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Equity Trustees gives final \$6000 to send Bendigo Youth Choir to Carnegie Hall

Australia's leading specialist trustee company, Equity Trustees, has marked its move into the Bendigo region by committing the final \$6000 the Bendigo Children's Choir needed to fund its trip to perform in Carnegie Hall in New York next month.

"We heard about the kids and their families working towards raising \$45,000 of the \$90,000 needed for the 15 members of the choir to perform on the world stage – accompanied by chaperones as the youngest is just 10 years old," said Mick O'Brien, Managing Director of Equity Trustees.

"Once we made a few inquiries we found out about the extraordinary work done by Artistic Director, Mrs Valerie Broad OAM and all the incredibly talented, musical volunteers who work together to give this opportunity to the kids.

"Of course we wanted to help," Mr O'Brien said. "They were so close to their goal. It just seemed like a great thing to do. And as a newcomer to Bendigo, it was an opportunity to be supportive of a community so active in supporting each other."

Mr O'Brien noted that other leading community organisations such as the Rotary Club of Bendigo, the Bendigo and District RSL, the City of Greater Bendigo, the Y Service Club had banded together to support the Choir – as well as a number of local individuals who valued the positive impact it had on more than 1000 local young people who had been a part of the Choir since it was established in 1984.

Mrs Broad said she was thrilled to receive the phone call telling her the news that Equity Trustees would provide the final \$6000, to meet their fundraising objective from the community: "We decided early that all families would contribute, and to ease the financial load, the choir would endeavour to raise a minimum of \$45,000 from the community and businesses in the region. We know this is a significant cost to the families who have found it within themselves to support their children to pursue this dream - particularly those with more than one child in the choir. It will be a life changing experience for all of them."

The Choir was invited by Distinguished Concerts International in New York (DCINY). They will rehearse and train with professional musicians before forming part of an international choir performance at the famed Carnegie Hall.

Under the expert tutelage of seasoned and respected musical performers back at home, the Choir has been widely acknowledged for excellence and has performed alongside professional companies including with Opera Australia (the Marriage of Figaro) and the Victorian State Opera (Pied Piper). It has performed at numerous civic services, ANZAC Day services and will perform in Hamer Hall later this year.

"But this is not just about singing skills," said Mrs Broad. "This is about life skills, building confidence, giving all children a sense of belonging and that they can be a part of something wonderful. And of course, what can be achieved with practice and collaboration."

The Choir will perform at a celebration Equity Trustees is hosting at Bendigo Art Gallery on Monday 22 May to mark the Company's arrival into the region.

Equity Trustees enters Bendigo following the purchase of the estates and trusts part of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank owned Sandhurst Trustees Limited in March this year. Both trustee companies can trace their origins to 1888 in Victoria, and Equity Trustees has now taken up residents of the historic Sandhurst building in View Street.

“I am personally looking forward to hearing the Choir in a preview of their talents at our celebration next week,” Mr O’Brien said. “But most of all I wish them all a safe and wonderful journey to New York. I know they will make Australia proud on a world stage alongside children’s treble choirs from around the globe, and I’m so pleased Equity Trustees has been able to provide support.”

Click the links to find out more about [Bendigo Youth Choir](#), and [Equity Trustees](#).

Equity Trustees was established in 1888 for the purpose of providing independent and impartial Trustee and Executor services to help families throughout Australia protect their wealth. As Australia’s leading specialist trustee company, we offer a diverse range of services to individuals, families and corporate clients including asset management, estate planning, philanthropic services and Responsible Entity (RE) services for fund managers.

EQT Holdings Limited. EQT Holdings Limited is a publicly listed company on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: EQT) with offices in Melbourne, Bendigo, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth.

Media inquiries:

Alicia Kokocinski
Senior Manager – Marketing & Communications
03 8623 5396 / 0403 172 024
akokocinski@eqt.com.au

Pictures are available on request. Media welcome to attend the event on 22 May at Bendigo Art Gallery to photograph the Choir.