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MEDIA RELEASE

Subject	2019 Murray Bridge Christmas Hamper Appeal
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THE MURRAY Bridge community is being asked to come together and support local families doing it tough this Christmas.

Overwhelming support for the initiative last year stimulated the Rural City of Murray Bridge to launch the 2019 Murray Bridge Christmas Hamper Appeal to support the efforts of ac.care, St Vincent de Paul Society and The Salvation Army.

Chief Executive Officer Michael Sedgman said the 2018 appeal was able to reach 250 grateful families and provide toys for 300 children.

"Our community organisations could not reach the number of people they do without the valued assistance they receive from community members," he said.

"We would like to hear from local people and organisations who would like to collect and donate goods to brighten someone else's Christmas.

Support for the appeal can be made by donating money directly to the charity of choice, donating in-date non-perishable food items or donating toys (unwrapped) – especially those suitable for the 13-16 year age group.

Monetary donations or cash cards should be provided direct to the charity of choice, which can then provide a tax deductible receipt upon request.

Donated goods can be dropped off at the offices of each charity indicated on or before 10 December 2019.

"ac.care, The Salvation Army and Vinnies Murray Bridge would like to extend their appreciation in advance for all the donations received for the 2019 Christmas Appeal," said Mr Sedgman.

"What this kind of community spirit means to children and their families who would otherwise go without can't be understated."

For more information, to donate or to arrange collection of goods contact Murray Bridge branches of ac.care at 15-17 Kennett Road (29 Bridge Street from December) on 8531 4900, St Vincent de Paul Society at 11 Second Street on 8532 4180 or The Salvation Army at 3 Fourth Street on 8531 1133.

Donation forms can be found at <u>www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/christmashamperappeal</u>