

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

St Lukes

NZ

Professionally, Bernie Harfleet has worked with children and adults with intellectual disabilities for 33 years.

He and his partner, Donna Turtle Sarten, are also well known for their artwork that tackles abuse of women and children, mental health and poverty.

For the past six years, they have harnessed community goodwill with the charity Give a Kid a Blanket, which they founded to embrace children in need with warmth and love.

Every winter the charity collects blankets, pyjamas and other warming items which are given to children and families in need through social workers, public health nurses, the police, refuges and community workers.

The idea is that the people who receive the blankets benefit from both physical and emotional warmth, and feel valued by the community.

"Over the last six years, we have gifted around 100,000 items," says Bernie.

"We never focus on those receiving support as this can be victimising, but rather focus on the community of kindness that has grown around the project."

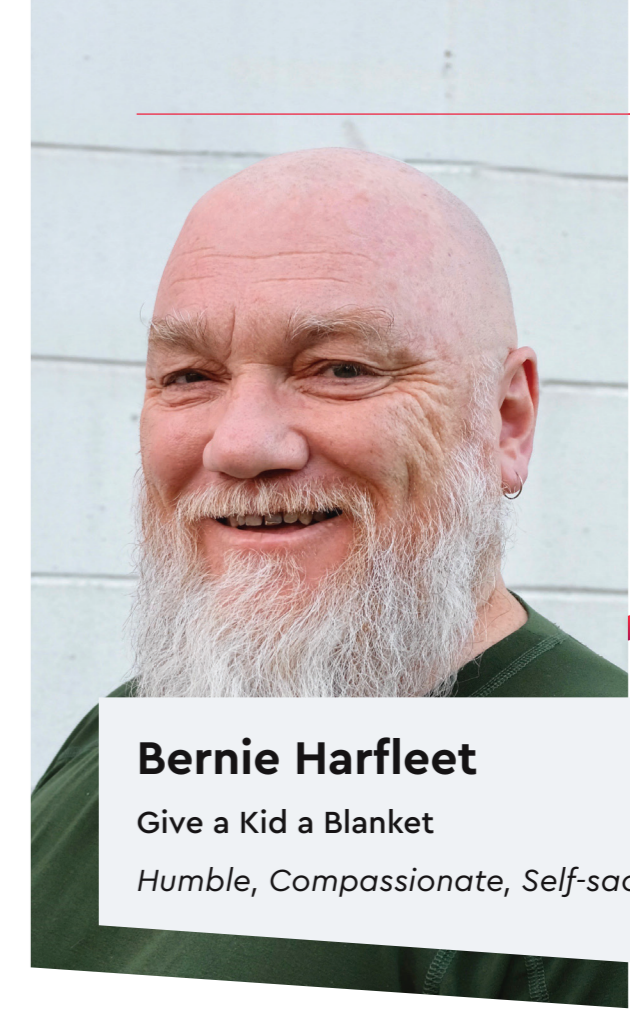
"We also supply family care packs to North shore and Auckland hospital ICU departments.

"I do this because it is possible to make a difference with practical local action and kindness," says Bernie, who has twice been nominated for New Zealander of The Year.

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.

Give a Kid a Blanket will use its grant to buy bedding, mainly duvet inners, covers and pillows following a shortfall of donations due to COVID-19.

Bernie's nominator says: "Bernie is selflessly devoted to the cause, and there is no better cause than children's needs as children are our future. Bernie recognises this and actually does something tangible about it."



