



Westfield

Local Heroes

2021

Westfield Local Heroes is a community recognition and awards program, designed to shine the spotlight on those people across Australia and New Zealand who make a positive impact to their local community and environment.

Individuals are nominated by their local communities, with the outcome of a public vote determining the three successful 2021 nominees for every Westfield centre.

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Now in its fourth year, we have awarded \$4.88 million to 489 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 2021 nominees for being recognised by their communities and thank them for the important contribution they all make.



Westfield

Albany

NZ

Former oncology nurse Jan Nichols has provided thousands of people with care and support during her 27 years working in the hospice environment.

Jan is the CEO of Harbour Hospice, which was founded by the local community to help people with a life-limiting illness, free of charge.

Hospice cares for 1 in 3 people who die locally. Its aim is to help its patients and their family/whānau make the most of every moment.

In 2020, the caring staff helped over 1200 people with a range of illnesses to have the best quality of life possible, with the help of 1400 volunteers.

Though most people are cared for at home, some patients may stay at a hospice facility to have their symptoms managed, receive intense multi-disciplinary care in the final stages of life or for respite care.

Jan is recognised for the visionary leadership she displayed in

2018 when she managed the unification of three separate service providers under one Harbour Hospice umbrella.

She says the most enjoyable aspect of her job is witnessing lives being transformed by the way people are cared for at the hospice.

Jan feels humbled to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "Hospice is where my most rewarding contributions as a human and professional have taken place," she says.

Jan's nominator says: "Jan is a Westfield Local Hero because her extraordinary vision drives Harbour Hospice to provide patients and their families with the best possible support. Her compassion, personal touch and experience make her a wonderful role model."



Best possible support

Jan Nichols

Harbour Hospice

Compassionate, Inclusive, Focused

"Hospice is where my most rewarding contributions as a human and professional have taken place."



Caring for our heroes

Rebecca Nelson

Te Kiwi Māia

Inspiring, Effervescent, Passionate

"Knowing what our first responders see and do daily motivates me to look after them and help them live their best lives."

Rebecca Nelson is building much-needed support for injured first responders and defence force personnel through her organisation Te Kiwi Māia (The Courageous Kiwi).

Rebecca is a Reservist of the Royal New Zealand Navy and was inspired to set up her charitable trust after visiting a facility over in the UK that her friend attended.

The charity has been running for just 18 months, but Rebecca's contagious passion means she has already rallied a team to help Te Kiwi Māia provide rehabilitation services to the people who help keep New Zealanders safe.

The goal is to establish a working farm where first responders and defence force personnel with physical and psychological injuries can visit to recover.

Her dedication has encouraged first responder organisations and the New Zealand Defence Force to come on board and work with the charity to achieve its goal.

One of her significant achievements is an annual Wellness Workshop to improve collaboration and information sharing between the organisations.

"It is a huge honour and privilege to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. Knowing what our first responders see and do daily motivates me to look after them and help them live their best lives," says Rebecca.

Rebecca's nominator says: "Rebecca is a Westfield Local Hero because she consistently puts others first and selflessly devotes her time and energy to bettering the lives of others in need."

Ronda Amende gives deserving families the break they need through her organisation, TimeOut.

Ronda set up the charitable trust in 2016 to gift people with a terminal diagnosis a holiday with their family so they can create precious memories.

The idea for the non-profit came after she and her family were offered a break in a holiday house while she was undergoing cancer treatment.

Inspired by the gratitude she felt, Ronda wanted other families in need to have this experience and seeing the positive effects drives her to keep going.

She has inspired Kiwis to generously donate time in their holiday or beach houses, with over 130 homes now on offer to families.

One of her most rewarding moments came when a family told her the memory of the holiday with their mother would

hold them together through the years to come.

She is proud that TimeOut helps families feel cared for during challenging times.

Ronda says being nominated as a Westfield Local Hero motivates her to keep going. "It is nice for TimeOut's work to be recognised. I keep focused on the knowledge that what we do makes a difference for everyone and, while we can't heal people, we can show love and support," she says.

Ronda's nominator says: "Despite her own cancer diagnosis, Ronda has selflessly dedicated much of her precious time and effort to create TimeOut, so other people facing a terminal diagnosis have an opportunity to make special memories with their family and friends."



A unique gift for families

Ronda Amende

TimeOut Charitable Trust

Inspiring, Brave, Dedicated

"I keep focused on the knowledge that what we do makes a difference for everyone and, while we can't heal people, we can show love and support."

Your 2021 Finalists



Rikihana Clark

Victim Support North Shore

Rikihana Clark was determined to make a difference in his community and found the perfect fit with Victim Support North Shore. Rikihana is regarded as a rock for people in need, helping them through some of the most difficult times imaginable, including crime, family violence and suicide.

If you need support, please phone
Lifeline: 0800 54 33 54



Jane Hunter

North Harbour Community Patrol

At 73 years of age, Jane Hunter is an active member of the North Harbour Community Patrol. She is one of 37 volunteers who work closely with the police. She trains other volunteers and works into the early hours of the morning, patrolling crime hot spots in residential neighbourhoods and commercial areas. Jane was a Westfield Local Hero finalist in 2020 and appreciates being nominated for a second time.



Garry Learmonth

WanderSearch Auckland Charitable Trust

Police officer Gary Learmonth has saved countless families from the anguish of having a relative with dementia or autism go missing. He co-founded WanderSearch Charitable Trust, which provides people with a tracking device in a pendant that increases the odds they'll be found safe and well and reduces the time and cost of searching for them.

Recognising all of our 2021 nominees

Jo Hayes
Grandfriends NZ

Anita Hinton
I Got Your Back Pack

Rozaan van Rooyen
**Neighbourhood Support
North Shore**

Eleanor Koningham
Mairangi Bay Tennis Club

Kevin Guowei Wu

Abbey Fouche
The Mums Clique

Liane Koutris
I Got Your Back Pack

Dawn Hutchison
North Shore Women's Centre

Harold the Giraffe
Life Education Trust Rodney

Victoria Lessing
Merge NZ

John French
**Age Concern Auckland
Incorporated**

Adam Christian
YMCA North Shore

Gemma Overton
Cereal Palsy Group

Daniel Dong
Harbour Sport

Chercara Strydom
Care for families

King George Diones
**Kids Can, Healthcare
in Philippines**

Steve O'Kane
Parafed Auckland

Jan Nichols
Harbour Hospice

Hannah Catterall
**Youthline Auckland
Charitable Trust**

Ronda Amende
TimeOut Charitable Trust

Rikihana Clark
Victim Support North Shore

Rebecca Nelson
Te Kiwi Maia

Jennifer Cherry
Back2School Project

Jane Hunter
**North Harbour
Community Patrol**

Garry Learmonth
**WanderSearch Auckland
Charitable Trust**

**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

The background features a large, abstract graphic composed of overlapping, rounded shapes in various shades of red and white. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The colors range from a bright, vibrant red to a deep, dark red, with white areas that appear to be cutouts or highlights within the composition.

westfield.com.au/local-heroes

westfield.co.nz/local-heroes

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SCENTRE GROUP