



CanDoNews

Quarterly Newsletter of CanDo4Kids Townsend House

New look newsletter

Welcome to the very first edition of *CanDoNews* - our new look CanDo4Kids newsletter.

We have had a makeover to ensure you find out about all the exciting things happening at CanDo4Kids and the difference your support is making to the lives of these amazing young people.

We will be featuring a wide range of articles which show how well-planned intervention programs can help the kids of South Australia who have sensory impairments achieve greater independence and reach goals they might not previously thought possible.



From Paul Flynn
CEO CanDo4Kids - Townsend House



The children who we assist face challenges every day that you or I may never experience. With your support, our intervention programs help create an environment where these kids and young adults embrace and conquer the challenges that life puts in their way.

It is incredible what can be achieved when we all work together and we look forward to sharing with you the success stories you have helped create!

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.

Auskick comes to Townsend House



Learning how to kick and mark a footy is something that most kids take for granted. But for vision impaired children many recreational activities such as this are not always possible. So when a group of Glenelg footballers conducted an Auskick session for sensory impaired children at Townsend House recently, it was an opportunity for them to "have a go".

Cando4Kids-Townsend House recreation officer Michael Hasseloff said it was great to see the children learning these football skills. "It helps to build their self-confidence because they find they can do things other kids can do," he said. "They especially liked the tackle bag and all the running and jumping goes a long way to developing their gross motor skills."

Mr Hasseloff said vision impaired children did not develop their gross motor skills at an early age because they were not as curious to explore and early intervention programs were an important means of encouraging physical development.

The group of Glenelg footballers, including likely top AFL draft pick Bryce Gibbs and James Sellar, Angus Lally and Brad

News and Events



Bryce Gibbs with William Maggs, Mitchell Wallis and Samuel Jones
Photo by Matt Turner, courtesy of The Advertiser.

Yeomans, ran the session for 15 children during the school holidays. "They were really great and made sure the kids got involved - the children really liked them and related to them well." It was the first Auskick session held at CanDo4Kids-Townsend House but Mr Hasseloff said they now planned for it to be an annual event.

Children with vision impairments used soft footballs with bells.



Daryle Pitson-Daniels is pictured with Hannah Free from Vision 2020 Australia.

CanDo4Kids artwork snapped up

Art lovers snapped up every artwork created by CanDo4Kids artists at a recent exhibition. The event was a huge success as part of the Vision2020 Australia Forum at the Adelaide Festival Centre.

There were 6 exhibitors from CanDo4Kids, and all 13 of their works for sale were sold. It was the first time that local artists had exhibited their work for Vision 2020, which launched its inaugural forum in Melbourne in March this year. The Adelaide exhibition, on July 18, was part of a Vision 2020 cocktail party.

Among the successful young artists was Daryle Pitson-Daniels. The six-year-old Reception student created an Under the Sea collage. His theme stemmed from lessons at school about sea creatures. Marissa Ingram, 17, submitted six pieces, including crayon drawings and clay figures. "My art is an expression of my feelings," she said.

Elise Lehmann, 19, exhibited a series of sun catchers and a collection of bead jewellery, which she began making in her early teens. Twins Bianca and Rebecca Ritorto showed off their computer-generated artworks, themed The Colour of Music. The twins, whose vision impairment is Oculocutaneous Albinism, said music "rocks people's worlds".



The memory of Harold Raymond lives on

The newly refurbished Harold Raymond building adjacent to Townsend House has had a number of uses over the years - from isolation hospital in 1898 to a nursery in the 1950s and 60s and now home to CanDo4Kids' community services.

It was named after blind violinist, the late Harold Raymond MBE who travelled all over the countryside with his "Gloombusters" variety show during the Depression years and worked tirelessly to raise funds for Townsend House.

He is widely remembered throughout South Australia for both his great sense of humour, musical talent and his ability to overcome adversity. It is apt that the building named after him is helping other blind and vision impaired children, as well as the hearing impaired, reach their potential.

The refurbished building was officially opened in August by the Federal Member for Boothby Dr Andrew Southcott MP.

Community Services General Manager Claire Cotton said the building now provided a broader range of therapy and education support programs with community service staff located under one roof.

Facilities include a seminar room for meetings and play sessions for children, a training room for assistive technology, a toy library, therapy rooms, clinic and observation room, kitchen and outdoor playground.

