

A decorative red ribbon graphic that flows from the left side of the image, loops around the central text, and extends to the right side. It has a 3D effect with a darker red shadow on the underside.

Westfield

Local Heroes

2018

Westfield Local Heroes were nominated and voted for by their communities, with the three successful Westfield Local Heroes per centre each awarded a \$10,000 grant to support their affiliated organisation's work, programs or activities.



Westfield *Local Heroes*

In the first year of the Westfield Local Heroes program,
we received an overwhelming response
and many heart-warming stories after asking
the local community to nominate individuals who
promote wellbeing and harmony in their communities.

We congratulate every one of our nominees
and recognise the important contribution they
make to their local community.

The logo for Westfield Chermside QLD is centered within a large, dark red circle. A thick, vibrant red line enters from the left, curves around the bottom and right side of the circle, and exits towards the bottom right corner. Another red line segment is visible in the top right corner. The text 'Westfield' is written in a black, elegant script font, while 'CHERMSIDE' and 'QLD' are in a clean, black, sans-serif font.

Westfield

CHERMSIDE

QLD



Julie Ramsay
3rd Space

Dynamic, Inspiring, Dedicated

Weekends are much more fun thanks to Jules's get-togethers

Weekends are often a time people spend with their loved ones, but Jules Ramsay gives up hers to be there for those who would otherwise be alone.

As the manager of the weekend activities program at 3rd Space, an inner-city drop-in centre for homeless and marginalised people in Fortitude Valley, Jules works tirelessly so her visitors can have a bit of fun while the rest of the world is at play.

"I'm trying to empower our visitors by giving them experiences that they wouldn't ordinarily be able to have, which can often just mean something simple like going to a football game," says Jules, who was a volunteer before she took up the weekend position.

But it's not all fun. Jules firmly believes in the idea of a hand up rather than a handout and offers a range of educational courses and classes to improve work readiness and access to services.

She knows every visitor by name and is always careful to reflect and celebrate everyone's cultural background, particularly Indigenous people.

Jules has been known to reach into her own pocket to expand her knowledge and the range of activities on offer.

In one recent example, she worked with a local Bunnings store to create an urban food forest so the centre's visitors could have an opportunity to learn gardening and carpentry skills.

"Many of our visitors are guys who have been skilled tradesmen with homes and families before falling into a trap and losing it all, so giving them the responsibility of looking after a garden is great in terms of helping them believe in themselves again," she says.

Jules says she is "happy but slightly embarrassed" to have been voted a Westfield Local Hero by her community.

The centre plans to spend its \$10,000 Westfield Local Heroes grant on arranging more exciting off-site activities and expanding the program to other days of the week.

"If once a month I was able to take people somewhere simple like going fishing, to have a chinwag and lunch together in nature, that would be incredible," Jules says.



Ken Gray
St Patrick's College Shorncliffe
Foundation Limited

Trustworthy, Dependable, Champion

Much-loved BBQ griller reaches out with food and goodwill

With tongs in hand, volunteer Ken Gray is a well-known figure at St Patrick's College Shorncliffe's regular outreach BBQs.

He's neither a teacher nor a parent, but almost every week for 14 years he has gone out on the Paddy's Van meal service to cook for hundreds of people in need across Brisbane.

In that time he has become a much-loved member of the Catholic school's community.

"I happened to see a flyer back in 2004 and I thought, having nothing much else to do, I might as well come along. I've been involved more or less ever since," says Ken.

By tending to the BBQ, he ensures the students who go out with the service can spend time getting to know their patrons – many of whom are marginalised and homeless.

"It's great to meet people and cook and I like doing it because it gets me out of home and gives me something to do," he says.

"And the students get a lot out of it because it gets them serving and talking to all sorts of people."

Ken is also known as a connector of people, and takes the van out even during school holidays when no-one else is available.

"If I had 10 cents for every cackleberry I've flipped over I'd be a very rich man but I come out and do it every week because I enjoy it more than anything else," he says.

Despite his own poor health, he has taken patrons under his wing and goes out of his way to drive them to medical appointments, arrange accommodation for them and organise life skills classes.

Ken never expected any recognition for his labour of love and sees being voted a Westfield Local Hero as a "bonus".

"I'm just doing what I enjoy and you can't really ask more than that."

The college plans to use the \$10,000 Westfield grant to cover the costs of the Paddy's Van for the next 12 months. It is also saving for a new vehicle.



