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Employee Foundation's a quiet \$2 million achiever

The SA Power Networks Employee Foundation has reached a major milestone, giving its two millionth dollar to charitable causes in South Australia but, as a quiet achiever, many beneficiaries would never know who has helped them.

Established in 2006, the Employee Foundation is a Charitable Trust that provides opportunities for employees at SA Power Networks to contribute to the community through payroll donation, volunteering and fund raising.

"Many dedicated people who work at SA Power Networks volunteer, donate and raise funds to help others in need," said Vicki Shearer, the Foundation's Executive Officer. "They don't ask for recognition, but we truly understand the value of what we do. In many cases the people receiving our help are not aware where it came from and we actually like it that way, because it is about the giving."

"More than 50 charities have benefitted from the efforts of employees and there are many examples of beneficiaries of the Foundation's efforts, including:

- a regional family staying at Cancer Council Flinders Lodge in a room refurbished through our giving – they don't know how many laps were walked at the Relay for Life to boost our funding;
- a family at Mary Potter Hospice having high tea with their loved one in their final days of life;
- a regional family able to have a child at home because of support for the Women's & Children's Hospital Home Equipment Centre – they don't know the sweat and toil of our Sparks in the Park team made it happen;
- a child entering emergency foster care receiving essential and comfort items in a backpack – lovingly packed by our volunteers with items paid for by our donations;
- when a deaf child has their cochlear implant turned on and a mother gets to tell her child she loves them for the first time – she doesn't know our Loud Shirt day fund raising helped pay for that; or
- when a person sleeping rough in the Adelaide CBD gets a shower and a hot meal (served by our volunteers for 11 years in a row) at the Hutt St Centre – they don't know our funds helped pay for the food and the running of the kitchen or that our volunteers helped prepare the meal."

"Congratulations and thank you to all employees who have contributed to the Employee Foundation reaching this wonderful milestone," Vicki said. "We look forward to continuing our support for the great work of South Australian charities."

The key beneficiary of the Foundation is Cancer Council SA's Flinders Lodge. The Foundation is Cancer Council's biggest corporate sponsor. More than two-thirds of the 66 Flinders Lodge rooms have been upgraded due to the support of SA Power Networks Employee Foundation. Other major recipients of support (all nominated by staff) include the Mary Potter Hospice, Hutt Street Centre, the Women's & Children's Hospital and the Nature Foundation. Many more causes are supported by staff through a workplace giving program where employees can nominate a charity and manage the fund raising. Donations are matched by SA Power Networks up to \$50,000.

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