

Westfield

Local Heroes

2020

Westfield Local Heroes is a recognition and awards program that discovers and celebrates people across Australia and New Zealand who make a positive impact to their local community and environment.

Individuals are nominated by their local communities and a public vote determines the successful 2020 nominees for every Westfield centre.

The successful heroes are each awarded \$10,000 for their affiliated organisations.

Westfield
Local Heroes

Since the program began, we have awarded \$3.62 million to 363 community organisations.

Every year, we recognise more than 120 Westfield Local Heroes and provide more than \$1.2M in community grants to their affiliated organisations.

We congratulate all the 2020 nominees for being recognised by their communities and thank them for the important contribution they all make.

westfield.com.au/local-heroes

westfield.co.nz/local-heroes

Westfield

Albany

NZ

Louise Burnie-Allnut brings joy and comfort to children entering foster care.

She founded the Foster Hope Charitable Trust to provide the children with a backpack full of essentials that give a little bit of light and excitement at an extremely traumatic time.

Many children enter care with only the clothes on their back, so Louise makes sure they have items such as underwear, a soft toy, a book and, in some cases, a quilt to help ease the transition into care.

At times, the children express sheer joy when they realise they have their own toothbrush and don't have to share.

Louise says: "I believe that every child in foster care deserves to know that their community cares about them. Something as simple as a backpack, can have a profound impact on a child when they find out that it's been made for them by a complete stranger"

She had to use her ingenuity to get Foster Hope off the ground as Oranga Tamariki (Ministry for Children) initially wasn't convinced that she could help.

She used her business networking skills to reach someone higher up in the ministry who encouraged the idea.

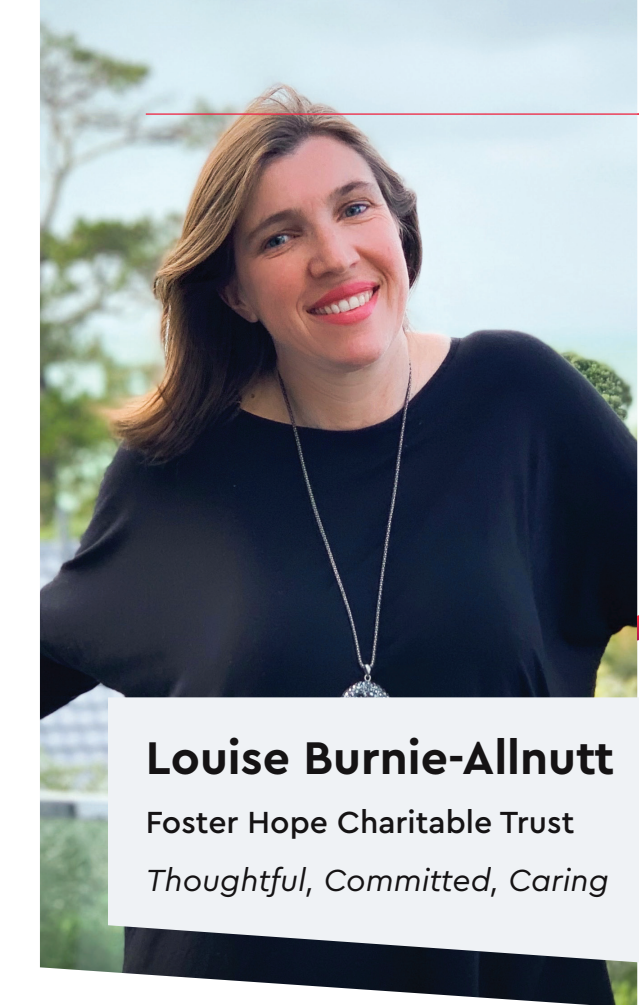
Foster Hope now has eight branches around New Zealand.

"I grew up in a family which had a huge focus on helping others and get a real kick out of it," Louise says.

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Foster Hope Charitable Trust will use its grant to buy backpacks.

