

*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](https://westfield.com.au/local-heroes)

[westfield.co.nz/local-heroes](https://westfield.co.nz/local-heroes)

# Westfield

## Booragoon

### WA

#### Donna Roberts is a mum on a mission.

She is dedicated to reducing the stigma about the genetic disorder neurofibromatosis, which causes tumours to grow on nerve cells.

Her heart was broken when her daughter, who has the disorder, was bullied for her appearance.

After discovering the Children's Tumour Foundation, which supports families with the condition, she offered to be their spokesperson and manage fundraising events in Perth.

Courageous and fearless, Donna began by connecting families through online support groups and in her local area.

The events she organises have helped bridge the gap between neurofibromatosis families and the broader community.

She is a force to be reckoned with and has helped people with neurofibromatosis feel a sense of belonging in the community.

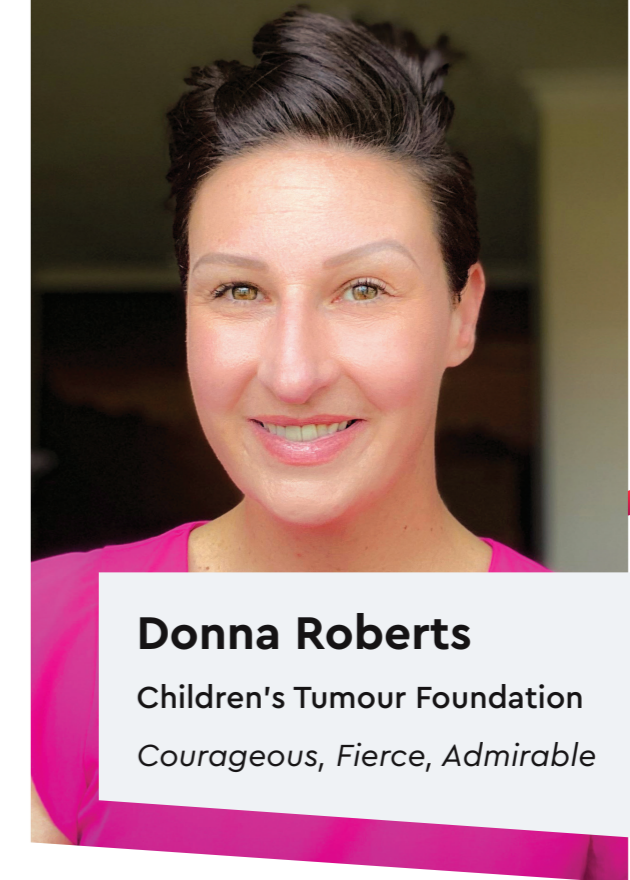
"I volunteer for the Children's Tumour Foundation and advocate for awareness of neurofibromatosis and the general celebration of difference. I want my daughter and other sufferers to live in a world that is accepting, kind and inclusive," says Donna, who is now the peer leader and event manager in Fremantle.

"The events I bring to our area are so important when it comes to eliminating stigma and stereotypes of visible differences."

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.

Children's Tumour Foundation will use its grant to run a camp for kids with neurofibromatosis as well as their siblings.

*Donna's nominator says "Donna's advocacy encourages a celebration and acceptance of difference. Her community work is improving the mental and social wellbeing of dozens of families."*



### Donna Roberts

Children's Tumour Foundation

*Courageous, Fierce, Admirable*

## Mum on a mission

**"The events I bring to our area are so important when it comes to eliminating stigma and stereotypes of visible differences."**



## Brad Karafil

Kardinya Suns Junior Football Club

*Supportive, Authentic, Enthusiastic*

## Coaching team sport and life skills

**"I aim to cater for the needs of all involved in our youth program, and everyone feels valued to a point where all players buy into common goals."**

**On and off the field, volunteer AFL coach Brad Karafil is teaching his Year 11 and 12 players life skills, inclusivity and teamwork.**

With his reputation for being hard but fair, Brad has been a respected coach at Kardinya Suns Junior Football Club for 12 years.

