



# CanDoNews

Quarterly Newsletter of CanDo4Kids Townsend House

## Half full or half empty?

*"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."*

*Dr Martin Luther King Jr*

At CanDo4Kids we are continually amazed by the way children with sensory impairments overcome adversity and achieve great things through their perseverance and determination.

Young Jessye Campbell, who features in this issue of CanDoNews, is a shining example with her inspirational story of how she has adapted to her blindness.

It's stories like this that make working for CanDo4Kids such a rewarding experience and highlights to me the importance of what we do and how much more needs to be done.

It's a bit like the old adage, "is the glass half full or half empty?"

Like most people in our community we try our best to make things better than they were yesterday. In many ways my



From Paul Flynn  
CEO CanDo4Kids - Townsend House

team and I are privileged to be able to work in an area that makes such a positive difference in the lives of children. We are always conscious that our ability to make a real difference is influenced heavily by the contributions of others. The financial and moral support that we receive from our supporters is vital to the quality outcomes of our programs.

If you are reading this, the chances are that you support our programs and the kudos should be with you because we are only able to do the things that we do under the umbrella of support that you provide.

When you support our programs, you make a conscious decision to put someone else's needs in front of your own. As Dr King said: That is the ultimate measure of a person!

Thank you and CanDo4Kids!

## News and Events

## Pageant parade for Karlie and Melissa

Christmas in 2006 will be one to remember for CanDo4Kids clients Melissa Clark and Karlie Hudson!

Karlie, 16, and Melissa, 22, took part in this year's Credit Union Christmas Pageant, thanks to the generosity of Powerstate Credit Union who provided two places on floats for clients to get a first-hand experience of the festivities.

Karlie, who is vision impaired and has been a CanDo4Kids client from a young age, took pride of place on the Birth of the Butterfly float.

Melissa, who has a hearing impairment, rode on the Rumba in Rio float. CanDo4Kids youth workers have been assisting Melissa on her road to independence over the past 18 months.

She said at first the spectacle was "overwhelming" and she hadn't known what to expect but in the end had lots of fun.



Melissa Clark and Karlie Hudson (inset - bottom right) in this year's Credit Union Christmas Pageant.



# Animal farm comes to Townsend House

Around 50 children who are vision and hearing impaired experienced "a day on the farm" – or the next best thing – at Townsend House.

Farm animals including piglets, ducks, chickens and kids (baby goats) came to the children through an Adelaide company called Old McDonalds Farm.



The children, mostly babies and toddlers, were able to touch, feel and pat the animals, an opportunity that they might not easily come by every day.

CanDo4Kids early intervention manager Jenny Moore organised the day, an event she described as "a lot of fun for the children – and some of the adults!"

"Often children who have a sensory impairment will only experience animals in books, films or other static medium - they don't actually get to touch them or experience them for themselves," Ms Moore said.

"This way they could experience the touch of the animals, the sounds they make and the smells! For some of them, this way is their only experience of interacting with animals.

"Usually the children are fairly cautious to start with but then they are happy to touch the animals.

The exercise helps to build confidence and it provides an important learning opportunity for the children.

"It is another sensory experience," Ms Moore said.

## Jessye the unstoppable

At 11 months of age, Jessye was diagnosed with bilateral retinoblastoma (cancer of the eye). She had already lost one eye to the cancer when a specialist recommended her remaining eye be removed to save her life.

Hours before having an operation to remove her remaining eye, five-year-old Jessye Campbell accepted her impending blindness with an astounding practicality and strength.

Jessye told her stepfather Bruce Oswald: "I'm going to be blind tomorrow".

Bruce asked her how she felt about it and she replied that "it (the operation) was going to save her life,"

Jessye's mother Trish Campbell said "She understands that this operation was for the best and she has been incredibly accepting. I can honestly say she has never complained. She is so busy and energetic about everything, focusing on what she can do rather than what she can't."

Since the eye was removed in August, CanDo4Kids has assisted Jessye and her family, particularly during the school holidays, Trish said.

"They came to the house and gave us play activities and games to keep her stimulated and to assess her development. This kept Jessye amused during the last holidays and they will most likely help us again during the Christmas holidays," Trish said.



*Jessye on holiday with her family in Kangaroo Island.*

CanDo4Kids' family support co-ordinator Hellen Riley also organised a trip for the family to Kangaroo Island before the operation after a staff member donated tickets. Jessye's grandmother was visiting from the UK and the family was able to use a Tarago van made available through sponsors Cornes Toyota while Sealink also sponsored the family's weekend trip with ferry tickets.

Trish said being blind hasn't stopped Jessye from having a full school life at the Rapid Bay Primary School and the SA School for the Vision Impaired. Only a month after becoming blind, she embraced the school sports day competing in every event.

"She is so trusting of the people who are helping her, she makes it easy for us all," Trish said.

## Youngsters benefit from hearing aid

CanDo4Kids-Townsend House is sponsoring a new Auditory Processing Clinic at the Flinders Medical Centre which will allow children who have a hearing disorder to be diagnosed significantly earlier.

Officially opened on November 1 by Health Minister John Hill, the clinic is a partnership between CanDo4Kids-Townsend House, the FMC and Flinders University and amazingly, is the only free clinic of its kind in South Australia.

