



Westfield

Local Heroes

2019

Westfield Local Heroes is a community recognition and grants program, designed to shine the spotlight on those people who connect and enrich their local communities across Australia and New Zealand.

Individuals are nominated by their local communities, with the outcome of a public vote determining the three successful 2019 nominees for every Westfield centre. In total, we are recognising 121 Westfield Local Heroes across Australia and New Zealand in 2019.

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Each of the affiliated organisations of the Westfield Local Heroes have received a grant to support their work. Westfield will award 121 grants across Australia and New Zealand – totalling \$1.2 million.

We congratulate all the 2019 nominees for being recognised by their communities and thank them for the important contribution they all make to improving social wellbeing in their local areas.

westfield.com.au/local-heroes westfield.co.nz/local-heroes

Westfield

Manukau City
NZ



Eddie is delighted to be voted a Westfield Local Hero. "It's huge. The acknowledgement is amazing; it's for our volunteers as much as me. For many of us, Manukau is our hometown, our place. It's special, really moving, to get this support from our home community."

Laundromat in a van provides dignity and conversation

Edward (Eddie) Uini — Orange Sky New Zealand

Compassionate, Generous, Kind

Edward (Eddie) Uini's journey into full-time community service was inspired by a homeless man who passed away alone on the steps of a local church.

"He wasn't particularly old," Eddie recalls. "He could have been any one of us. We all make mistakes. Some of us are just luckier in the support we get."

Knowing that people need dignity as much as they need food and shelter, Eddie created a laundromat in his van and began to offer a free laundry service at locations where people were sleeping rough.

A few months into his one-man operation he called Orange Sky, the Australian non-profit laundry and shower service, for advice. In the conversations that followed, Orange Sky New

Zealand was born. Today the charity's distinctive orange van, fitted with washing machines, dryers and a shower, restores self-respect to hundreds of homeless Aucklanders.

Eddie is Orange Sky's sole New Zealand employee. He works seven days a week, supported by dozens of volunteers.

He's delighted to be voted a Westfield Local Hero. "It's huge. The acknowledgement is amazing; it's for our volunteers as much as me. For many of us, Manukau is our hometown, our place. It's special, really moving, to get this support from our home community."

Even more important than a shower and clean clothing, says Eddie, is the human connection that Orange Sky brings to its clients. At every location, Eddie

and his team pull out six orange chairs. "We sit there and make a safe circle for conversation," he says. "Sometimes, the people who join us have spent weeks without speaking to anyone."

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Orange Sky New Zealand will use its grant to maintain and expand its service across Auckland, where its range has been restricted by the cost of fuel.

"The funds will support hundreds of people doing it tough by covering our fuel, registration and insurance costs for a year," says Eddie.



"I have always been a volunteer. My heart drives me. I am always busy trying to find practical solutions to make things easier for people."

Respect for people and food drives volunteering initiative

Lucy Shah Mohamady — Community Service Connect Trust

Aroha, Generous, Practical

Raised on a small farm between Gisborne and Wairoa, Lucy Shah Mohamady grew up with a keen sense of communal sharing and respect for the origins of food.

"Just as each person has their whakapapa or ancestral lineage, so does each type of produce," says Lucy.

In Auckland, she found it strange to witness hunger and isolation amid abundance.

So, as a Maori Muslim drawn to the charitable morality embedded in both cultures, she found it natural to start a solution: Community Service Connect, a trust that coordinates initiatives toward better life-outcomes for Auckland's urban poor.

In one of its initiatives, Lucy and other volunteers recover surplus food which they use to cook meals that they distribute to people in

need. They also distribute surplus clothes, toiletries and other essentials.

When handing out the food and other items, the volunteers make a point of connecting with homeless people in a meaningful way.

Lucy feels humbled to be voted a Westfield Local Hero. "The vote makes us, as a team, very excited for the people we help, because it's for them.

"If people are vulnerable, we help them within our capacity," says Lucy. "We don't turn anyone away, whether they have a home or not, whether they have a job or not.

"I have always been a volunteer. My heart drives me. I am always busy trying to find practical solutions to make things easier for people."

Lucy makes a point of listening carefully to the needs of people,

and the trust's next initiative will be a small enterprise-creation programme that will help empower members of Auckland's homeless community to move beyond dependence.

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Community Service Connect will invest its grant in a refrigerated van, which will help to keep recovered produce fresh.

The van will also give the trust access to more donor companies. "The logistics for perishables are complex," says Lucy. "Donors need us to have the van so that everything stays super-compliant with food safety legislation."



"My community work means the world to me," says Sarah, "because it feels like Noah's legacy, and the legacy of so many other babies who've joined the angels early."

Supporting grieving families through the loss of a baby

Sarah Numan — Baby Loss NZ

Devoted, Inspirational, Passionate

The lack of empathy Sarah Numan experienced after losing her baby son Noah has made her determined to help others through their grief.

