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MEDIA RELEASE

Strategem Financial Group announces a garden maintenance service creating jobs for people with disabilities in the Macedon Ranges to be the successful recipient of this year's \$5000 Community Foundation grant.

The grant has been awarded to the Windarring Central Highlands Association for People with Disabilities for the purchase of necessary tools and equipment to run the gardening service for the local community from its Kyneton base.

CEO of Windarring, Bev Vines said "We are very excited to be chosen as the recipient of this year's grant which will help the gardening service become a viable enterprise for our participants well into the future."

"These funds will go a long way toward supporting people to improve their life skills and independence in providing a professional service to people in and around our local region."

"We will be able to purchase new uniforms and equipment in the next six months to protect workers, promote the gardening service and ensure workers are safe on the job," she said

Windarring aims to purchase a purpose-built trailer with lockable storage boxes to protect recently purchased lawn mowing equipment as well as provide advertising space for sponsors to ensure the service is promoted well within the locality.

Kevin Martin is Chairman of Strategem Financial Group and has been integral to the development of the Community Foundation. He said, "It is so gratifying for our firm to be able to support such important community initiatives and in such a practical way."

"We have an important role to play in the growth of our region and this project demonstrates that with a little bit of help, a whole community can reap the benefits," he said.

The Strategem Community Foundation helps to extend the intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of communities within the central Victorian region and calls for applications annually. Organisations with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status are encouraged to apply for the special project grant funding before June 30, 2011.

Strategem works collaboratively with the Cubit Family Foundation and acknowledges their contribution to community grants.

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