

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

Newmarket

NZ

When it comes to priorities, Emma MacDonald always puts families dealing with the loss of a child first.

For five years she has been a dedicated and compassionate volunteer with Heartfelt NZ.

The charity provides free photographic memories for families experiencing stillbirth or who are about to lose their child to terminal illness.

Heartfelt looks after around 400 families a year, taking photos of children aged from 22 weeks' gestation until 17 years of age.

"We capture the love that is evident in the room, the memories and the details," says Emma.

Last year she met with 150 families: "I am on call 24/7 and it's not unusual for me leave social occasions, family dinners and work when a family is in need. Heartfelt families often take a higher priority than friends, family and down time."

In addition to her own heavy volunteer load, Emma is also the vice-president of Heartfelt and coordinates more than 65 volunteers across New Zealand.

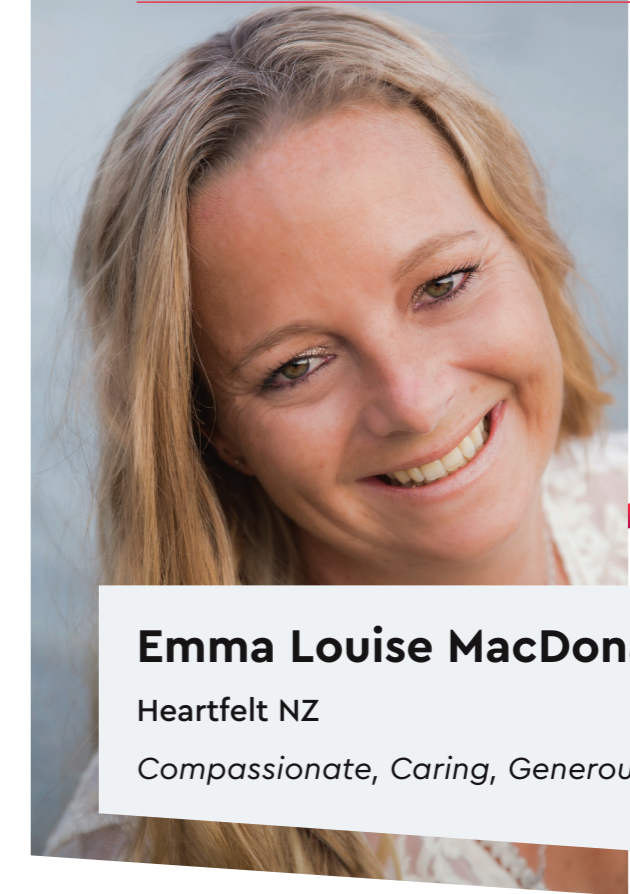
She accommodates requests for home photographs, funeral photographs and coordinates with hospital staff for hospital sessions.

"It is the highest honour to be invited into the darkest hours of the parents' lives to capture everything that grief and pain will likely dull," Emma says.

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.

Heartfelt NZ will use its grant to help cover the costs of printing photographs.

Emma's nominator says: "Emma Louise enables families to have beautiful memories of their loved ones, which helps them work through their personal grieving processes."



Emma Louise MacDonald

Heartfelt NZ

Compassionate, Caring, Generous

Beautiful memories for grieving parents

"We capture the love that is evident in the room, the memories and the details," says Emma.



Debbie Hoskins

Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Zealand Trust

Nurturing, Inclusive, Devoted

Granting critically ill children's wishes

"She was able to arrange for the child to receive their wish, a racing cart, during the Christmas shut-down period."

Debbie Hoskins is the backbone of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Zealand.

For eight years, she has been the Volunteer and Medical Outreach Manager for Make-A-Wish, which grants the wishes of children aged three to seventeen who are living with a serious illness.

It's thanks to Debbie's support and encouragement that many of the 138 volunteers who work to make wishes come true have remained with the charity for years.

"The situations they walk into as volunteers can be emotionally challenging, so ensuring they practice self-care and knowing that I am always here to talk them through these challenges is a must," she says.

Debbie, who is affectionately known as 'Mrs Make-A-Wish', also goes above and beyond her paid role, and so far has made 64 wishes come true as a volunteer.

Her generous spirit was on display when she came to the rescue when one child's health deteriorated to the point that granting their wish became urgent.

She was able to arrange for the child to receive their wish, a racing cart, during the Christmas shut-down period.

"I've always believed that volunteering is the right thing to do in my role as it keeps me in touch with the challenges that our volunteer team face," says Debbie.

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Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Zealand Trust will use its grant to train and support volunteers.

Debbie's nominator says: "Debbie is a dedicated and nurturing wish volunteer and always treats wish children with care and respect. She emanates collegiality amongst her fellow volunteers, colleagues, and wish children and their families."

When Katya Souvorova arrived in New Zealand from Russia in 1996, she could not read or speak a word of English.

Over the next five years, she taught herself English by translating books with a dictionary and by attending Playcentre with her children.

Now Katya is the friendly face of Heart Kids at the Auckland Children's Hospital.

As a Hospital Family Support Worker, Katya provides vital emotional support to families while a child is in hospital for a heart-related condition, including open-heart surgery.

She also assesses families to receive petrol, food and coffee vouchers.

Katya is known for putting her soul into her work and builds genuine connections with families, who are often at the hospital for long periods at a time and may need many years of follow-up.

