Westfield

Local Heroes

2022

Westfield

Local Heroes

Westfield Local Heroes is a recognition and awards program that shines the spotlight on individuals in Australia and New Zealand who make a positive impact to their local community or environment.

Westfield Local Heroes are nominated and voted by their communities, and they represent a diverse range of sectors. This year, Westfield will award one Westfield Local Hero per Westfield centre a $20,000 grant for the organisation or group they represent. Two finalists for each centre will receive a $5,000 grant for their organisation or group.

In the five years since the program began, we have awarded $6.14 million to more than 600 community organisations.

Every year, we recognise more than 120 Westfield Local Heroes finalists and provide $1.26 million in community grants to their affiliated organisations.

Each year, we receive a high standard of nominations. Every one of our nominations is highly valued and we acknowledge and recognise all our 2022 nominees and their organisations for their incredible contribution to our local communities.

2022 Participation

more than

1,600

Nominations

more than

67,000

Community Votes

Community Sentiment

Our Westfield Local Heroes are positive role models who lead by example and who are trusted and respected by members of their community.

They include community volunteers and leaders, welfare service providers, first responders, essential workers, health and medical experts, educators, environmentalists, innovators, social entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs.

We shine the spotlight on our local heroes, raising awareness of their work and the community's needs.

"To be recognised by my community by being nominated as a Westfield local hero is such an honour. It is a fantastic reminder to keep going and keep working hard to make change in society."

Katrina Ikonomou from Gunawirra,
Westfield Sydney Local Hero 2022

"The reward of being recognized for this work is a bonus, and it helps me to reflect on the good work and impact I've had in the community and in people's lives."

Michael Carter from Overflow Foundation,
Westfield Mt Gravatt Local Hero 2022

"This nomination makes me feel so proud and motivates me to continue helping those in need."

Kaye Palmano from One Meal – It Makes a Difference,
Westfield Miranda Local Hero 2022

Westfield

Chatswood

New South Wales

2022 WESTFIELD LOCAL HERO

John Kelman

Bike North Cycling Without Age Chapter

Empathetic, Inclusive, Exemplary

"Our passengers' joy and smiles are what motivate all of us."

Helping seniors enjoy the outdoors

John Kelman provides local care-facility residents with free trishaw rides, to give them the joy of being outdoors, re-connecting to the environment and their local community.

John has established the Bike North chapter of Cycling Without Age, offering rides for residents of the BaptistCare Shalom Centre around the nearby Macquarie University campus. The chapter uses a borrowed trishaw for this service and is working to expand the program by purchasing their own.

Cycling Without Age is an international charity with a mission to take elderly people or people with disability for free trishaw rides. The purpose-built trishaws seat two passengers up front, with a "pilot" pedalling at the back – imagine a "couch on wheels".

The pilots (all volunteers) chat with the passengers and manage the pace so everyone can fully enjoy their surroundings and exchange greetings with people they meet. Pilots are happy to pause when passengers wish to take a closer look at places of interest or to simply smell the flowers.

The passengers, including those who have dementia, can safely enjoy the feeling of the wind in their hair as they go for a ride around the campus. "The joy and smiles on the faces of our passengers, during and after the rides, provide the motivation for everyone involved," John says.

Our 2022 Westfield Local Hero finalists

Anthony Rigney
KYDS Youth Development Service

Anthony Rigney is committed to youth mental health and works tirelessly to give local young people easy access to unlimited free counselling. As CEO of Lindfield-based KYDS Youth Development Service, Anthony leads a team who make people aged 12 to 19 feel comfortable, respected and welcome when they seek support.

Matt Lonergan
Moving Against Domestic Violence – Movers

Matt Lonergan helps more than 100 families a year escape domestic violence by providing quick, efficient and safe moves. Matt's charity, Moving Against Domestic Violence – Movers, connects clients with understanding removalists and provides volunteers to help with packing. It also sources necessities for a new home.

Recognising all of our 2022 nominees

Lynda Kimber
Australian Indigenous Alpine Sports Foundation

Nikki Shah
My Muse

Matt Lonergan
Moving Against Domestic Violence – Movers

Brett Jones
State Emergency Service – Willoughby Lane Cove Unit

Alistair Webster
StreetWork Australia

An Marosszeky
Hughes Park Community Garden

George Scammell
Thank You Project Australia

Haig Halablian
Homenetmen Antranig Sports & Scouting Club

Christian Salandanan
St Vincent de Paul Society, Conversation Conference, Chatswood

John Kelman
Bike North Cycling Without Age Chapter

Joyce Siette
Western Sydney University

Kerrie Bradford
Dougherty Apartments Retirement Housing Project

Nat Panzarino
Greyhound Rescue

Claudine Alame
Red Frogs Australia

Nesha Hutchinson
Sunday Street Feed

Dominic Savio Tam
Dennis Wong and Co

Christopher McEvoy
Pest Protocols Pty Ltd

Naoko Takahashi
Willoughby Council

Melanie Gardener
Sunday Street Feed

Jacqueline Wong
Coal Loader Community Garden Group

Sarah Mumm
Hunter Medical Research Institute

Trevor Cochrane
Military Brotherhood Motorcycle Club

Anthony Rigney
KYDS Youth Development Service

Nirmal Hansra
Children's Tumour Foundation

Mitchelle Katsande
Benevolence Financial Group

Samantha Rosewarne
Taldumande Youth Services

Michael Muhlbauer
Horn of Africa Relief and Development Agency

Anthony Cohen
Project Displaced

Kay Ching-Kue Tang
Willoughby Council's MOSAIC Multicultural Community Centre

Melissa McConaghy
PD Warrior

Cindy Lambert
Reverse Advent Calendars

Greg Urand
Marine Rescue NSW

Tho Pham
Pymble Medical and Dental Surgery

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

westfield.com.au/local-heroes

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SCENTRE GROUP