



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

Manukau City

NZ

Wendy Keate is a dedicated volunteer for Victim Support Counties Manukau, where she helps distressed people build strength and regain control of their life.

Wendy underwent her training in 2020 and has already supported close to 100 clients, many of whom are highly traumatised after an accident, crime or suicide. She travels to wherever she is needed, including to accident scenes, hospitals and courts.

Wendy's more experienced colleagues recognised her impressive dedication, empathy, heart and professionalism from the start.

Wendy feels a strong affinity for the respectful approach of Victim Support Counties Manukau, which follows Sir Mason Durie's Te Whare Tapa Whā model. It focuses on four areas: Te Taha Hinengaro (psychological wellbeing), Te Taha Wairua (spiritual wellbeing), Te Taha Tinana (physical wellbeing)

and Te Taha Whānau (family wellbeing).

Wendy has lived in Counties Manukau for just over 40 years and feels privileged to be a pillar for her people to lean on.

She's proud to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero and to be part of the greater good. "I thank the people I have supported so far for allowing me to be part of a time in their lives when they were at their most vulnerable."

Wendy's nominator says: "Wendy is a Westfield Local Hero because she is a volunteer superstar. Within nine weeks of completing her training as a volunteer support worker, Wendy worked on 50 referrals for traumatised members of our community."

If you need support, contact Victim Support: 0800 842 846



A pillar for distressed people

Wendy Keate

Victim Support Counties Manukau

Empathetic, Compassionate, Professional

"I thank the people I have supported so far for allowing me to be part of a time in their lives when they were at their most vulnerable."



Opening Camp Adair to locals

Dave Lockwood

YMCA North

Passionate, Community-minded, Innovator

"My role is to serve the local community and enable."

Dave Lockwood has rolled up his sleeves to give South Auckland school students an opportunity to enjoy the awesome school camps that other Kiwis take for granted.

As outdoors group manager at YMCA North, Dave decided to change the fact that schools closest to the iconic Camp Adair cannot afford to use the facility that generations of Auckland children have enjoyed.

His first success was a camp for Edmund Hillary School in Papakura, which had not had an outdoors camp for 15 years.

"My role is to serve the local community and enable," says Dave, who was born and raised in the Counties Manukau region and has spent most of his working life there.

A significant win for Dave was his game-changing partnership with the Find Your Field of Dreams Foundation to host 1,000 students from 24 South Auckland intermediate schools at one-week

sports camps at Camp Adair. "You can achieve great things through community partnerships," says Dave.

He is humbled to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "Making a difference brings me an enormous sense of joy. If we can help the children in our region in some small way to achieve their goals and dreams, then we have done our job."

Dave's nominator says:

"Dave is a Westfield Local Hero because he helps kids to reach their potential through outdoor education and is on a mission to make sure no kids are missing out. Dave is always working hard to give back to the South Auckland community."

Inspirational Kelly Francis has built hundreds of edible gardens in homes and community spaces to help stamp out food poverty since founding Whenua Warrior four years ago.

In 2017 Kelly realised the key to solving food insecurity was to change the way food is grown.

She has built 480 organic gardens in the back of homes, in schools and other community spaces since founding the charitable trust.

She teaches people of all ages how to grow an abundance of fruit and vegetables and encourages them to share the surplus with others in the community or exchange it for other essentials.

Her greatest hope is the project will bring an end to food insecurity and help communities flourish.

Kelly is proud to help people follow techniques used by their ancestors to protect the

environment (kaitiakitanga) while growing food crops.

She is honoured to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "It is humbling to know I have been nominated among all the other heroes in the community and to be able to spread the word about our work even further. Seeing children learn, adults teach, and our kaumatua (elders) having a space to be heard are all huge motivations for me," she says.

Kelly's nominator says: "Kelly is a Westfield Local Hero because she is working hard in the community to help us live off the land. She is teaching us sharing is caring."



**Ending food
insecurity**

Kelly Francis

Whenua Warrior

Dedicated, Passionate, Inspirational

"Seeing children learn, adults teach, and our kaumatua (elders) having a space to be heard are all huge motivations for me."

Your 2021 Finalists



Paul Dickson

Oke Charity

Paul Dickson sowed more than edible plants when he founded Oke Charity in 2015 to establish gardens in local schools. He aimed to teach children how to produce their own food, but the benefits have kept growing. The project has created outdoor learning spaces for 10,000 children, created jobs and brought the community together. Paul was a Westfield Local Hero finalist in 2019 and appreciates being nominated for a second time.



Shayal Mala

Age Concern Auckland Incorporated

Empathetic Shayal Mala has made it her life's work to ensure elderly people stay healthy, fit and independent for as long as possible. Shayal's caring and sunny nature are perfect for her role at Age Concern Auckland where provides advice at regular workshops and events. She helps people feel at ease as she shares tips on preventing falls, eating well and sleeping better at regular workshops and events.



Makaia Carr

Kura Kai

Makaia Carr sprang into action at the start of COVID-19 to feed families and ensure rangatahi (youth) could stay in school instead of having to work. She launched non-profit Kura Kai, recruited more than 1000 volunteers and started stocking freezers at 21 high schools, including five in Auckland, with food for students to take home.

Recognising all of our 2021 nominees

Lincoln Jefferson
Life Education

Mahera Maihi
Ma Te Huruuru Charity Trust

Nyra Marshall
Ako Mātātupu: Teach First NZ

Paula Unger
Rollerson Park Community Garden

Lillian Cattell
Netball Manurewa Inc.

Lydia Fa'afiu
Navigators

David Letele
Grace Foundation

Amanpreet Singh
Akaal Foundation

Pramjit Rai Suchdev
Known as Jeet Suchdev
Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust

Marlene Green
Auckland Whanau Special Needs Group

Issac William Pulu
Howick College, Cook Island community work, Auckland council gym box work

Nia Manukia
LIFE Community Kitchens

Paramjit kaur
Woman Care Trust

Vivi Lee
PARS Incorporated

Lucy Ngariki Green –
Shah Mohamady
Earth Agents NZ – A Service of Community Service Connect Trust

George Wilson
RYDA – Road Safety Education Limited

Debbie Munroe
Wakaofcaring

Makaia Carr
Kura Kai

SBS Sports and Cultural Club
Kellie Masiutama
The Corner: Creative Space

Shellyann (Tamara) Elliot
Graeme Dingle Foundation Auckland

Nivedita Sharma Vij
Muskaan Care Trust NZ

Tai Tupou
The Key To Life Charitable Trust

Serena Murdoch
Friendship House Trust

Salome Tahitua
TOA Pacific

Queen Shirl'e
Pathway to Performing Art

Kaleena McNabb
Alexander Cafe

Harjit Singh
Indian Kiwi Positive Ageing Charitable Trust Inc

David Rimmer
S.E.R.V.E. (Support. Educate. Respect. Value. Empower.)

Monique Kauri
Navigators Papakura

Tauleletoa Hukuitogia Latule-Mailisi
Middlemore Hopsital

Dave Lockwood
YMCA North

Wendy Keate
Victim Support Counties Manukau

Shayal Mala
Age Concern Auckland Incorporated

Trent Faliu
Youthline Auckland Charitable Trust

Regina Sheek
Blue Light Manurewa

Snr David Letele
Grace Foundation Charitable Trust Auckland

Makaia Carr
Kura Kai

Paul Dickson
Oke Charity

Kelly Marie Francis
Whenua Warrior

**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

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

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SCENTRE GROUP