

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

Carousel

WA

Jayde Seed is passionate about giving people with disabilities the chance to keep fit and achieve their full potential, just as he has.

Jayde was left with quadriplegia after a football accident in 2003. But participating in wheelchair rugby helped him get through the dark times and push the boundaries of what he thought was possible after his injury.

For 15 years, he has been proudly volunteering for Rebound WA's wheelchair rugby program to raise awareness of the life-changing sport and is now the team captain and coach.

He is a regular visitor to people undergoing rehabilitation in hospital after suffering a traumatic injury.

Jayde talks about the programs offered by Rebound WA and how wheelchair rugby helped him overcome severe depression after his injury and, more recently, cancer treatment.

"Providing hope and support to others who have suffered a traumatic injury like myself is invaluable to their recovery," he says.

Jayde says the physical and mental health benefits the players reap are enormous.

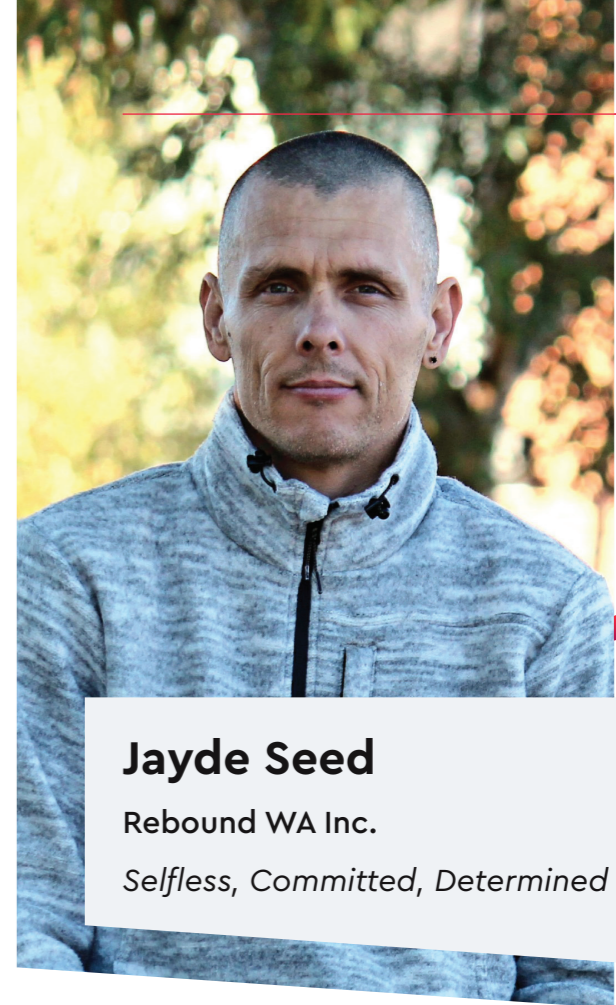
"I feel accomplished when I can introduce new players to this amazing sport," he says.

"I know they are at their most vulnerable and difficult stages of their lives, and I can help them gain confidence and independence through playing sport with their peers."

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Rebound WA will use its grant to fund ongoing costs and to repair equipment so players don't need to share chairs.

Jayde's nominator says: "Jayde is passionate about mentoring others with similar disabilities and getting them active. He is often seen going beyond to help others on the court or fundraising to support wheelchair rugby."



Jayde Seed

Rebound WA Inc.

Selfless, Committed, Determined

Pushing the boundaries

"Providing hope and support to others who have suffered a traumatic injury like myself is invaluable to their recovery."



Jessica (Jess) Pianta

HeartKids

Selfless, Courageous, Compassionate

Enabling safe connection

"All of this helps alleviate some of the anxiety that parents caring for a child with a chronic illness deal with every day."

Jess Pianta has her hands full juggling work, family life and caring for a child with congenital heart disease. Still she finds time to help other families in the same position.

She's a peer mentor with HeartKids, a charity that supports families and raises funds for research, and is always there to connect with families to let them know they are not alone.

She set up a playgroup exclusively for children with congenital heart disease (CHD), who risk becoming seriously ill if they are exposed to bugs that healthy kids at regular playgroups brush off.

Thanks to Jess, CHD children get to socialise with other kids and grow their imagination in a safe environment.

To make sure as many families as possible can participate, Jess runs the free, monthly playgroup at a variety of carefully chosen venues and on different days of the week.

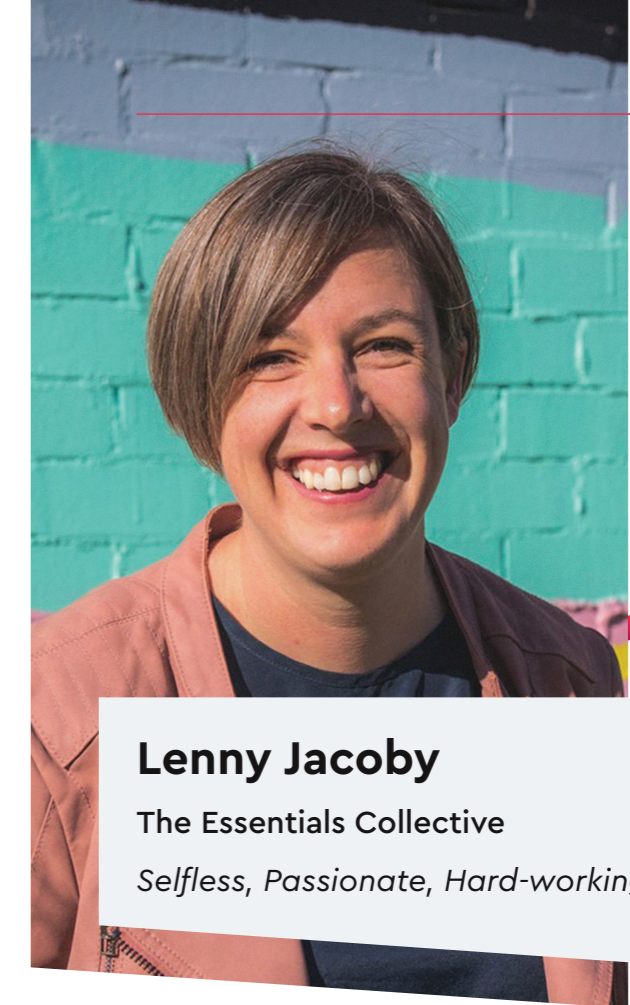
"Having their own specific playgroup gives parents of heart kids the ability to share their experiences and support each other while knowing their children are safe from common illnesses," she says.

