

# Media Release



15 July 2019

For immediate release

## SAMARITANS CALLS ON COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT ITS WINTER APPEAL

Samaritans is calling on the Hunter community to support its Winter Appeal by contributing to its Emergency Relief collection of non-perishable goods at Westfield Kotara on July 18 and 19.

“During winter we experience increased demand at our Emergency Relief centres as people in our local community struggle to put food on the table,” Samaritans Emergency Relief Co-ordinator, Beth Hanna, said.

“Following the success of the collection last year, we’re again asking the community to make a small donation to help Samaritans Emergency Relief Centres assist those in our community experiencing personal crisis,” Ms Hanna said.

The locally-based charity is requesting donations from the community of tinned food, toiletries, baby products, school lunch snacks, long life milk and cereals to restock the shelves of the organisation’s nine Emergency Relief centres.

“We’re pleased to partner again with Westfield Kotara to offer an easy drop-off location outside Woolworths. We hope that people will add a few extra items to their shopping trolley and pass those on to Samaritans volunteers so we can continue to help those who are vulnerable in our community.

“Many of the families we assist are struggling to pay bills, put food on the table and are in situations where they have to make very difficult decisions. Other people have experienced family breakdown, homelessness or domestic violence.

“Those few extra items of food can make a real difference, especially during these cool months. Samaritans Emergency Relief Centres couldn’t do this without that generous community support we are so thankful to receive each year,” Ms Hanna said.

Those who are unable to visit Westfield are welcome to make cash donations to Samaritans Winter Appeal, which supports locals in need through a range of support services.

“Please give what you can - any donation big or small can make a huge difference to someone who is experiencing a tough time. Samaritans asks for your support to assist families in need this winter,” Ms Hanna said.

Samaritans volunteers and staff will be at Westfield Kotara on July 18 and 19 to receive contributions to the Emergency Relief collection.

To donate to the Samaritans Winter Appeal, visit [www.samaritans.org.au/donate](http://www.samaritans.org.au/donate) or call 1300 656 336.

**-ENDS-**

**Media Contact:** Please contact Samaritans Communications team on 4960 7100 to arrange an interview or photograph opportunity. Staff and volunteers will be at Westfield for photographs on Thursday, July 18 from 8:45am - 9:45am or a photo opportunity can be arranged prior to the collection.