair Shelley Boyce OAM said the focus of the Foundation is to bring people together from all sectors of the community to identify and address local issues.

“We believe in the power of individuals and organisations working together to effect positive change in our community,” said Ms Boyce.

“Southern Highlands were impacted by bushfires last year, and the pandemic has had a huge effect on our tourism sector meaning there are a lot of people really struggling.”

“We’re pleased to be partnering with GIVIT to inspire people in our region to support the community during times of need.”

GIVIT has already begun assisting people in the Southern Highlands thanks to generous donors.

“We’ve been able to help a family that lost their home in the Black Summer Bushfires who are living in a temporary pod with no access to town water,” Scott said. “GIVIT was able to provide them with a water tank, giving them access to clean drinking water until they’re able to rebuild their home.”

To donate or learn more about GIVIT’s Southern Highlands Relief Program visit [https://www.givit.org.au/appeals/givit-together/give-where-you-live-southern-highlands](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.givit.org.au%2Fappeals%2Fgivit-together%2Fgive-where-you-live-southern-highlands&data=04%7C01%7Ckate.fisher%40givit.org.au%7Ce2904c06ddbf4a614de708d9674451e6%7C807670e60901463ba6023cc7ddc5fa00%7C0%7C0%7C637654365394450541%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=8jfZMXA1qnDR%2FK1zgukLkkOD%2FsZ6S5z15ndgtLsEhT8%3D&reserved=0). To pledge an item that may not be listed go to [www.givit.org.au/donate-items](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.givit.org.au%2Fdonate-items&data=04%7C01%7Ckate.fisher%40givit.org.au%7Ce2904c06ddbf4a614de708d9674451e6%7C807670e60901463ba6023cc7ddc5fa00%7C0%7C0%7C637654365394450541%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=fc9Xuc2C65bdVuh8mB2LxrBCwe4z8m3n7kEL7XGOFvM%3D&reserved=0).

Local charities, services and community groups in the Southern Highlands can register with GIVIT for free to access thousands of donations offered by generous individuals and corporates. Register via [GIVIT.org.au/need-help/organisations](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.givit.org.au%2Fneed-help%2Forganisations&data=04%7C01%7Ckate.fisher%40givit.org.au%7Ce2904c06ddbf4a614de708d9674451e6%7C807670e60901463ba6023cc7ddc5fa00%7C0%7C0%7C637654365394450541%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=XKbYIk9Yd98ebUjZIsjQqrEhYmEUSDsNylnJY2SMPNo%3D&reserved=0).

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**About GIVIT**

GIVIT is the smart way to give. Through [GIVIT.org.au](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.givit.org.au%2F&data=04%7C01%7Ckate.fisher%40givit.org.au%7Ce2904c06ddbf4a614de708d9674451e6%7C807670e60901463ba6023cc7ddc5fa00%7C0%7C0%7C637654365394460499%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Z%2BBGO4%2FQnrHt9hKaRFBjs7AsXP9xNxJ0aGSmAZHWJrM%3D&reserved=0), we channel generosity where it is needed to support vulnerable people and communities in Australia.

Working with more than 4,000 support organisations, we ensure people get what they need when they need it most – whether recovering from an emergency event, or experiencing hardship due to circumstances such as drought, domestic and family violence, homelessness, disability, and mental health.

GIVIT captures all offers of goods and services online, removing the need for charities and services to sort, store and dispose of unrequested donations, saving valuable resources. 100% of donated money received by GIVIT to support people in need are used to purchase essential items and services. We buy locally, wherever possible, to support local businesses and the economic recovery of affected communities. GIVIT’s operational costs are covered by government contracts and corporate partners.