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

Woden

Australian Capital Territory

2022 WESTFIELD LOCAL HERO

Fiona Allardyce

Epilepsy ACT

Attentive, Warm, Resilient

"I can see the difference we make for each person we support."

Supporting people with epilepsy

Empathetic Fiona Allardyce is the warm and friendly face of non-profit Epilepsy ACT, the only organisation supporting the 8000 Canberrans with the challenging neurological condition.

For the past six years, Fiona has been there to inform and comfort families at the start of their journey and to provide ongoing counselling and support for anyone affected by epilepsy.

As one of only two employees, she is a powerhouse advocate for people with epilepsy. She raises funds for the organisation, organises events to increase awareness, offers epilepsy first aid training to schools and workplaces and breaks down stigma in the community.

One of the challenges is that it can take six months after diagnosis to see a specialist, and Canberra doesn't have a paediatric neurologist at all. So, one of Fiona's roles is to fill the gap at a time when people have the most questions.

Another challenge is isolation, which Fiona tackles by arranging regular peer-support activities for people with epilepsy. Fiona loves seeing children's faces when they meet others with epilepsy for the first time and realise they are not alone.

"We offer a very personal service. People can be confused or fearful, and we help turn this around for them," Fiona says.

Our 2022 Westfield Local Hero finalists

Andrew Kerec
Spine Tingling Ride

Determined Andrew Kerec has raised $130,000 for disability charities and is about to embark on a solo 6551km mountain bike ride to raise more. Andrew rode 5450km in 2017 and is planning a bitumen-free route from Cape York in Queensland to South Point in Victoria to raise funds for Canberra's Hartley Lifecare and SpinalCure Australia.

Angel Hellyer
Diversity ACT Community Services

Multitalented Angel Hellyer has many roles at Diversity ACT, including being a devoted advocate and trusted role model for members of the LGBTIAQ+ community. Angel has enhanced the organisation's communications strategy, updated its policies, revamped its website and developed an advocacy campaign for greater LGBTIAQ+ inclusion.

Recognising all of our 2022 nominees

Lynda Kimber
Australian Indigenous Alpine Sports Foundation

Jess Peil
Young Voice Foundation

Ryan McDermott
Woden Waves Water Polo Club

Fiona Carrick
Woden Valley Community Council

Matthew Breen
Running for Resilience

Vanessa Parton
Canberra Street Cat Alliance

Asha Clementi
The Girls Leadership Network

Bianca Nicotra
The STOP Campaign

Jinhee Yun
Cafe Cherrybean Woden

AJ Wright
Kids Cancer Project

Sarah McPhillips
Matriarch Hair Studio

Paddy O'Rourke
Paddy's Pick-Up

Fiona Allardyce
Epilepsy ACT

Frances Carleton
WildTalk

Katie Pratt
Bubs & Us Playgroup

Heather Hubbard
NSW Rural Fire Service

Stacey Bright
Woden Community Service-
Raw Potential Canberra

Jennipher Dunstan
Story Dogs

Javeria Khan
Uber

Rikki Lloyd
Canberra PCYC

Kristine Hewett
Adamas Nexus Support Group
for Women survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse

Jackie Wenner
Canberra Refugee Support

Andrea Coomblas
Capital Nordic Walking

Angel Hellyer
Diversity ACT Community Services

Anna Reimondos
Canberra Street Cat Alliance

Peter Shaw
Weston Winds

Adrian Manning
ACT State Emergency Service Woden Unit

John Talbot
Rotary Club

Jack Egan
Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action

Jacqui Duong
Children's Tumour Foundation

Andrew Kerec
Spine Tingling Ride

Rani Wallace
Ballers without Barriers

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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SCENTRE GROUP