

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.

Westfield Local Heroef

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.



Joseph Te Puni-Fromont is helping young people in his community turn their lives around and find employment.

He is the co-founder of Everything Suarve, a non-profit organisation that embraces disengaged youth, reformed prisoners and First Nations People, most of whom are referred by the police or courts.

Joseph and his team take participants through a 10-week Big Brother program that includes Australian Government FSK workforce-ready certificates. He and his partner Daniel Grace nurture everyone according to their learning style, behaviour and wellbeing needs.

"I grew up with very little," says Joseph, who as a teenager lost six friends to drugs, car accidents and suicide. He is giving back because of the people who helped him rise above his circumstances.

Joseph is known for his selfless hard work. He is available to students day and night and provides a family-like environment filled with love and laughter. Many of his students have never had someone that believes in them, and Joseph and the team are devoted to changing that.

Joseph appreciates being recognised by his community and nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "I like to see myself as a good role model or someone young people can aspire to be like. Helping as many young people as possible and seeing them grow motivates me every day."

Josephs nominator says: "Joseph is a Westfield Local Hero because he is a kind and dedicated man that has a program targeted at helping local young people who are in much need of love and guidance."



Joseph Te Puni-Fromont

Everything Suarve Inc Not for Profit Charity

Kind, Selfless, Devoted

"I like to see myself as a good role model or someone young people can aspire to be like. Helping as many young people as possible and seeing them grow motivates me every day."



Kerri Underwood

Coomera State School

Dedicated, Motivated, Selfless

"I have championed Coomera State School for many years and have been a strong advocate for the teaching and learning that occurs here."

In and out of the classroom, Coomera teacher Kerri Underwood has devoted the past 30 years to the students at Coomera State School.

Kerri was a driving force behind the daily breakfast club, so no child starts school hungry. She co-founded the national Dream a Better World Film Festival for primary school students. In addition, she delivers extracurricular activities that promote a positive self-image.

She is proud to be a champion and advocate for the school's students and is often the go-to person for fellow teachers who need support.

When the need arose, she put her hand up to be president of the P&C, devoting what little free time she has to organising fundraising events to provide much-needed resources for the school.

Kerri lives locally and maintains relationships with school families. One of her greatest joys is to meet a past student who reminds her of a positive experience they had in her class.

"Every child deserves a champion – someone who believes in them and insists that they become the very best they can be," says Kerri.

She feels honoured to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "I have championed Coomera State School for many years and have been a strong advocate for the teaching and learning that occurs here."

Kerri's nominator says: "Kerri is a Westfield Local Hero because she will continue to go above and beyond to have a positive impact on our most precious resource – our children." Bryce U'Ren is a Gold Coast boy on a mission to share love, happiness and comfort with children receiving cancer treatment across Australia and New Zealand.

Bryce founded the Super Max & Bryce project, a simple yet innovative idea of gifting children with cancer a small turtle night light. The lights are fully sanitisable, providing comfort and connectedness to children and their families during one of the most isolating journeys imaginable.

At nine years old, Bryce initially aimed to give six turtles to children with cancer. Like Bryce, now 14, his project has grown. By the end of 2021, he will have gifted 5,000 turtles- making annual trips to cancer wards across Australia and New Zealand.

"I can't imagine how hard it is for children in treatment," he says. "Because I'm afraid of the dark, I thought special night lights would make children in treatment really happy." When COVID-19 restrictions prevented Bryce from visiting hospitals in 2020, he and his family focused on raising awareness about children with cancer by sharing touching presentations at 15 daycare centres in Queensland.

Bryce says being nominated as a Westfield Local Hero makes him feel grateful. "I'm really grateful knowing that people in the community would consider helping us with our mission to provide comfort to superheroes in treatment."

Bryce nominator says: "Bryce is a Westfield Local Hero because he is a kind, caring and dedicated young person. He not only gives of himself selflessly but inspires others around him in his local community to share love, hope, happiness and comfort to children in cancer treatment across Australia and New Zealand."



Bryce U'Ren

Super Max & Bryce

Caring, Dedicated, Genuine

"I'm really grateful knowing that people in the community would consider helping us with our mission to provide comfort to superheroes in treatment."

Your 2021 Finalists



Jennifer Turnbull

LJ's Mamas Helping Mamas

Jennifer (Jenny) Turnbull has 26 years of experience as a foster carer, and now she is making a difference through her support network for other foster carers. She cofounded LJ's Mamas Helping Mamas, which gives relief to carers by supplying them with essentials like nappies, wipes, clothing, cots, and prams.



Wesley Johansen

Jacobs Well Volunteer Marine Rescue

Wesley Johansen keeps the community safe on the water as a volunteer for Jacobs Well Marine Rescue. He is also a dedicated first responder for the Queensland Ambulance Service, providing vital medical care to people on boats, the Bay Islands, and the local area until paramedics arrive.



Noel Roberts

The Twin Rivers Centre

Noel Roberts is solving food poverty in his local community by providing free and low-cost healthy food to over 300 families a day. For 25 years, Noel's The Twin Rivers Centre has supported families struggling to provide for their children. His mission is to give people dignity by giving them a hand-up, not a handout.

Recognising all of our 2021 nominees

Natalie Contogeorge

Boots for One and All Community Incorporated

Tahnee Svensk

Lymphoma Australia

Kirstie Smith

Gold Coast Mum's Group #1

Adam Grant

Nerang Nursing Centre

Wendy Coombe

Animal Therapies Limited

Kelly Row

Help Kids

Ned Heaton

The Turtle Tribe

Terry Chapman

Logan State Emergency Service

Damien Schofield

The Younger Heroes

Paul Begg

St Joseph's College, Coomera

Dan Robinson

Imperial Outlanders

Natasha Horne

Lifestyle Solutions

Andrew Cullen

PTSD.resurrected.org

Colin Crow

Javeenbah Threatre Company

Melinda Coles

Norfolk Celtic Music Club

Dr Nadine Hamilton

Love Your Pet Love Your Vet

Daniel Grace

Everthing Suarve Inc Not for

Profit Charity

Noel Roberts

The Twin Rivers Centre

Joseph Te Puni-Fromont

Everthing Suarve Inc Not for

Profit Charity

Steve Henry

Everthing Suarve Inc Not

for Profit Charity

Kerri Underwood

Coomera State School

Bryce U'Ren

Super Max & Bryce

Christine Ann Smith

Wasp Creek Rural Fire Brigade

Selina Lee

Saved-Screening Attention

Variables in Education

Jennifer Turnbull

LJ's Mamas Helping Mamas

Wesley Johansen

Jacobs Well Volunteer

Marine Rescue

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



