



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.



Westfield

GARDEN CITY

QLD



Jonathan O'Loan
Hep C Kombi Clinic

Altruistic, Innovative, Inspired

Colourful Dr Joss uses novel way to cure a serious disease

With his big smile, pink Hawaiian shirt and classic 1978 Kombi van, Dr Jonathan "Joss" O'Loan brings a fun approach towards tackling a serious issue.

Concerned about the rate of Hepatitis C in his suburb, the Inala GP decided to hit the streets and bring his medical practice to the drug rehab centres and rough sleeping locations where it is needed most.

"We decided it had to be a Kombi because it is such an iconic vehicle," says Joss.

"Not only does it have the room to carry all our medical equipment, but people are always coming up to ask us about the Kombi and then we'll use that conversation as an opportunity to talk about Hep C."

Hep C is a serious ongoing illness that is a leading cause of liver cancer. With the help of his van, Joss has been able to reach patients with new medicines that can cure up to 97% of patients.

"With the advent of these new drugs, the hard part is no longer the cure, it is getting the treatment in the hands of the right patients," says Joss.

Since starting the charity last June, he and colleague Dr Matt Young have been able to help 300 patients in Inala get on the road to recovery.

"This is a huge change in these people's lives because many of them were told they would have Hep C for the rest of their lives and all the stigma that comes with it. But now they are free," he says.

Joss says he is "very, very chuffed" to be voted a Westfield Local Hero for his pioneering work, but he is now planning bigger projects to help more people get treatment for Hep C.

Hep C Kombi Clinic will put its \$10,000 Westfield Local Heroes grant towards developing mass screenings for Hep C at music festivals and sporting events, with the bold goal of eliminating the disease from Australia.



John Godwin Fair Go Australia Foundation

Passionate, Tireless, Inspirational

The teacher who is changing lives outside the classroom

Former Brisbane teacher John Godwin is transforming lives beyond the classroom by offering disadvantaged young people a "fair go".

As the chairman of Fair Go Australia Foundation, John volunteers many hours a week to develop mentorship and educational programs for young and marginalised Australians.

"We are about helping young people to realise their gifts and to develop them in order to be able to contribute more fully to their families, their community and the Australian society," John says.

He is also involved in fundraising efforts and activities to promote the cause, such as the annual Fair Go Touch Football carnival and the Bridge to Brisbane run.

"We try to find mentors to help young people so they don't get lost and tied to negative peer group pressure," he says.

The mentorship programs are all about helping the young and marginalised to develop a focus and life purpose to break the cycle of poverty. The programs run for eight weeks and give participants the opportunity to set goals and create a vision statement describing the person they want to be.

"It's about a hand up rather than a handout."

John says it's both inspiring and rewarding to watch young people transform over the course of his programs, as they grow in confidence and take on positive and life-changing attitudes.

He is very grateful and humbled to have been voted a Westfield Local Hero.

Fair Go Australia will use its \$10,000 Westfield Local Heroes grant to put on two complete mentorship programs, changing the lives of as many as 20 young people.

"It is wonderful, because that money goes straight to the programs, making a real and positive difference to the young people," John says.



Lynn Atkinson Giving Grannies

*Passionate, Dedicated,
Tireless*

Giving grannies step in with a helping hand

Lynn Atkinson is motivated by the conviction that every newborn child can use the help of a grannie.

Since 2013, Giving Grannies have been putting together "baby welcome kits" full of essentials such as nappies and clothes to give families in need a helping hand when a new baby is on its way.

From her home in Brisbane's Centenary suburbs, Giving Grannies also collect pre-loved baby goods like toys, cots and prams to pass on to families who can't afford them.

"Some people don't have the support of family around them and we want to make sure that they at least have the basics," says Lynn.

Together with her husband, Neil, Lynn formed the charity after seeing her own children grow up and learning the importance of support from one generation to the next.

"My own children and grandchildren were very lucky to grow up wanting for nothing but I got quite angry thinking that so many miss out on that," Lynn says.

