

The Gateway Gazette

Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities

Spring 2026



Hampers packed, hope delivered, spirits lifted

Our team wrapped up another successful Christmas hamper program, providing food and gifts to over 380+ families, reaching more than 1400 people. One of the recipients sent this lovely message to us:

"Thank you so much for organising the food hampers and Christmas gifts for our family.

Your kindness and generosity meant the world to us and will truly make our Christmas special. We are incredibly grateful for everything you did.

With heartfelt thanks - Tina and the boys."



We acknowledge and respect the Traditional knowledge holders & custodians of the land on which we work, the Darug & Gundungurra people.



*Christmas magic
made possible...
together!*

Special thanks to:



Our Christmas Hamper Program showed what's possible when a community comes together with generosity, compassion and a shared belief in looking after one another.

Thanks to the incredible support of our volunteers we distributed **more than 380 food and gift hampers**, reaching over **1,400 people** in Penrith and the Blue Mountains.

Our **100+ passionate volunteers** worked tirelessly throughout the year, ensuring that families doing it tough felt supported at a time that can be especially challenging.

We were also uplifted by the generosity of **hundreds of local businesses, community groups, churches, schools and individuals**. Your donations filled homes with hope and reminded families that their community stands beside them.

As always, a special thank you to the **Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains** for their generous ongoing support. Together, we created a little Christmas magic – and its impact will be felt long after the season ends.







*"Your support has
brightened up Christmas..."*

We've already received some moving feedback about our hamper program:

"A huge thank you to all the wonderful volunteers that did the Christmas hampers. I just wanted to tell you they are very much appreciated and loved for what they do.

I'm very grateful for the wonderful items I received for my family. We have had two family deaths in the last few months and have been struggling. **To receive this wonderful gesture of food and gifts takes the pressure off us all.**

Have a lovely Christmas and keep doing what you do. **You make a difference xx"**

"I would just love to thank Gateway Family Services and all the volunteers for the lovely hampers and presents they have given to the Neami Sustaining Tenancy Program. **Your support has brightened up Christmas for many of our clients**" – Neami National worker

"The volunteers were so lovely and helped pack the car with hampers which they individualised for **each family to enjoy a Christmas meal and gifts for the whole family**" – CRC worker



What's going on at Gateway?



Special thanks to **Christmas Hamper Volunteer Coordinators Kerry (Gifts) and Heather (Food)** for ensuring our hamper program was a success.



We love having **teenagers and young people** helping us out during the food packing every year – their energy and enthusiasm is infectious!



CDC Buses visited with an Incident Response Vehicle full of toys donated by their staff and families – its one of our favourite traditions.

Fundraising update!

We raised an incredible \$7,600 during our Christmas Appeal fundraiser. Thanks to everyone in our community who donated.



The Christmas tinsel was barely packed away before our wonderful volunteers turned their attention to our **"Back to School" program**.

Thanks to their hard work we were able to distribute **110+ back to school packs**, including a Kids' Food Hamper and school bags filled with stationery, lunch boxes, books, bottles, calculators, highlighters, pens and more.

Thanks to everyone who donated supplies 🇺🇸



What's going on at Gateway?



In December the Selvaggi family was recognised as state finalists in the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards, hosted by the Centre for Volunteering.



Our team celebrated the end of a very busy year at The Henry in Lawson, with some good food, good company and good conversation.



After a massive Christmas hamper period, our incredible volunteers finally had a chance to relax, let their hair down and celebrate together.

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A special message from Karen...

Our volunteers are the heart of compassion and service – giving your time, energy and kindness without expecting anything in return. Your presence uplifts our community and inspires hope in countless ways.

The spirit you bring to our Christmas Hamper Project is a joy to witness. The friendships, laughter and compassion shown throughout this enormous effort are heartwarming.

Watching you work together with such joy and purpose reminds us all of the true meaning of community and giving. **Thank you for being the light that brightens so many lives.**



SUPPORT CHILDREN & FAMILIES IN NEED

Your kind donation provides food for local families who are doing it tough.

Follow us on social media



www.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au