

Wednesday 1st September 2010

GPT serves up Food Recovery Program at Rouse Hill Town Centre in partnership with Parramatta Mission

-Weekday deliveries of fresh food will provide up to one million nutritious meals a year for those facing hardship in Western Sydney-

The GPT Group is launching the GPT Food Recovery Program at its award winning, retail and communities precinct, Rouse Hill Town Centre on Saturday, September 4th 2010.

The GPT Food Recovery Program is being kick started with a five-year partnership with Parramatta Mission. The program will see the GPT Food Recovery Van collect left over fresh food from Rouse Hill Town Centre retailers each day and re-distribute to people who are disadvantaged in Western Sydney via Parramatta Mission's crisis services.


A recent study from the University of Western Sydney¹ reveals that 20% of the population of Western Sydney is food insecure. The good quality leftover produce donated by Rouse Hill Town Centre retailers are made into meals and are served to those in need, via the Mission's vital community care facilities including soup kitchen - Meals Plus; youth crisis centre - Parra House; women's and children's domestic violence refuge - Thelma Brown Cottages; and, homeless shelter - Hope Hostel. GPT's support will help Parramatta Mission in its goal to offer up to one million meals per year.

GPT CEO and Managing Director, Michael Cameron said the GPT Food Recovery Program formed part of the Group's social investment platform, which ultimately concerns itself with the wellbeing of the communities in which GPT owns real estate.

"GPT is one of Australia's largest property groups so we take our role as a responsible corporate citizen very seriously. We believe we have an obligation to support the communities in which our business operates. As part of this goal, we are delighted to be working with Parramatta Mission on this important initiative which will make a positive difference to many local residents and families," said Mr Cameron.

Chris Bertinshaw, General Manager of Parramatta Mission commented: "With over 40 years of experience in delivering community aid to people in need in Western Sydney, Parramatta Mission is ideally placed to partner with GPT to successfully implement the GPT Food Recovery Program in this region. People all

¹ Food Security and Climate Change in the Asia Pacific Region 2010 Study – University of Western Sydney.



over western Sydney are being impacted by higher rents, interest rates and utility costs, forcing growing numbers below the poverty line and making western Sydney one of the most disadvantaged areas in NSW. Families and individuals are really struggling to keep a roof over their heads and put food on the table, so we are happy GPT is piloting its program in this community.”

As well as supporting the local community, the GPT Food Recovery Program also furthers the Group’s highly regarded environmental initiatives as it will ultimately enhance the efficiency of its retail centres by reducing the amount of food that currently goes to waste.

GPT has secured the commitment of Rouse Hill Town Centre retailers, including Woolworths, Cookie Man, Muffin Break, Martelli’s Market and Country Growers to donate left over fresh food to Parramatta Mission’s care facilities.

Members of the local community are invited to attend the launch celebrations on Saturday, 4th September from 11am until 4pm. A BBQ lunch will be served from 12 noon, with live music and children’s entertainment, including face painting, roving characters and creative cartooning, taking place throughout the day.

If the pilot is successful, the GPT Food Recovery Program will roll out across the GPT Retail network.

To find out more about supporting Parramatta Mission in providing aid to those living in hardship in Western Sydney communities visit www.parramattamission.org.au .

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For further information contact:

Samantha Taranto
Group Media Manager
02 8239 3635
0432 384 696