



To: Cr Margaret O'Rourke
Mayor, City of Greater Bendigo
PO Box 733, Bendigo 3552
21-6-19

Re: Application for membership of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Dear Cr Margaret O'Rourke,

Bendigo Foodshare is proud of the work the City of Greater Bendigo is undertaking to develop and acknowledge innovations in food productivity, food business, food tourism, healthy eating and food relief in Central Victoria.

Bendigo Foodshare is a volunteer based organisation that currently rescues and distributes food for around 12,400 people every week, across Central Victoria.

This program is entirely funded by our community, for our community.

We deliver 600,000kg to 1,000,000 kgs of food a year to around 87 schools, community organisations and emergency services for school breakfasts and lunches, cooking clubs, community meals and emergency relief. Around 2000 volunteers and employees in those organisations make sure the food gets to those in need and that those people are supported to improve their health and to learn skills that help them get out of poverty.

Our 120 volunteers are from all ages and backgrounds. They may be developing work skills, on Work for the Dole programs, on community work orders, be school groups or Corporate volunteers, or retired people sharing their skills. They may work in the warehouse, driving our vans, teaching in local schools or working with the 150 or so local businesses that support us in so many ways.

Food insecurity is a challenge in all countries and if this application is successful, we look forward to having the opportunity to work with other similar organisations around the world to learn from each other and to continually develop cohesive, resilient communities that are great places for everybody to live and thrive.

We wish you all the best with this application and look forward to working together to keep taking our community forward, whether or not it is successful.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'Cathie Steele'.

Cathie Steele, Chair of the Board, Bendigo Foodshare