



Hands Across Canberra
Your Community Foundation



**Chief Minister's
Charitable Fund**



Building our Future Together

IMPACT REPORT 2024-25

Scan to view
the full report
and stories from
our donors,
supporters and
grant recipients.



WELCOME

2024-25 has been a year of consolidation, growth, and achievement for Hands Across Canberra as we strengthen our engagement across the community.

The Canberra Day Appeal exceeded all expectations, raising more than \$840,000 for participating charities. In addition, we ran the Gears 4 Giving small grant rounds, the annual Sue Salthouse leadership grants and a Christmas gift appeal.

More than 350 charities used our platform to raise funds, increasing donations by 150%. We delivered capacity building workshops in governance, efficiency, and innovation to the charity sector, with more to come.

Working with our Canberra Foundations Collaborative partners the Snow Foundation, John James Foundation and additional funders Aspen Medical and Davencare, we made almost \$2 million worth of grants to projects across the community, meeting urgent need.

Our first major corporate partnership offering, the HAC Heroes, is flourishing alongside our named fund donors, who are the core of the organisation's financial sustainability.

This report provides a brief glimpse into all the ways your generous donations are strengthening our community. Thank you to everyone who gives of their gifts, time, and talents to make this possible.

Together, we are building a better and fairer Canberra for us all.



Greg Boorer (Chair)

Hands Across Canberra and the
Chief Minister's Charitable Fund



Genevieve Jacobs AM (CEO)

Hands Across Canberra and the
Chief Minister's Charitable Fund

Hands Across Canberra acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS IN 2024–25

Growth & Milestones

- Reached **\$6.17 million** in assets across CMCF and HAC
- Surpassed **\$6.5 million** in grants distributed since inception with partners
- Our Named Funds have doubled since 2023 reaching **\$2.16 million**

Awareness & Engagement

- Hands Across Canberra experienced **extraordinary digital growth**, with new followers and engagement tripling across platforms
- The Canberra Day Appeal Fun Run grew to nearly **1000 participants**
- We engaged with **94 local business** during **21 events** throughout the year

Partnerships & Community

- Working alongside **350+ community partners** to support Canberrans in need
- Launched a **new charity house project** in collaboration with Master Builders Association ACT, in celebration of their centenary
- Expanded our partner network to **100+ dedicated supporters**
- Launched our new Corporate Giving Program, onboarding **40 supporters**:
 - **12 HAC Heroes** – outstanding supporters who go above and beyond.
 - **11 HAC Activators** – passionate, loyal advocates investing time and energy in our mission.
 - **16 HAC Champions** – committed community members who amplify our impact.

Giving & Granting

→ **150% INCREASE**

in charitable giving through the HAC portal to Canberra-based charities

→ **\$1.35 MILLION**

distributed to local charities

→ **\$2.1 MILLION**

raised during the year for investment and granting

→ **SUPPORTED
170 CHARITIES**

across our giving programs, to:



Stock community pantries and provide support to food insecure families



Amplify the voices of people with lived experience of the justice system



Increase access to extracurricular activities for vulnerable Canberrans



Protect and support vulnerable children and women



Empower people with disability by developing leadership skills and opportunities



Provide shelter and essential food relief for people experiencing homelessness



Foster belonging, inclusion, and connection across our city

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED PARTNERS

Your commitment and care help countless people and families, building a fairer, stronger Canberra every day.

This year, we proudly launched our new corporate giving program, welcoming 40 incredible supporters who have stepped up in meaningful ways.



HAC HEROES

Our outstanding champions who go above and beyond to promote and support our mission.

Bendigo Community Bank
Canberra and Regions

Brand and Peta Hoff

CDC

Gears4Giving

Hindmarsh

Masters Builders ACT

Parker Coles Curtis

Property Council ACT

REIACT

RKDN

Snedden Hall & Gallop

The Tall Foundation

The Village Building Co

ZANGO



HAC ACTIVATORS

Passionate advocates, actively investing in Hands Across Canberra and the charities we serve.

Bradley Allen Love

Canberra Airport

Canberra Raiders

Capital Chemist

Carter & Co

Charterpoint

King O'Malleys

OneX

Region Media

Sam Behr Designs

SCAIO

SWELL

Thoroughbred Park/Festival of Speed

Turning Stones Recruitment



HAC CHAMPIONS

Committed community members amplifying our impact through volunteering, pro bono services, media support, grassroots promotion, and ongoing presence.