"All of this helps alleviate some of the anxiety that parents caring for a child with a chronic illness deal with every day."

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HeartKids will use its grant to be able to increase the number of playgroups it runs and help more families.

Jessica's nominator says: "Jess has faced many difficult times and at times her child's life has hung in the balance. Yet she will do anything possible to help others feel safe and less anxious."



Lenny Jacoby

The Essentials Collective

Selfless, Passionate, Hard-working

Bringing back dignity and pride

"It still amazes me the impact such a donation can make."

By providing a few essentials, Lenny Jacoby is making a huge difference to people who are homeless or fleeing domestic violence.

Six years ago, Lenny founded not-for-profit The Essentials Collective, which drops toiletries, sanitary items, underwear and health products at women's refugees and outreach and drop-in centres.

A part-time nurse and mother, she finds the time to organise and facilitate over 30 donation drop off sites across Perth. So far, she has collected almost 190,000 donated items.

Along the way, she has inspired and motivated 50 people to volunteer their time.

More recently, the collective started providing socks to homeless men – 700 pairs to date – after Lenny went out into the community to talk to displaced men.

"I recently heard a woman say that it was the simple things like having shampoo and a toothbrush that made her feel valued when she entered a women's refuge," Lenny says.

"It still amazes me the impact such a donation can make."

Lenny says she won't stop until homelessness ends.

"Most vulnerable people want to look good, to have hygiene and be proud of who they are," she says.

"How can they do that without the basic things in life?"

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The Essentials Collective will use its grant to securing permanent storage premises and to purchasing extra toiletries.

Lenny's nominator says: "Lenny is a role model for all of those around her. She is motivating others to give back to those less fortunate."

Your 2020 Finalists

Guy Mead

Stryka Fight Team

Stryka Fight Team is a sporting club with a difference.

Guy Mead established the non-profit mixed martial arts team so at-risk young people can enjoy and even compete in their favourite combat sport for free.

But there is a stipulation: every young person must volunteer in the community, for example by providing firewood and yard maintenance to the elderly or supporting those with disabilities.

"We give local youth a sense of achievement, purpose and community belonging," Guy says.

Chontae Hayden

Earbus Foundation of WA

As someone who struggled with hearing as a child, Chontae Hayden is committed to stamping out ear infections among Indigenous and at-risk children.

At 19 years of age, she is a community role model and an indispensable member of the Earbus Foundation WA, which aims to eradicate middle ear disease in remote communities and Perth.

Chontae, a Noongar woman, manages the clinical information so the team of doctors and nurses don't miss children who are high priority.

"One of the things I love is educating teachers and families so they are aware what symptoms they should look out for," Chontae says.

Julian Pace

Happiness Co Pty Ltd

Julian Pace is determined to do something to make the world happier and combat depression.

He founded Happiness Co, which offers a range of events and online programs to promote connection, kindness and contribution to the world.

Happiness Co has had a positive impact on over 80,000 people in over 10 countries.

Julian has launched several initiatives to help men, young women, school students and parents and their children.

If you need support, please phone Lifeline: 13 11 14

Recognising all of our 2020 nominees

Rita Kleinfeld-Fowell
Midlas

Perry Kleppe
Willetton Football Club

David Ferguson
PMH Fund + Childrens
Cancer Fund

Leeanne Bates
Hope Community Services

Lachlan Perhavic
Willetton Football Club

Yani Lotsos
Impact Youth Group

Bryanna Warwick
Impact Youth Armadale
Incorporated

Guy Mead
Stryka Fight Team

Jayde Seed
Rebound WA Inc.

Jessica Pianta
Heartkids

Chontae Hayden
Earbus Foundation Of WA

Lenny Jacoby
The Essentials Collective

Julian Pace
Happiness Co Pty Ltd

Cameron Barnes
Red Frogs Australia – WA

Sukhwinder Singh
Byford Multicultural Club Inc

Gloria Miller
Harmoni House

Lyndon Nilsson
SecondBite

Ivan Marcelo
Good Deed Movement

Rachel John
Classic Sounds Orchestra
Association Inc (CSO)

Caris Morris
The Gosnells Toy Library

John Mogridge
Moorditj Maarman Aboriginal
Mens Group

Michele O'Neill
WA Pet Project

Brad Thomasz
Gosnells Junior Football Club

Leah Atkinson
Operation Sunshine WA

Campbell Ballantyne
Curtin University Football Club

Lilyan Smith
Lol And Pete

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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