



This Christmas, give a gift that will last generations!

December 2021 // This Christmas season, Oaktree is asking Australians to give a gift that is not wrapped, but that will last generations.

Donations made to Oaktree this Christmas will be meaningful long after the festive season is over.

Any donations made this Christmas will go towards growing Oaktree's Youth Solidarity Fund (OYSF) which provides financial and collaborative guidance to international youth-led development organisations. We know the development experts are the people who live in those communities; all they need is for us to stand in solidarity with them. Oaktree wants to support organisations in advocating for a just future in their specific contexts. There are already 40 organisations across Fiji, Myanmar, Nepal and more that are interested in joining the OYSF in 2022.

"We want this fund to ultimately become a mutual aid network, where member organisations can support each other and share skills like fundraising and financial management. We believe this will supercharge the impact our generation can have for years, helping achieve our common goal - a world where all young people can reach their potential", says Oaktree's CEO, Thenu Herath.

Enabling young people to advocate for themselves and their communities is an investment in long-lasting, sustainable change.

The OYSF is made possible by Oaktree's young Australian volunteers. The volunteers lead and collaborate on projects to see sustainable development and youth participation front and centre in our national policy. Young people at Oaktree are given the opportunity to execute campaigns that mobilise hundreds of young people, write legal papers, manage teams, lobby politicians and create communication strategies that reach hundreds of thousands. By building the capabilities of young Australians, we are empowering them as agents of social change, thus equipping them with the tools needed to create impact in our region.

It is more important than ever before to invest in young Australians.

COVID-19 intensely disrupted the lives of young people in Australia. Rising economic insecurity and the insecure labour market saw Australia's youth disproportionately affected by the pandemic. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare asserts that the full effects of COVID-19 on young people are still emerging, complex and not yet fully understood. This is why we believe Oaktree's work will aid in the COVID-19 recovery of our region. "What was meant to be some of the 'best years of our lives' have been replaced with an ongoing uncertainty over what tomorrow will bring", says Thenu Herath in her recently published op-ed.

Oaktree's Christmas appeal will kick off on the 1st of December. Donations can be made through the Oaktree website: <https://www.oaktree.org/donate-new>.

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