The launch of the clinic has drastically reduced waiting times by up to three years, providing better access to assessment and treatment for children and young people suspected of having Auditory Processing Disorder – a hearing problem which can affect a child's ability to learn. Children with APD can hear but seem not to be able to use and process what they hear.

CanDo4Kids Chief Executive Officer Paul Flynn welcomed the partnership, saying the initiative had come about because of a high level of co-operation between the parties.

"This type of initiative is the way of the future for allied health services in the disability area, and everyone should

be commended for the level of co-operation shown in launching the service," Mr Flynn said.

"Our organisation has a commitment and mission to create co-operative partnerships between ourselves, government, business and other community organisations."

The disorder often results in significant learning difficulties, as children may misunderstand or forget information, or have trouble following oral instructions. APD affects up to five per cent of children and can be a barrier to learning and development.

This has an impact on a child's life and progress through school, particularly in the vital early years of education and in their social development.

With early diagnosis and strategies to help a child improve their listening and learning environments, including the use of amplification, educational and social outcomes can be improved.



## Tapping in to a new experience



The desire to get out on the green and hit a few golf balls is something many people can relate to, but probably take for granted.

On Saturday, September 16, about 20 young clients of CanDo4Kids experienced a golf day, thanks to The Tap Inn – a golf themed pub at Kent Town.

The day gave young people who are blind or vision-impaired and deaf or hearing-impaired, aged between 16 and 25, an event that was as much about their personal development as it was about enjoying a game of golf.

The Tap Inn provided indoor golf bays, equipment and professional help with golf swings to give these people a chance to experience teeing off.

CanDo4Kids Chief Executive Officer Paul Flynn said the exercise helped to build confidence and independence.

"As well as providing a chance to socialise and learn a bit about golf, the event also gave them valuable experience ordering food and drinks at a busy venue," he said.

"Developing more confidence in social settings and education about safety in adult environments is an important part of the youth service we offer clients."

"Thanks to the fantastic help we receive from supporters like The Tap Inn, we are able to offer an increasing range of options like this for young people."

*Bonnie Millen getting some practice on her swing at 'The Tap Inn'.*



# Melbourne Cup Luncheon a winner

More than 150 supporters of CanDo4Kids-Townsend House helped raise more than \$5000 for children with sensory impairment at the annual Melbourne Cup Luncheon.

For the first time, the organisation held the event at the Somerton Surf Lifesaving Club, giving attendees beautiful sea views while they followed the racing on the big screen.

Everyone joined in the spirit of the occasion, showing off their favourite outfits, with prizes awarded to some of the best.

Many volunteers also helped make the day a great success.

## Events Diary

Please visit our website for all the latest information on upcoming events: [www.cando4kids.com.au](http://www.cando4kids.com.au)



## Additional Supporters

CanDo4Kids-Townsend House is fortunate to have strong community support backed up by innovative revenue-raising activities such as CanDoNet, the first community-owned internet service provider.

CanDo4Kids is proud to have CanDoNet on board as the major sponsor for our newsletter.



Guests enjoying festivities at the CanDo4Kids Melbourne Cup Luncheon.

## Lotteries and Fundraising



Lottery drawn 12/6/07

### 'Mid-Year Magic' Lottery

Total Prize Pool \$80,440

Only 12,000 tickets at \$40 per ticket for your chance to win this amazing prize package:

#### 1st Prize

Toyota Camry Sportivo \$37,410 including on-road costs with \$5000 Cash

#### 2nd Prize

Travel Voucher \$5,000 plus \$1000 Spending Money

#### 3rd and 4th Prize

Notebook Computer \$3,640  
CanDoNet Internet Access \$500

#### 5th Prize

Plasma Television \$4,000

#### 6th and 7th Prize

Desktop Computer \$2,500  
CanDoNet Internet Access \$500

#### 8th - 17th Prize

CanDoNet Internet Access \$500

#### 18th - 27th Prize

Digital Camera \$300

#### 28th - 50th Prize

CanDoNet Internet Access \$250

Buy TWO tickets and get one BONUS ticket.

Call our HOTLINE on 8298 0915

Keep up-to-date with the latest news, events, activities and lotteries by visiting the CanDo4Kids website at: [www.cando4kids.com.au](http://www.cando4kids.com.au)

## What is CanDo4Kids and what's it all about?

CanDo4Kids focuses us on the free charitable services we continue to provide to blind, vision impaired and deaf, hearing impaired children and young adults in South Australia. We have a 132 year tradition of addressing the many needs in our community in these areas. We focus on what kids 'Can Do' and give them the skills and self-confidence to highlight their potential.

### How to contact us?

Townsend House, 28 King George Ave, Hove, SA 5048

PO Box 43, Brighton, SA 5048

Phone: 8298 0900, Fax: 8377 1933

Email: [info@cando4kids.com.au](mailto:info@cando4kids.com.au) [www.cando4kids.com.au](http://www.cando4kids.com.au)



Charity Direct is a sign of ethical fundraising which means every cent donated to CanDo4Kids goes directly to the provision and support of Children's services.