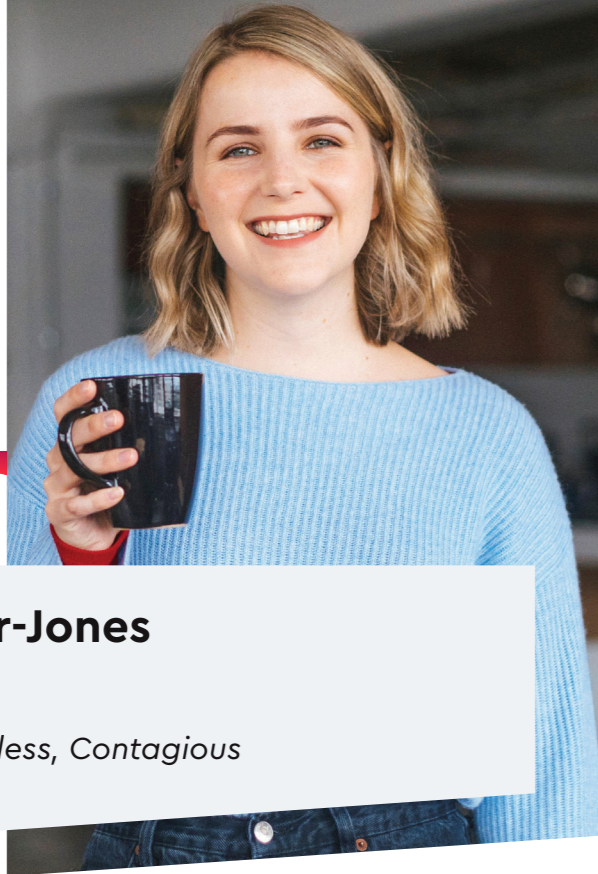
Bernie Harfleet

Give a Kid a Blanket

Humble, Compassionate, Self-sacrificing

Sharing warmth and love

"We never focus on those receiving support as this can be victimising, but rather focus on the community of kindness that has grown around the project."



Lydia Hollister-Jones

Gratis Free Store

Compassionate, Selfless, Contagious

Giving food and creating connection

"My life has been changed by the connections I've made."

Lydia Hollister-Jones has achieved something special in her community.

She leads the Gratis Free Store to redirect high-quality surplus food from local cafés to people in need at the local community hall.

The initiative is providing more than Lydia envisaged, with many disadvantaged people relishing the opportunity to enjoy conversation and friendship as much as the food and cups of tea and coffee provided.

The store is open on Monday and Wednesday nights, with people often queuing to get in.

It's a welcome refuge for those who are struggling with loneliness, hunger, homelessness, and addiction.

"We've had feedback about how different it feels to other initiatives, that people who fight outside of Gratis walk in and are at peace with each other," Lydia says.

"We've seen confidence rise in our community because people are genuinely interested in hearing what others have to say. We chat about everything, from our favourite doughnuts to how our mental health is doing."

As store leader, Lydia supports volunteers, orders groceries and, most importantly, makes sure everyone walking through the doors feels seen and heard.

"My life has been changed by the connections I've made," she says.

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Gratis Free Store will use its grant to offer hot food, run special events and provide volunteer training.

Lydia's nominator says: "If Lydia is the future of New Zealand, we are in great shape. She is focused on those who are often unseen or forgotten and puts others before herself with enthusiasm and a smile."

Tayla Jane Nasmith was 12 years old when she started Mummies in Need to help mums of all ages with essentials for their children.

That was in 2012. Tayla was driven to do something positive when she saw a baby in a supermarket wearing nothing but a singlet.

"I started gathering baby items, and I created the platform Mummies in Need. People would contact me if they needed something."

Since then, Tayla has spent much of her time fundraising and collecting, buying, organising and delivering prams, clothes, toys and bassinets and other necessities.

The charity now supports about 170 babies a month.

"I never thought it would get this big. It was just a hobby and huge passion for years until I left school and I was struggling to find my purpose."

Tayla has made the charity a fulltime commitment.

"I decided that if I could make Mummies in Need something amazing, that the time would be now. So my parents agreed, and I've never looked back.

"I absolutely love the work I do and I love knowing that there are babies out there that are safe because of us," says Tayla.

"I believe every baby deserves the same healthy and happy start."

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Mummies in Need will use its grant to employ an assistant.

Tayla's nominator says: "Tayla gives countless hours of her time to helping struggling parents by providing them with essentials to keep themselves and their babies safe, happy and healthy."