The award-winning coach led his boys to premierships in 2016, 2017 and 2018. But it's not all about winning. Brad's mantra is "today's boys, tomorrow's gentlemen".

He promotes cultural diversity and acceptance and sees team sport as a great way to teach teenagers invaluable lessons they can take into their careers and relationships.

"I like to think I facilitate emotional growth and development in young people," Brad says.

For example, he encourages his players to set short-term and long-term goals. Another focus is on helping the boys to become more in tune with their feelings.

"I regularly facilitate mental health sessions in the team. I encourage reflection and gratefulness and our boys are becoming more in tune with their feelings and also identifying the feelings of others," says Brad.

"I aim to cater for the needs of all involved in our youth program, and everyone feels valued to a point where all players buy into common goals."

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Kardinya Suns Junior Football Club will use its grant to buy training tops, playing jumpers and shorts for players as well as equipment.

*Brad's nominator says: "Brad gives his all to junior sport. He provides a safe and inclusive environment for kids to train and develop, both as players and young men."*

**As a former speech therapist and mother of a child with additional needs, Chrissy Lee knew more could be done to allow children like her son to participate in the local community.**

So, in 2018 she founded Heroes Academy. Heroes Academy runs free and fun event days for children with additional needs and their siblings.

The action-packed event days include jumping castles, silent discos, tower-building competitions and much more!

Chrissy has inspired dozens of professionals, including doctors, therapists and teachers, to volunteer their time at Heroes Academy event days.

Over 100 young 'heroes' have had the time of their lives at the six events that have been held so far, choosing the activities that most appeal to them.

"All of our activities are designed with our 'heroes' in mind, says Chrissy, a mum of two teenage boys. "Individual sensory, physical, medical and behavioural needs are all accounted for in the development of the programs so that all children can participate at a level suitable to them."

Heroes Academy also provides some respite for parents and carers, who can head to the beach or have a nap while their children are expertly cared for.

"Ours is a service for the whole family," says Chrissy.

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Heroes Academy will use its grant to create a sensory room to better accommodate the needs of young heroes.

*Chrissy's nominator says: "Chrissy believes that every kid is super and has wonderful gifts and abilities to be developed, cherished and celebrated."*

## Christina (Chrissy) Lee

Heroes Academy

*Inclusive, Passionate, Kind*

## Celebrating little heroes

**"Individual sensory, physical, medical and behavioural needs are all accounted for in the development of the programs so that all children can participate at a level suitable to them."**



## Your 2020 Finalists

### Sharon Irene Young

#### Lifeline WA

When Sharon Irene Young lost her nephew to suicide eight years ago, she was determined to help others get the support they need. As a volunteer with Lifeline, she has raised close to \$190,000 to train telephone counsellors. She has also established a mental health program at the school where she works.

If you need support, please phone:

Lifeline: 13 11 14

### Curtis Novacsek

#### Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA

Energetic volunteer Curtis Novacsek has helped hundreds of at-risk children as a mentor with Edmund Rice Camps for Kids. He is admired for his willingness to go above and beyond so they can enjoy just being children. The camps always go well when Curtis is involved, thanks to his special bond with the kids.

## Recognising all of our 2020 nominees

### Jenni Bunce

Beacon Progress Association

### Brad Karafil

Kardinya Suns Junior Football Club

### Curtis Novacsek

Edmund Rice Camps For Kids WA

### Sharon Irene Young

Lifeline WA

### Christina Lee

Heroes Academy

### Donna Roberts

Children's Tumour Foundation

### Wendy Corrick

Friends Of Bull Creek Catchment, Sercul

### Gillian Parker

One Achord Community Choir

### Hayden Glass

Red Frogs Australia

### Stefani Caminiti

The Inner Ninja Foundation

### Peter Matera

Matera Foundation

### Mandy Bishop

The Foster Share Shed Inc

### Fleur Hockey

Cockburn Youth Centre

### Kaylene Poon

The Chung Wah Association Inc.

### Michelle Carrington

Katanning Squash Club

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

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**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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