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...Media release...

Count Charitable Foundation passes \$1 million charitable giving milestone in a single year

Sydney July 1: The Count Charitable Foundation has surpassed \$1 million in donations for the first time in a single financial year.

Established by the family of CountPlus and Count Financial founder Barry Lambert in 2004 and designed to assist the Count network support in giving back to their communities, the Count Charitable Foundation (CCF) operates by matching or exceeding the monies raised by Count and CountPlus firms in support of community fundraising initiatives.

The fund was seeded with initial funds from Barry and Joy Lambert and pays out 5% of its capital each year. Having surpassed the \$1 million benchmark this year, it will continue to pay out a minimum of \$1 million each year going forward.

“As we build up our funds by earning more than 5% each year, the payout amount will grow,” CCF chair Barry Lambert, said. “I look forward to seeing payouts reach \$2m each year. The fund is a perpetual fund so if we manage the investments effectively, the payout will continue to grow. This is a fund that keeps on giving.”

The leadership at the CCF is already focused on reaching the next milestone of \$2m in a year.

“A passion and desire to give back in a tangible way to those less fortunate than themselves is what has led our Count member firms, and their team members, to this amazing milestone. Suffice to say, there is one winner and that is our community,” CCF director Peter Nicholson said.

“The CCF cheque book is ready and open to make a start on a \$2m donation year in the near future, and I have no doubt with the enthusiasm, support and desire of our management, members, Count and Countplus teams, this is going to be our reality.”

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One of the key initiatives this year was the CCF participating in supporting the CountPlus donation of \$100,000 to Lifeline to contribute towards the establishment of a new bushfire support line.

“Our focus on community is one of the things that defines the CountPlus network, and we are very grateful to the Count Charitable Foundation as we continue to help our businesses make a positive impact in the communities in which they operate,” CountPlus CEO, Matthew Rowe, said. “The ongoing work the Foundation does helps our network be the valuable community members we want them to be.”

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