ABC Radio

ALLBids

Brindabella Insurance Brokers

Canberra Business Chamber

Canberra City News

Canberra Convention Bureau

Canberra FM Radio

Canberra Innovation Network

Capital Socks

Christine Shaw Properties

IKEA

Instant Colour Press

JB Were

NGA

Talkforce Media

The Canberra Times

University of Canberra

Thoroughbred Park/Festival of Speed

Turning Stones Recruitment

Our heartfelt thanks go to the 350+ inspiring organisations in our network who are on the frontlines tackling Canberra’s challenges and building on our community’s strengths.

We are very grateful for the ongoing support of local businesses, foundations, and organisations who give where they live, empowering our charity partners and uplifting our whole community.

ACT Government
AIIA
Avanti Café
Aviso Advisory
Bean Culture
Bell Chambers Barrett
Canberra Capitals
Canberra Innovation Centre
Canberra Southern Cross Club
CentreRed IT
Clonakilla
Clubs ACT
Commonwealth Club

Construction Control
Cord Civil
Cricket ACT
De Lambert Largesse Foundation
Domain Holdings
Eclipseslx
Elect Printing
Events ACT
Hare and Fawn Salon
Home Affairs Social Club
Home by Holly
Hyperdome Tuggeranong
JWLand
Kapital Care
King Wood & Mallesons
Luton Properties
Molonglo
Narrabundah Family Medical Practice
O'Connor Harris

Orthopaedics ACT
Pioneer Kitchens
Queanbeyan & District Rodeo Association
Ray White Real Estate
Riverview Group
Rivoland Tiles
Royal Golf Club Yarralumla
RSM
Running Rare
Scyne
Sentia Real Estate
Significant Capital Ventures
Sleek Cleaning Services
SOLVit
Suburban Land Agency
Successful Alliances
Syndeticom
The National Zoo and Aquarium
Westbourne Group

"We choose Hands Across Canberra because they know our community’s needs and ensure help goes where it’s needed most. Our vintage-car gala (Gears4Giving) funded eleven local charities and kicked off our next charity house build – a lasting investment in the city that has supported our family for generations. For us, it’s simple: give where you live, build on strong foundations, and strengthen Canberra together."

DARRELL LEEHUIS, A&P LEEHUIS BUILDERS AND ASSET CONSTRUCTION, BUILDERS FOR THE HAC MBA CHARITY HOUSE.



Canberra
Foundations
Collaborative



We warmly acknowledge our valued partners in the Canberra Foundations Collaborative—Snow Foundation, John James Foundation, Aspen Foundation, Aspen Medical and Davencare Foundation. Together, we’ve made possible our biggest grant round to date, putting nearly \$2 million into the community and working side by side on capacity building initiatives that help Canberra thrive.

ESTABLISHING A NAMED FUND IS A MEANINGFUL AND STRATEGIC WAY TO CREATE LASTING CHANGE.

In 2024-25, we welcomed many new donors and proudly established **three new Named Funds.**

- the Leemhuis Family Fund
- Australian Information Industry Association Fund
- Hindmarsh Family Fund

Today, Hands Across Canberra holds 26 Named Funds, founded by passionate locals dedicated to strengthening our community.

With sincere gratitude, we acknowledge the generosity of these changemakers:

the Boorer Family Fund; the Bray Family Fund; the Canberra Women's Giving Circle; the Carolyn Joy Spiers Fund; the Carter and Co Fund; the Chinnery Fund; the Christine Shaw Family Fund; the G & A Keys Family Fund, the Gaul Family Fund, the Gordon Family Fund, the Hala Batainah Fund; the Hamlin Hall Fund, the MacnJulie Family Fund; the Narrabundah Fund; the O'Donnell Family Fund; the Running Rare Fund; the Sophie Mobbs Family Fund, the SpencerKay Fund, the Strickland Fund; the Sue Salthouse Leadership Fund, the ACT Community Fund; the Thompson Family Fund and the Vince Kalokerinos Fund.

These permanent endowments ensure lasting support for Canberra's needs, creating enduring positive impact over time. They power our giving, supporting over 170 charities this year.



"The South Sudanese community has gone through a lot. It needs so much support.