Athol Alcorn Hummingbird House

Selfless, Kind, Committed

The great-grandfather who helps kids through the fight of their lives

No task is too big or small for Athol Alcorn when it comes to helping the bravest fighters.

As a father, grandfather and great-grandfather, 86-year-old Athol has plenty of family of his own to keep him busy. But he still makes sure he spends two days a week giving his time to Queensland's only children's hospice, Hummingbird House.

"After having cared for my wife for a number of years before she passed away, I was looking for an opportunity to once again contribute to the community," he says.

"Volunteering at Hummingbird House is one small way I can do that and return something to the community which has been so good to me over the course of my life."

At the hospice, Athol's main job is to work with staff and other volunteers to create a home-like environment for children with life-limiting conditions and their families. A humble soul, he is always ready to perform some basic maintenance behind the scenes or do the legwork that makes a unique event possible.

He is even better known for his encouraging words and positive conversations with staff and guests.

It means sick children and their families can focus on creating special memories.

Athol says he is humbled to be voted a Westfield Local Hero.

Hummingbird House will put its \$10,000 Westfield Local Heroes grant towards its mission of providing short break stays, family support services, creative therapies, and care at the end of life, for children with life-limiting conditions.

"For me to see that my personal contributions are helping the children and their families is reward enough, but for this to have increased the recognition of what Hummingbird House does and result in a generous gift to support our work is wonderful," he says.

Your 2018 Finalists

Janine Everett | Wavell Heights State School

Genuine, Tenacious, Engaging

Janine is the sole teacher at the ASDAN school, a flexible school option for young people 10–14 years who are disengaged from school. These young people have often had behaviour or experiences that has lead to them not attending school, being asked to leave or being expelled from a traditional school model. Janine provides individual program and curriculum plans for each young person. This benefit flows to the community through reduced contact with social services and the criminal justice system.

Simon La Rosa | Kwest4Learning

Dedicated, Approachable, Kind

Simon is a mentor, advocate and educator of the autism community. His work is dedicated to empowering and educating young people on the autism spectrum, and enabling them to reach their highest potential. He develops opportunities for young people on the autism spectrum to appreciate who they are, their uniqueness, gifts and talents and teaches strategies to cope with the changes in the world around them to find their place in it.

Paul O'Dea | Community Living Association Inc

Willing, Committed, Courageous

Paul does voluntary work as Treasurer at CLA, which supports 150 people with disabilities to receive a wide range of support services including employment, budgeting, emotional support, health and mental health support. A significant element of Paul's legacy is that he has demonstrated that a person with an intellectual disability can engage in this wide range of community activities.

Recognising all of our 2018 Nominees

Aaron AINSWORTH
Y-Care (South East Queensland) Inc

Athol ALCORN
Hummingbird House

Belinda BAKER
Queensland Police Service

Trudi BECHARD
Scripture Union Queensland, c/o
Bracken Ridge State High School

Jenny CASH
Albany Creek State High School

Michelle CHARTERS
Angel Gowns for Australian
Angel Babies

James CHRISTIE
Second Shot

Dane CHRISTISON
Survive to Thrive Nation

Rochelle COURTENAY
Share the Dignity Limited

Adrian DADDS
Brisbane Excelsior Band

Emma DEAN
Cheep Trill Community Choir
(A part of the Tiger Common)

Janine EVERETT
Wavell Heights State School

Daniel GAVIN
Sandgate District State High
School

Yasmin GRIGALIUNAS
World's Biggest Garage Sale
(WBGS)

Rhiannon JARVIS
Make-A-Wish Australia

Tom KELSEY
Queensland Ambulance Service

Nathan KNOX
North Star FC (Football Club)

Simon LA ROSA
Kwest4Learning

Nathan McCARTHY
Sporting Wheelies and Disabled
Association

Paul O'DEA
Community Living Association Inc

Matthew PINK
Australian Catholic University

Julie RAMSAY
3rd Space

Eric RUSHTON
Spinal Life Australia

Sara WATLING
Positive Humans Movement

Harry WHITE
Sporting Wheelies & Disabled
Association

Juliette WRIGHT
GIVIT



If you or anyone you know would like more information on what support is available:

AUSTRALIA

Lifeline: 13 11 14
Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467
Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800
MensLine: 1300 78 99 78
Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636
1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732

NEW ZEALAND

Lifeline: 0800 543 354
Suicide Crisis Helpline: 0508 828 865
Kidsline: 0800 54 37 54
Depression Helpline: 0800 111 757
Samaritans: 0800 726 666
Family Violence Information Line: 0800 456 450



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