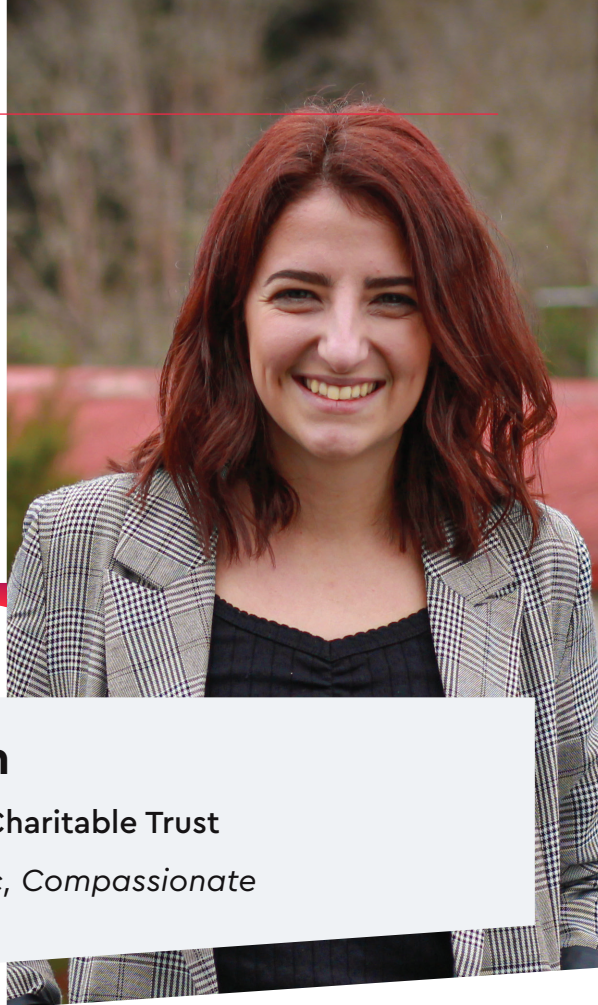
Louise's nominator says: "Louise exemplifies all that is worthy in a role model. She is always the first to step forward and the last to step back."



Louise Burnie-Allnut
Foster Hope Charitable Trust
Thoughtful, Committed, Caring

Supporting children in care

"I believe that every child in foster care deserves to know that their community cares about them."



Holly Simpson

Youthline Auckland Charitable Trust

Resilient, Empathetic, Compassionate

Helping from experience

"So many young people are isolated, and I believe all it takes is having one person who cares, who checks in and who is there for you."

Holly Simpson knows what it's like to feel lost and unsure of her purpose. She discovered she was pregnant at 16, after feeling disengaged at school through her teenage years.

Being a solo mum at a young age felt really difficult, but her life changed when she received a call from Youthline Auckland, a charity that supports young people.

Youthline helped Holly rekindle her interest in studying youth work and inspired her to make something of her life. She began by volunteering with the organisation, taking on a paid role after completing her studies.

Now she leads a team of five youth workers and managing the North Shore Centre. Last year, Holly's team provided more than 2500 counselling and mentoring sessions in the area.

Holly says her life experiences showed her the true value of helping. She considers it a privilege to spend every day helping others.

"Our goal is to give the young people of our community the best opportunities, to advocate for them, to believe in them and to support them to be the best that they can be," says Holly.

"So many young people are isolated, and I believe all it takes is having one person who cares, who checks in and who is there for you."

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Youthline will use its grant to pay for triaging staff at its helpline services.

Holly's nominator says: "Every day, Holly and her team are changing the lives of the young people they work with. She has considerable empathy with these struggling, vulnerable young people as it wasn't that long ago that she was one of them."

Armed with specialist post-graduate studies in Family Therapy, a hearty laugh and a steadfast belief in people's potential, Makerita Siaoasi is the ideal person to help young women through times of crisis.

Makerita is the Programme Manager at A Girl Called Hope and offers the residents in her care a safe place that respects each person as an individual and helps them make wise choices.

Makerita has worked at the charity for 10 years and is known as a warm and kind leader. She has built her 19 employees into a professional and caring team.

Together, they support young women with issues including depression, anxiety, suicidal thinking, self-harm, disordered eating and unplanned pregnancy.

"I work with each resident to develop their personalised programme," Makerita says. The aim is for everyone to re-enter society and make a positive contribution.

Makerita draws on her family's struggles with economic hardship and navigating the health system for her mother, whom she lost at an early age, as motivation to help others.