Eagles Basketball is a community hub in the form of a basketball program. It is a community where we can bring everything, all the services to supporting the parents, to support their kids...Hands Across Canberra, you are our wings. The Eagles are flying."

GARANG KUER BUL, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE EAGLES SPORTS ASSOCIATION, GRANT RECIPIENT 2025



The CARTER & CO Fund

"Connection with community is super important for our business. Our partnership with HAC truly bridges a gap that allows us to concentrate our efforts in supporting causes from a grassroots level and where the community needs it the most. Being part of a true piece of social infrastructure was something we never saw coming. This also highlights the important work that continues to happen, unwaveringly by the amazing people in this ecosystem of change."

JAMES CARTER, DIRECTOR CARTER & CO
PROUD NAMED FUND HOLDER AT HAC

WHO WE ARE

We are the ACTs community foundation. We raise funds for Canberra's most vulnerable, we invest it to make it grow and we give it back in grants. We help people give back by connecting generous donors with causes they care about.

Three pillars underpin our work – awareness, partnering and giving. Through them, we help community organisations and businesses make a difference in our community. HAC works with more than 350 local not-for-profit organisations, raising funds and creating awareness.

We strive to strengthen community well-being, now and for future generations. We do this by promoting philanthropy, creating partnerships, and supporting diverse charitable organisations. Since 2018, the foundation has also administered the Chief Minister's Charitable Fund.

HAC TEAM

BOARD MEMBERS

Greg Boorer (Chair)

Charles Cramer (Deputy Chair)

Edward Le Quesne (Treasurer)

and John Kalokerinos, Katherine Trebeck,
Michelle Steele, Sammy Williamson,
Catherine Rule and Fiona Hindmarsh

COMPANY SECRETARY

Sue Hart, Commerce Management Pty Ltd

AUDITOR

Bellchambers Barrett

STAFF

Genevieve Jacobs AM, CEO

Peter Campos, Business Manager

Julia Lieser, Grants and Partnerships Manager

Jo Dean-Ritchie, Communications and
Partnerships Manager.

VOLUNTEERS

We celebrate our amazing volunteers whose passion and commitment bring energy to every campaign, raffle, event and community effort.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORE PARTNERS

Hands Across Canberra is incredibly grateful to our core foundation partners who power our work with their expertise, dedication, and generosity. Their support behind the scenes helps us focus on what matters most: empowering Canberra's charities and community organisations to create lasting impact:

→ **Charterpoint** (finance)

→ **Swell Design Group** (website)

→ **Bendigo Bank** (finance and office operations)

→ **One X** (social media)

→ **Centre Red IT** (technology)

CHIEF MINISTER'S CHARITABLE FUND



The Chief Minister's Charitable Fund (CMCF) was established by the ACT Government in 2018 as a long-term resource designed to meet the broad and evolving needs of our community.

A \$5 million Government investment seeded the fund and is topped up each year, including a further \$416,000 in 2024–25. The fund is administered by Hands Across Canberra for the benefit of all Canberrans.

Since its inception, the CMCF has:

- supported **251 + projects**
- distributed over **\$3.1 million**
- leveraged more than **\$8.1 million** in additional funds for the community

Responding to emerging needs throughout the Canberra region, in 2024–25 the Chief Minister's Charitable Fund:

- joined HAC supporters and 102 charities for the Canberra Day Appeal, raising \$840,000 for the community sector
- administered a collective grant round valued at over \$2 million and funded 20 projects through CMCF, of which seven are multiyear grants
- distributed \$600,000 to the community sector to address mental health, employment, housing and belonging challenges

"By building a flexible fund that meets Canberra's needs today and can adapt to tomorrow's challenges, the ACT Government, Hands Across Canberra and our community are working together to ensure support reaches people when and where it's needed most."



"The way that our coffee culture functions at the moment means that the local suburban cafe really is a genuine community hub."

And so for a young person to have all of those regular positive interactions with people at the café, to start to feel like they're known and start to feel like they know others in their neighbourhood... there's a significant sense of grounding and belonging that can happen."

NATE SWIFT, FOUNDER OF LITTLE LUXTON,
GRANT RECIPIENT 2025

The CMCF supports the Youth Training Employment Program—co-designed with local schools—to equip young people in the Lanyon Valley with job skills, build confidence, and foster a strong sense of community belonging.