People know she will stop for a chat, listen and be there as a shoulder to cry on.

Although Katya works part-time, scheduled hours don't mean anything to her.

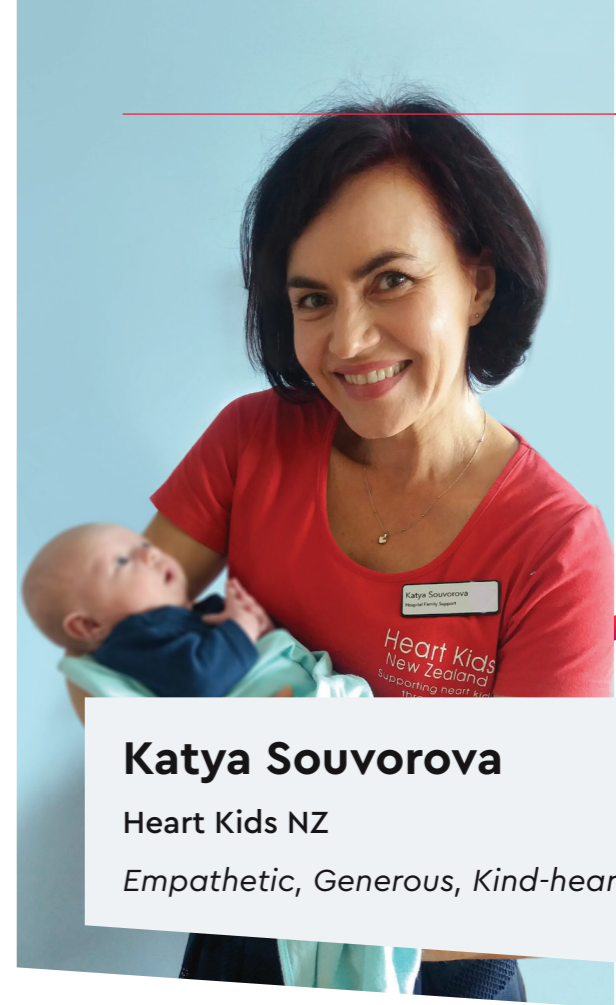
Katya believes her life experience has helped her to connect with families from a range of cultures, religions and ethnicities.

"I am able to empathise with the heart families and provide them the support that they need," she says.

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Heart Kids NZ will use its grant to buy hospital vouchers for parents and subsidise travel costs.

Katya's nominator says: "Katya is the most kind, caring non-judgmental person. She is much loved by all the families she comes into contact with and does much, much more than just her job. She is an inspiration and role model."



Katya Souvorova

Heart Kids NZ

Empathetic, Generous, Kind-hearted

Supporting families

"Katya believes her life experience has helped her to connect with families from a range of cultures, religions and ethnicities."

Your 2020 Finalists

Donna McCaskill

The Cookie Project

Donna McCaskill is making a difference for people with a disability. Since starting as a volunteer kitchen manager for social enterprise The Cookie Project, she has improved its efficiency. This has opened the door for more people with disabilities to be employed as bakers.

With Donna's help and leadership, the bakers are overcoming their challenges.

"I want them to see they are just as important as anyone else walking down the street. I love that I get to help them grow," says Donna.

Hayden Smith

Sea Cleaners

Hayden Smith set up non-profit Sea Cleaners to preserve Auckland's marine waterways.

His four boats are out on the water every day, removing 160,000 litres of plastic rubbish from the water and shorelines every month.

Hayden educates young people about the importance of disposing of waste properly and recycling.

"Our vision is to preserve New Zealand's Coastline for the benefit of the marine life and for the enjoyment of all users," Hayden says.

Alyson de Marco

Tāmaki Budgeting Services

Alyson de Marco is dedicated to rescuing people on low incomes from financial crises.

As CEO of non-profit Tamaki Budgeting Services, she oversees a program that offers one-on-one mentoring to people who have reached breaking point.

Through one-on-one mentoring, the advisers suggest solutions to the most pressing problems and show how small changes can make a big difference.

Alyson's MoneyMates program, which brings people together to share budgeting tips, is making a huge difference in vulnerable people's lives.

If you need support, please phone:
Lifeline 0800 543 354

Recognising all of our 2020 nominees

Campbell Hope

Auckland Coastguard Inc

Jamie Robert Johnston

Everybody Eats

Susan Matencio

Puketapapa Community Driving School

Ronnie Navarrete

Expert Cleaning Services Ltd

Jeff Wood

Victim Support – East Auckland

Elizabeth Lau

Wairua Sinfonietta Charitable Trust

Quaid Fletcher Pirihi

Rainbow Youth, Outline NZ, Auckland City Mission

Anna Avery

Sir Ray Avery Foundation

Stacey Balich

Ellers School

Emma Louise Macdonald

Heartfelt NZ

Hayden Smith

Sea Cleaners

Debbie Hoskins

Make-A-Wish Foundation Of New Zealand Trust

Alyson De Marco

Tamaki Budgeting Services

Donna Mccaskill

The Cookie Project

Deborah George

Inzone Education Foundation

Katya Souvorova

Heart Kids NZ

Catherine Elizabeth Comber

Loneliness New Zealand Charitable Trust (Loneliness NZ)

Celia Violet Moore

Centre For Brain Research More Than Words Gavel Club For People With Aphasia

Louise Garbett

Auckland Family Freecycle

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