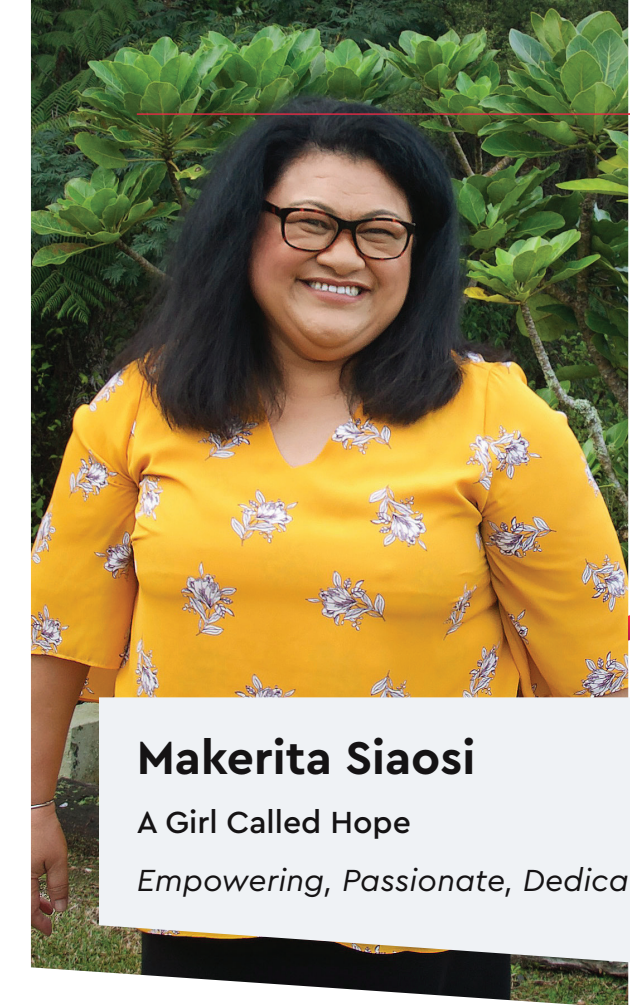
A reward for Makerita is to meet past clients and see they are enjoying life, have paid work, are raising their families or are in voluntary roles.

"Seeing changed lives and people living with purpose helps me know I'm doing my bit for our community and gives me my sense of purpose," Makerita says.

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A Girl Called Hope will invest its grant in training and professional development of staff.

Makerita's nominator says: "Makerita Siaoasi is a voice for the marginalised and the misunderstood, so they are able to take up all the opportunities available to them. Makerita is resilient and never gives up on anyone."



Makerita Siaoasi

A Girl Called Hope

Empowering, Passionate, Dedicated

Helping young women

"Seeing changed lives and people living with purpose helps me know I'm doing my bit for our community and gives me my sense of purpose," Makerita says.

Your 2020 Finalists

Jane Hunter

North Harbour Community Patrol

For years Jane Hunter has been the heart of the North Harbour Community Patrol, a group of volunteers who act as the eyes and ears for the police and help keep the community safe. Now, aged 72, she continues to put in more than her share of hours on patrol and other duties.

As the area coordinator, Jane contributes above and beyond her rostered time on patrol, dedicating many additional hours helping to recruit and train new patrollers.

"The intelligence our patrols gather and share with New Zealand Police assists planning and deployments in the community."

Tracey Swanberg

North Shore Women's Centre

Tracey Swanberg has bounced back from a difficult start by qualifying as a social worker and going on to become the CEO of refuge that keeps innumerable women and children safe.

"Experiences in early in life have helped shape my adulthood and my studies and commitment to working with women and children who deal with a plethora of issues," says Tracey.

She volunteered at the North Shore Women's Centre for 10 years before taking on the CEO role.

"I have spent my entire adult working life as a social worker and doing volunteer work with women and children," says Tracey.

Carol Conte

Blind Low Vision NZ

Carol Conte has volunteered for Blind Low Vision NZ for 29 years.

For 25 years, she diligently visited the same man to read to him. Carol has now started a Coffee Group for Blind Low Vision NZ and arranges monthly outings. She is always looking for more ways to help and has started another group for Browns Bay. She also started a local walking group in Milford.

"It is a privilege for me to be involved with this volunteer work," says Carol.

Recognising all of our 2020 nominees

Chercara Thompson

Care For Families

Nic Russell

Kenzie's Gift

Jane Hunter

North Harbour Community Patrol

Louise Burnie -Allnut

Foster Hope Charitable Trust

Tracey Swanberg

North Shore Women's Centre

Carol Conte

Blind Low Vision NZ

Makerita Siaoosi

A Girl Called Hope

Holly Simpson

Youthline Auckland Charitable Trust

Marian Park

Harbour Sport ActivAsian

Margaret May

Woolfest & Creative Fibre Group

Mitch Boocock

Key To Life Charitable Trust

Des Watson

Kiwis Clean Aotearoa

Jessie Baker

Bees Up Top

Julie King

Love Soup Hibiscus Coast

Chloe Rose Van Biljon

Mothers Helpers

Megan Denize

Helping Paws Animal Rescue Centre

Dr Alana Harper

Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust

Janine Hinton

Saving Hope Foundation

Abbey Fouche

The Mum's Clique

Conin Bowker

YMCA North

Delanie Halton

Wandersearch Auckland Charitable Trust

Jared Sharples

St John And Northland Emergency Services Trust

George Elisara

Immerse Charitable Trust

David Ward

Pinehurst School

Nathalie Billett

The Caring Crew

Rebecca Nelson

Te Kiwi Maia

Gareth Edwards

Giving A Flip

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
Kidslines: 0800 54 37 54
Depression Helpline: 0800 111 757
Samaritans: 0800 726 666
Family Violence Information Line: 0800 456 450

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SCENTRE GROUP