

# **CanDo News – Autumn 2010**

*Text Version*

**In March we officially welcomed our new Chief Executive Ms Judy Curran. Judy brings more than 15 years experience in the not-for-profit sector to the role including Deputy Executive Director of the Australian Red Cross SA Division and the past seven years as Chief Executive of scosa, the Spastic Centres of South Australia. In addition Judy was the South Australian 2007 Telstra Business Woman of the Year in the Community Services category.**

## **Message from Chief Executive**

It is a pleasure for me to take on the role of Chief Executive at CanDo4Kids.

I have been made to feel very welcome during my first few weeks here, and I look forward to building on the proud history of CanDo4Kids while identifying opportunities to grow services to children and young adults.

The support, passion and dedication from clients, supporters and staff alike is impressive and I am confident that with this level of enthusiasm the future of CanDo4Kids is bright.

I am excited by the opportunity to build on the legacy with which I have been entrusted, and look forward to working with our staff and supporters to continue to enhance the lives of SA kids.

Kind regards

Judy Curran

## **Furry Fun at Farm Day**

The annual CanDo4Kids Farm Day is a special event for the children who are involved in the various CanDo4Kids Early Intervention Services.

This year Farm Day was held on our grounds at Townsend House and featured many animals for the children to interact with including a baby pig, lamb, and goat, as well as lots of chickens. The children were encouraged to hold and pat the animals and were even given the chance to feed the lamb milk from a bottle.

Farm Day exposes the children to animals they may not normally come into contact with, providing them with new sensory experiences. Many children (especially those who have a vision impairment) are quite wary of animals, and it often takes time and reassurance for the children to get close enough to pat them. Farm Day helps the children develop the confidence to do this. It also provides an interesting discussion topic so children who are Deaf or hearing impaired have the opportunity to practice their communication skills via listening, speaking and using Auslan.

### **CODAs blow us away!**

Twice a year CanDo4Kids holds a CODA (Children of Deaf Adults) Fun Day. CODAs are hearing children who use Auslan (Australian Sign Language) as their first language and English, with equal skill.

The fun day is designed for CODAs to share similar experiences of living with Deaf parents while also socialising and having fun.

At our recent CODA Fun Day the children made and decorated a kite which they then took on a test flight. They flew amazingly well!

As bi-lingual language users, and having in many cases developed an intimate knowledge of Deaf Culture, many CODAs choose to become qualified interpreters working for service providers within the sector. The support of a CODA language and cultural group helps maintain social cohesion within the Deaf Community and helps to develop future interpreters who have a unique understanding of South Australia's Deaf culture.

### **Jovial Jumping Beans**

Jumping Beans is a weekly group introduced into the Early Intervention Service for children who are Blind or vision impaired aged between two and four years. Jumping Beans has been modeled on mainstream kindergym with an emphasis on gross motor skill development. Activities are also designed to encourage the development of visual and language skills through a themed approach for each session.

The gross motor skills targeted include jumping, hopping, balancing and throwing and catching balls. The children have demonstrated improvement in all these skills as well as greater body awareness and coordination. In addition many of these activities have also helped to further develop their visual skills. Climbing, catching balls and jumping off steps all assist with important visual skills such as tracking, scanning and depth perception.

### **Lauren learns to lend a helping hand**

Occupational Therapists at CanDo4kids spend a lot of time working with young adults to develop the skills they need to participate in everyday life. For clients with a vision impairment, this means gaining independence in daily tasks such as meal preparation, grocery shopping, vacuuming, washing dishes and making beds.

Lauren is 19 years old and has been receiving Occupational Therapy services from CanDo4Kids since early 2007. She was first referred to the service to gain greater independence.

Lauren has Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) and is legally blind. RP is a progressive condition generally resulting in tunnel vision, reduced visual acuity and night blindness. Lauren's colour vision is also affected.

Since beginning services with CanDo4Kids, Lauren has attended programs and received one-on-one training to meet goals identified with the help of her family and the therapist. She has been involved in a make-up application and personal grooming group, attended a Life Skills Camp and received training at home in meal preparation, ironing and other age-appropriate skill development.

It has been wonderful to see Lauren gain confidence and develop her skills in such areas, and it is terrific that she is now cooking healthy, tasty meals by herself.

