

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Community Partnership Helps Vulnerable Youth Kickstart Their Careers

When like-minded community organisations get together to help vulnerable youth, you know good things will happen. Pegasus Riding for the Disabled and Communities at Work Galilee School are excited to announce a new partnership offering unique opportunities for vulnerable youth to gain real-life experiences to kickstart their work careers.

Through the school's newly formed Farm Skills Program, funded by a Hands Across Canberra grant, students are gaining employable skills in fencing, plumbing, irrigation and farm management. At the same time, they are providing Pegasus with much-needed volunteer resources to help run the organisation's 100-acre property in Holt.

Galilee School principal, Tim McNevin, says the school sought to work with like-minded community organisations to provide wide-ranging authentic learning experiences for its young people. "Pegasus is an iconic Canberra charity and, like us, it aims to empower people to develop their abilities. It was a perfect fit. So, through a connection of networks, our partnership was formed, and the Farm Skills Program was developed."

Mr McNevin says that the program is an important element of the school's vision to inspire its young people to realise their full potential and arm them with the self-belief and skills to transition to the workforce successfully.

"Galilee School students and staff are really enjoying the opportunity that the Farm Skills Program provides," said Mr McNevin. "The students absolutely love it."

"We also believe that giving young people the opportunity to volunteer in their community and support others broadens their world view and builds confidence and character," he added.

Pegasus CEO Matthew Watson says his organisation immediately saw the potential of this partnership to make a significant social impact in the community. "Pegasus relies heavily on volunteers and work programs," he said. "Our collaboration with Galilee School is a new direction for our organisation, and one that our management and the Board feel has real potential to make a difference to the individuals involved."

"We are very grateful to Hands Across Canberra for supporting this wonderful program," Mr Watson said. "Thanks to their Collaborative Grant program, we received \$9,400 to purchase new workshop tools, a lawn mower, a weed trimmer and a trailer for the Farm Skills Program. The students can now access the right equipment to complete the work around our property."

"It's a win-win all around: for Pegasus, the school, and most importantly, the students."

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