As grannies, they're non-threatening to the young parents they support and sometimes even find themselves giving out "grannie cuddles" while on a visit.

"I think we seem safe and Neil doesn't mind being a grannie so long as he gets to be Head Grannie," Lynn says.

Lynn says it is "astounding" to be recognised as a Westfield Local Hero. "It's the biggest thing that has ever happened to me."

Giving Grannies plans to use the \$10,000 Westfield Local Heroes grant to grow the charity and supply even more families with baby welcome kits.

"We have no funding at all and it's wonderful to get the community support as well as the money that we'll be able to put to such good use," says Lynn.

Your 2018 Finalists

Sophie Cox | Woodridge North State School Community Hub

Engaging, Compassionate, Tireless

Sophie's work as the Community Hub leader at Woodridge North State School promotes social inclusion by breaking down barriers that migrant and refugee families face when settling in Australia, especially for women and their young children aged 0-5 years. The Hub was developed as a safe place for women and their children to engage in programs and connect with the local community.

Grant Gamlen | Queensland Blue Light Association

Professional, Enthusiastic, Charismatic

Grant is responsible for the inception, creation and delivery of 'Blue Edge', a program that takes a proactive, hands on approach to showing young people that they can take control of their lives. Through focusing on education, nutrition and exercise. The Blue Edge program motivates young Australians, especially those who are disadvantaged, to achieve their highest potential by fostering a positive relationship with the police, their parents and the community.

Rami Saheb | Arabic Interpreting Services

Dedicated, Focused, Generous

Rami is a registered Arabic-English interpreter and qualified social worker who has provided free interpreting services to migrants and refugees throughout Brisbane and Townsville since 2001. Rami also provides counselling, family therapy and mentoring to young adults, as well as sessions that focus on improving English and employment skills for Arabic migrants.

Recognising all of our 2018 Nominees

Irina ALEKSANDROVA

EquusTerra

Liam AMOS

Multicap Limited

Lynn and Neil ATKINSON

Giving Grannies

Gerard BEUERS

Southside Community Care, Inc

Ann BICHEL

Woodturners Society Of
Queensland Inc

Rob CAINES

Southern Group State
Emergency Services

Tracey COOLEY

Springwood Central Primary
P&C Association

Sophie COX

Woodridge North State School
Community Hub

Rosalind CREDON

RJC Community Pty Ltd

Malcolm DUNNING

Asylum Seeker and Refugee
Support Group (ASRSG)
Indooroopilly Uniting Church (IUC)

Percy EDULJEE

Into people Inc

Peter FERREIRA

Black Dog Institute

Grant GAMLEN

Queensland Blue Light
Association Incorporated

Hayley GEISLER

Make-A-Wish Australia

John GODWIN

Fair Go Australia Foundation

Jeff HARDIE

Brisbane City Apex Club Inc

Bronwen HEALY

Hope Foundation Brisbane

Belinda HOWARD

Queensland Pathways State
College

Melissa KIRKWOOD

Brisbane Multiple Birth
Association (Southside) Inc

Michelle MACK

Angel Gowns for Australian Angel
Babies Incorporated (AGFAABI)

Zac MORRIS

Tour de Cure Ltd

Louie NAUMOVSKI

Logan House Fire Support Network

Jonathan O'LOAN

Hep C Kombi Clinic

Paulo PAULO

Riverview Good News Church Inc

Josh QUARMBY

Blokepedia

Bruce RANDALL

Leukaemia Foundation

Rami SAHEB

Arabic Interpreting Services

Shannon SOWDEN

Karawatha Marching Band –
Runcorn State High School

Juanita TEARIKI

The Movement Brisbane

Selina TOMASICH

Hair Aid

Narelle WYVILL-ANSTEY

Lions Club of Brisbane
Macgregor Inc

David YOHAN

Providing Awareness With
Education & Sport (PAWES)

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A decorative red ribbon graphic that starts as a thick, straight line on the left and then curves and loops into a thinner, wavy line on the right.

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



SCENTRE GROUP

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