She does this through her charity, Baby Loss New Zealand, which provides support for bereaved families.

Noah was lifted at birth from Sarah's arms. His body was sent straight to a post-mortem examination, and she had barely a quarter of an hour in which to greet him, hold him and say goodbye.

Since 2008, her charity has been helping bereaved parents and educating hospital staff to be sensitive through the first stages of grief.

The charity's volunteers also engage in empathetic, judgment-free discussion with parents

who have received a painful prenatal diagnosis and face agonising decisions.

"My community work means the world to me," says Sarah, "because it feels like Noah's legacy, and the legacy of so many other babies who've joined the angels early."

She feels honoured to be voted a Westfield Local Hero. "It lets us, as a team, know we're needed and in the place we should be."

The charity has built a close relationship with Bereavement Care Services at Middlemore Hospital and its services are offered to every family whose baby dies from fourteen weeks' gestation.

Bereaved families are provided with gift packages which are customised to their individual circumstance and include items

such as teddy bears and a journal devised by Sarah, who has trained as a birth and bereavement doula to offer families full support before, during and after birth.

An important memory-making gift is a cast of the baby's hands and feet, and Sarah has created more than ten thousand of these since 2008. "They provide a memory you can always touch," she says.

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Baby Loss New Zealand will use its grant to sustain its three-hour packages, which give grieving families the tools and the time to cast, bathe, dress and truly be with their baby, says Sarah.

Your 2019 Finalists

Paul Dickson

OKE Charity

Paul Dickson had been working in the corporate world for 20 years when he decided there must be a better way to use his skills. Soon afterwards, he became a stay-at-home dad and launched the OKE charity, which builds school gardens. Each garden is sustainable and includes raised beds, a greenhouse, composting solutions, kids' tools, teachers' tools and irrigation. They are built in one day by pulling together teachers, parents, whanau and local businesses. "This takes place on a school day, allowing the kids to see their community build something special for them," says Paul.

Ezekiel Robson

Recreate NZ

As a vision-impaired person, Ezekiel Robson has first-hand experience of what it means to be disabled. That knowledge drives his passion for enhancing respect and inclusion for all disabled people. Ezekiel provides strategic and consumer input to Counties Manukau District Health Board and he supports the Disabled Persons Assembly by promoting greater understanding of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. "I have dedicated 20 years to supporting local youth," says Ezekiel, who serves on the Board of Trustees of Recreate NZ, where he relentlessly advocates for youth who have a disability.

Kramer Hoeflich

PHAB Association

Kramer Hoeflich is a young Pasifika man who became depressed and isolated after suffering a disabling injury while visiting family in the Cook Islands 10 years ago. However, the PHAB Pasifika disability organisation helped him find hope and meaning and provided him with a sense of connection and acceptance. Kramer's confidence grew to such an extent that he has become a powerful inspiration for other young people with disabilities. "I found my passion to work with young people of all abilities, cultures and backgrounds to make a difference," Kramer says.

Recognising all of our 2019 Nominees

Adrienne AIRS
Manurewa Scout Group

Glen ANAUA
Voice Ministries

Kristina CAVIT
The Kindness Institute

Matt CONNOLLY
TTS

Baljit DHEIL
Woman Care Trust

Paul DICKSON
OKE Charity

Vita DRYDEN
Thames Coast Community
Kindergarten

Joseph FA'AFIU
Gateway Community Trust (The Gate)

Francis FANNING
Sisters of Compassion

Ben GREENWOOD
Revolution Tour

Maree HEMANA
Victim Support

Kramer HOEFLICH
PHAB Association Inc

Jit KAUR
New Zealand Sikh Womens
Association Inc

Shannon KEANE
YMCA North

Ang MIZZIEBO
Wot It Iz Sports Club

Lucy Shah MOHAMADY
Community Service Connect

Mahia MOKARAKA
Youthline Manukau

Swanie Nelson MOKORAKA
Community Builders NZ & Pātaka Kai
Open Street Pantries

Serena MURDOCH
Friendship House He Whare Tangata

Ramon NARAYAN
Action Education Inc

Ann-Helen NU'UALI'ITIA
Affirming Works

Sarah NUMAN
Baby Loss NZ

Carla Moana PERESE
Faith Family Baptist Centre

Fangafua POOI
Totara Hospice South Auckland

Ezekiel ROBSON
Recreate NZ

Gina SANDERS
Clevedon Valley Music
Foundation Trust

Christine SICA
Hands of Hope (Ringa O Te Tumanako)
Ministry Outreach (NGO) and
Kia Kaha Hope for the Hope-Less
Charitable Trust

Montee STEHLIN
Heart Kids New Zealand Inc

Georgie THOMPSON
Ruapotaka Marae

Edward UINI
Orange Sky New Zealand

Marshal WALIA
Aiga Energy Ltd

Michael WICHMAN
Ivory Fitness

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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