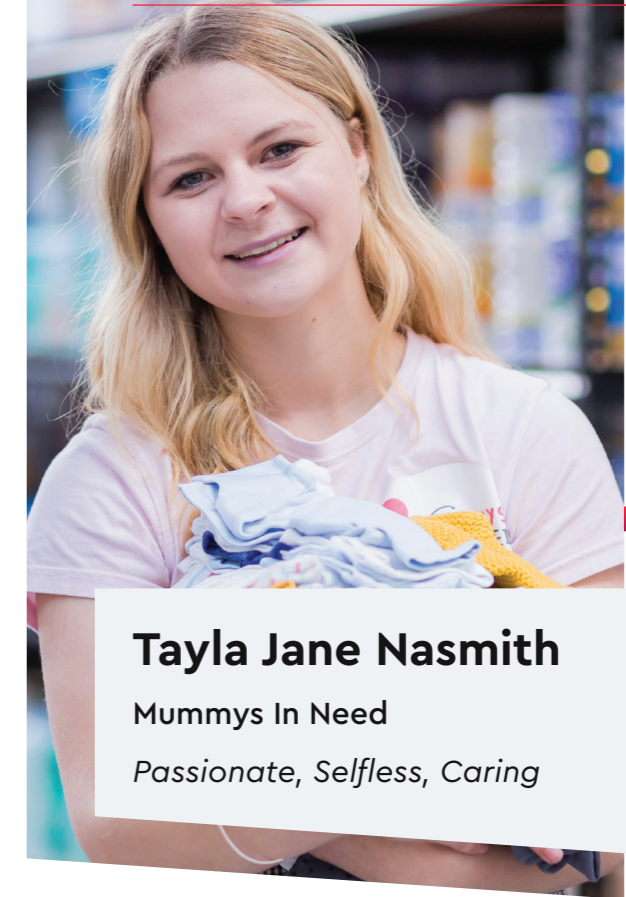
Tayla Jane Nasmith

Mummies In Need

Passionate, Selfless, Caring

Helping hundreds of babies

"I absolutely love the work I do and I love knowing that there are babies out there that are safe because of us," says Tayla.



Your 2020 Finalists

Jennifer (Jen) Birch Autism New Zealand

Jen Birch provides adults with autism with a much-needed social outlet through an Autism New Zealand support group.

Jen received an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis at the age of 43 and understands what it's like to grow up with an unexplained difference.

The group arranges two much-needed get-togethers a month.

"This is a crucial social outlet for many individuals who otherwise may have had few, if any, opportunities to meet other people in an environment of understanding and acceptance," Jen says

She has written a book about her experiences which has helped raise awareness.

Sarah Woollard Anxiety New Zealand Trust

Passionate about connecting people with health and wellbeing support Sarah Woollard was driven to help other New Zealanders dealing with anxiety, panic attacks, obsessive-compulsive disorder, depression and mental distress.

Sarah Woollard is passionate about helping connect kids, adults and families with essential mental health education and support.

She is the CEO of the Anxiety New Zealand Trust, a non-profit charity of 40 years, where she volunteers for many hours on top of her busy schedule.

Mac Jordan Youthline Auckland Charitable Trust

Mac Jordan wants to help change New Zealand's high rates of youth suicide, school bullying and child poverty.

For over two years he has been a highly effective helpline mentor with the Youthline Auckland Charitable Trust.

Youthline plays a critical role in early intervention through its 24/7 helpline, which received over 151,000 calls, emails and texts for help last year.

Eager to step up his efforts, Mac has taken on the important task of training and supervising current and new helpline volunteers.

Recognising all of our 2020 nominees

Hana Seddon
The Salvation Army
/Te Ope Whakaora

Sharon Robinson
Kumeu Rackets Club

Janet Marks
Interacting

Veronica Shale
Fair Food Charitable Trust

Jane Hahn
Good Shepherd Church And School Sustainability Action Group, Telford Avenue, Balmoral, Auckland

Cinnamon Whitlock
E Tipu E Rea Whānau Services

Dr Jono Wills
Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust

Marie Jujnovich
Heart Kids Auckland

Raymond Greaves
Physical Disability Rugby League NZ

Donna Turtle Sarten
Give A Kid A Blanket

Kelly Hutchison
Rise

Anna Kate Paterson
Everlasting

Natasha Crosby
Talk Peach

Hannah Young
The Therapy Box

Sarah Woollard
Anxiety New Zealand Trust

Chelsey Harnell
YMCA Mt Albert And Lynfield

Tayla Jane Nasmith
Mummy's In Need

Bernie Harfleet
Give A Kid A Blanket

Lydia Hollister-Jones
Gratis Free Store

Mac Jordan
Youthline Auckland Charitable Trust

Jennifer Birch
Autism New Zealand

Rob And Zee Luisi
Ranui 135

Fleur Tuck
Edendale School

John Ferriss
Panacea Arts Charitable Trust
T/A Mapura Studios

Boubacar Coulibaly
African Film Festival
New Zealand Trust

Ashleigh Ali-Aziz
Eyeview Ethnic Trust

Saten Sharma
Waitakere Hindi School

Tony Yuretich
Graeme Dingle Foundation
Auckland

Rui Xue (Sherry)
Sport Auckland Activasian

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
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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