## **Sports Day Superstars at Play and Fun**

Play and Fun is a group for children aged two to five years who are Blind/vision impaired to develop and practice skills in a safe and predictable environment.

Recently the Play and Fun Group held a Sports Day which was attended by David Mausolf, an Orientation and Mobility teacher from the South Australian School for the Vision Impaired. David is the creator of a range of physical activities for children who are Blind or vision impaired which enable them to be involved in such activities while still feeling safe.

One of the activities saw the children run alongside a long rope which they could hold onto for guidance. Running is generally a frightening experience for Blind/vision impaired children, however knowing that the rope was in a safe position meant they could run with confidence.

Another activity involved a bat and ball game in which two beach bats with a ball between them were laced onto a rope. The children were then able to practice hitting the ball.

Simple activities like these enable CanDo4Kids clients to develop balance, coordination, confidence and social skills while having a fun day out.

## **Birthday or Anniversary coming up?**

### ***Make your Gift Count ...***

Not sure what to buy for that person who has it all?  
Do you receive or give gifts that often go to waste?

This year you can give the gift of opportunity to South Aussie kids by purchasing a specialised learning tool for CanDo4Kids in lieu of a gift.

CanDo4Kids have some great gifts starting at just \$15.

When you purchase a gift (for a full list of items check out [www.cando4kids.com.au](http://www.cando4kids.com.au)) your donation will go towards funding much needed toys, resources or therapy programs for the kids.

You will receive a card to give to the person you are purchasing the gift for which contains information about how your gift is making a difference to the lives of South Australian children and young people who are Blind/vision impaired or Deaf/hearing impaired. Happy shopping!

### **2010 Kym Jones Exhibitions - supporting CanDo4Kids**

CanDo4Kids will be collecting donations at Kym Jones Exhibitions throughout 2010. Show your support by heading along to any of the following exhibitions:

April 24 - 26  
Food, Wine & Cooking Show AND  
Building & Home Improvement  
Adelaide Showground

July 16 - 18  
Building & Home Improvement  
Show and Beauty, Body & Soul Expo, Adelaide Showground

October 8 - 10  
Spring Home Expo  
Entertainment Centre

October 22 - 24  
Gardening & Outdoor Renovation Show AND Spring Craft Fair  
Allan Scott Park (Morphetville Racecourse) more details to come closer to event

December 4 - 5  
Xmas Craft and Gift Fair  
Adelaide Showground

For further event information visit:  
[www.kymjonesexhibitions.com.au](http://www.kymjonesexhibitions.com.au)

### **Leave a lasting gift to help South Aussie Kids**

Leaving a lasting gift, such as a bequest, is a special legacy that brings a sense of worth and pride while really making a difference to the lives of many Deaf/hearing impaired and Blind/vision impaired children.

By including a special gift in your Will you will help to ensure CanDo4Kids can provide the essential services to South Aussie kids for many years to come.

For further information about leaving a bequest to CanDo4Kids please contact Dalice Kennedy on Ph: 8298 0900 or email [dalice.kennedy@candogroup.com.au](mailto:dalice.kennedy@candogroup.com.au).

### **CanDo4Kids Lottery**

Total prize pool: \$48,000

8,000 tickets @ \$30 per ticket for your chance to win these amazing prizes:

1st Prize: Toyota Camry Altise

Including on road costs and 12 months registration

Valued at \$33,594

2nd Prize

Seven night cruise for two – Brisbane to Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Loyalty Islands. Includes all onboard meals and return airfares from Adelaide to Brisbane.

Valued at \$7,118

3rd - 7th Prizes

Teac LCD-DVD combo including delivery

Valued at \$938

8th – 13th Prizes

Panasonic Camcorder

Valued at \$399

14th – 16th Prizes

Ipod Shuffle

Valued at \$78

Hurry! Buy your tickets online at [www.cando4kids.com.au](http://www.cando4kids.com.au) or give us a call on 8298 0900.

*Start 20/01/10, Close 14/05/10, Drawn at 28 King George Avenue, Hove SA on 21/05/10 at 10.30am. Results published in The Advertiser Public Notices on 25/05/10. All winners will be notified. Licence No. M12047.*