Westfield Jocal 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.





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



Fountain Gate

VIC



"It's nice that the community values what we're doing. The organisation has been of help to a lot of people, and it's encouraging that they want to recognise that."

Retired teacher keeps families out of crisis

Judy Martin — Endeavour Ministries

Dedicated, Energetic, Passionate

Judy Martin has always felt compelled to help those in need.

In 1994 an opportunity arose to open an op-shop with volunteers from different churches and the local community to raise funds to provide food vouchers to people in need.

Judy jumped at the chance and has been volunteering for more than five days a week ever since.

Judy's involvement has expanded over the years, and she now leads a team of more than 100 volunteers from various professions who provide a range of services for families in crisis in the Endeavour Hills, Lysterfield and Doveton communities.

She feels "honoured" to have been voted a Westfield Local Hero.

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organisation has been of help to a lot of people, and it's encouraging that they want to recognise that."

Judy's family are also involved in Endeavour Ministries. Her daughter is one of six psychologists, and her solicitor husband provides free legal advice. Her mother ran the Monday Meals program for more than eighteen years. As a retired teacher, Judy provides educational services.

Endeavour Ministries services include support groups for people with mental health issues, financial and material crisis aid, emergency accommodation, meals, group outings, no-interest loans and education programs.

Judy and her husband have opened their home to homeless people at different times – including a girl who needed a safe place to live for eighteen months to complete her schooling. "I think my main achievement would be bringing together such a talented team of volunteers who use their particular expertise to help people in a whole variety of ways," says Judy, who has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her contribution to society.

Westfield Local Heroes are nominated and voted for by their communities. Three people from each Westfield centre are awarded a \$10,000 grant for their affiliated organisation. Endeavour Ministries' grant will help Endeavour Ministries provide emergency help for families in need, especially preventing homelessness.



James engages directly with participants. "I enjoy getting out and getting dirty alongside the young people. It enables me to build strong and trusting relationships."

Helping at-risk youth stay engaged with education

James Seeary — Operation Newstart Casey

Patient, Caring, Inspirational

One of the most rewarding parts of James Seeary's work with at-risk youth is when he meets up with one of his former students who has grown up into a successful adult.

"It gives me a warm feeling," says James. "Listening to their memories of their time with us is always a great experience."

James is the Program Manager at Operation Newstart Casey, where he has helped more than three hundred and fifty young people stay engaged with their education over the past twelve years.

Many of the students referred to the program by local schools display risk-taking behaviours, lack motivation, have low self-esteem, are disruptive, engage in truancy or engage in criminal activity.

During the term-long program, they attend their home school for

two days a week and Operation Newstart for three.

The multi-layered intervention includes outdoor and adventure activities, community service and group work that involves parents.

James engages directly with participants. "I enjoy getting out and getting dirty alongside the young people. It enables me to build strong and trusting relationships."

As a result, he has become a caring father figure for many of the students.

He has found it surreal to be voted a Westfield Local Hero. "You don't enter a role like this to receive accolades. It does, however, feel nice to know that enough members of the community think my work is valuable," he says. "We consistently go over and above to support these young people when much of their life is in crisis. They know they can call on my staff or me at any time."

In 2016 James received an award from the Casey community and was nominated as Citizen of the Year for his work at the program.

Westfield Local Heroes are nominated and voted for by their communities, with the three top finalists per Westfield centre each awarded a \$10,000 grant for their affiliated organisation.

Operation Newstart Casey's grant will bring welcome relief from financial pressure and will help to sustain its program until 2020.

"This money will fund an entire term of activity and food for our next cohort," says James.





Daniel Beeson — TRY Australia

Passionate, Positive, Persevering

Daniel Beeson grew up amid adversity and has taken some wrong turns. But he has always landed on his feet and learnt lessons from his experiences. He uses his life experience to help vulnerable young people do the best they can for themselves and is a dedicated mentor and coach. Daniel was a volunteer for three years at TRY Australia before he was employed as mentoring coordinator. In this role, he has developed positive connections with key stakeholders and established mentoring programs for seven schools across Melbourne's south-east in just four months.



Looking to the future

Lauren Moore — Abacus Learning Centre Inspirational, Intense, Forward-thinking

Lauren Moore's world was turned upside down when a paediatrician gave her 18-month old son an autism diagnosis and said he would never speak or have meaningful relationships. The only advice offered was to find good respite services. Lauren had never heard of autism and had to look it up in the dictionary. Then she researched how to give Billy the best chance she could. She discovered ABA (Applied Behaviour Analysis) therapy and started using the method at home with Billy. Other parents were impressed with his progress and asked Lauren to help their children.

Your 2019 Finalist

Colin Moore Cranbourne Junior Football Club

Despite its rich history, the Cranbourne Junior Football Club was facing several challenges until its President, Colin Moore, pulled it up by its bootstraps. Colin sees the club's more than 300 players as his kids and is firmly focused on keeping the family robust and healthy, both physically and spiritually. He is committed to social diversity, giving the children a sense of belonging and ensuring no one is left behind. "My challenges are to keep the kids active, off the streets and away from devices, as well as to build social inclusion," says Colin. 3

Recognising all of our 2019 Nominees



Vicky ARGYROPLOULOS Dandenong High School

Chalanka ATHALAGE Thala Asapuwa

Amrullah BANOORI Cranbourne Iqra Association Corp

Jacob BARTLEY Mister Minit

Daniel BEESON TRY Australia

Helen BRENNAN Casey Cardinia Triathlon Squad

Rachel BRIGHT Angel Gowns for Australian Angel Babies Incorporated

Josh CARELL Littlefoot & Company

Eden CARELL Littlefoot & Company

Dean COWAN Pakenham Pony Rescue (Not for Profit) Organisation

Suzanne FARR Angel Gowns for Australian Angel Babies Inc Leanne FORBES Children's Tumour Foundation

Lorraine GOODWIN Cancer Council Victoria

Eva IOSIFIDIS Make-A-Wish Foundation Australia

Emma JACKEL Ladies From the Land Australia

Carol LARTER Dandy Cat Rescue

Michelle LEWIS Berwick College

Judith MARTIN Endeavour Ministries Inc

Margaret McDONALD Lardner Preschool

Laura McDONOUGH No Hairs Ark

Aanchal MESHRAM Indian Association Cardinia Casey

Lauren MOORE Abacus Learning Centre

Colin MOORE Cranbourne Eagles Football Club

Luan Thai NGUYEN Officer City Soccer Club Nathaniel POTTS Divergent Martial Arts

Rebecca ROSS MIndfull Aus

Matt RUNNALLS Mindfull Aus

Ash SCOTT Operation Newstart Casey

James SEEARY Operation Newstart Casey

Sujatha SHANMUGAM Vasudeva Kriya Yoga

Anthony TONEN Fountain Gate Cricket Club

Ariana TUGAGA Centre for Multicultural Youth

Kelly WARREN Bk2basics

Eric WIECKMANN CHIPS (Christians Helping In Primary Schools Inc)

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

AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND

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 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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