Another feature of the facilities was the capacity to provide 'sensory integration' therapy through the new sensory playground. This was an important means of developing their gross and fine motor skills in a safe environment because it encouraged them to explore and try new experiences.



Occupational Therapist Casey Daley in the new sensory playground.

"We have already seen very young children gaining confidence with climbing, jumping, sliding and using communication with parents, peers and workers while they explore the equipment," Claire said.

"For children who are blind or vision impaired they often find it difficult to develop their motor skills such as walking, jumping, climbing and balancing, as vision motivates movement and skill development. This outdoor play area and playground includes equipment that specifically targets areas of difficulty for blind children."

The first stage of the refurbishment was undertaken in 2000 following a grant from the Centenary of Federation Fund. The cost of the second stage of the refurbishment was approximately \$270,000, which was funded by a grant from the Ministerial Advisory Committee and generous donations from supporters of CanDo4Kids-Townsend House.

CanDo4Kids takes a lead teaching deaf children to speak

CanDo4Kids has established a mentoring scheme that will allow more deaf children to learn to speak.

The Auditory-Visual Therapy program commenced in April and our therapist, Cathy Dodson, is now mentoring Bronwyn Macey as she trains for her certification. CanDo4Kids believes it is important to take a leadership role in this area, as many children will benefit from the therapy when there are more trained therapists available.

There are only three practising certified AV Therapists in South Australia, 25 in Australia and 300 around the world. AV Therapy is a family-based approach that enables children with hearing impairment to learn to listen and talk, without the use of lip-reading or sign language. Many children born with hearing loss still have some residual hearing, and this can be improved through the use of hearing aids and cochlear implants.

Parents take an active role in every session with the AV therapist, and emphasis is placed on the child detecting and responding to voice. By sitting close to the child, minimising background noise and using speech rich in expression and rhythm, the therapist maximises the child's hearing.

Dozens of children are expected to benefit from the therapy each year, and even more as new therapists are certified. "The outcomes are astonishing for the children because they're learning to listen and speak through the same pathways as other children," Cathy said.

"This strategy required a shift in thinking, but the benefits are so incredible that now, instead of thinking about children being deaf, people think about how the children can hear."

*Below: Cathy Dodson with Amanda Moore and her son Tyson Manning
Photo by Tait Schmaal, courtesy of The Advertiser.*



EFM raises money for new playground

Blind and vision impaired children in the northern suburbs will benefit from a specially designed sensory playground being built at our new site at Modbury North, with the assistance of funds raised by Executive Fitness Management (EFM).

CanDo4Kids-Townsend House was chosen by EFM to be the charity to receive all proceeds raised during its main events in 2006 - in particular its annual gala dinner and the City to Bay Fun Run.

EFM provides a personalised fitness coaching service to companies in a friendly and non-intimidating environment. Established in 1991, there are currently 22 clubs in Adelaide.

The annual gala dinner, held at the Adelaide Festival Centre in July, was a huge success with the target of \$25,000 exceeded. A sell-out crowd of more than 490 corporate members attended the event which coincided with EFM's 15th birthday.



CanDo4Kids also joined forces with EFM to put together a team of over 1,000 people for the 2006 City to Bay Fun Run in September. Funds raised from this event are estimated to be in excess of \$10,000. This event has put EFM well on the way to achieving its goal of \$50,000 in 2006.



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 new look newsletter.

CanDoNet provides high quality Dial Up or Broadband Internet Access for your home or business with excellent customer service and support for a low price and no hidden costs. At the same time, internet customers are supporting CanDo4Kids.

For more information visit
www.candonet.com.au or
call 1300 88 66 40.



Events Diary

Sixth Annual Melbourne Cup Luncheon
Tuesday November 7th 2006 - 12.30pm

Once again our lunch will be a fast-paced, fashionable and festive occasion incorporating a sumptuous lunch, boutique wines, a main and silent auction, sweeps and plenty of entertainment. It will be held at the Somerton Surf Life Saving Club with amazing views of the sea - what better place to view Australia's biggest race on the giant screen!

Plus we encourage guests to dress up into their best outfits, best hats and best ties as there are prizes galore up for grabs.

All proceeds raised from this day will be used to enrich the quality of life for South Australian Kids who have a sensory impairment and to help them maximise their greatest potential.

Tickets are \$90 per head or \$850 for a table of ten. Tickets are limited and bookings close 24th October - so be quick! To reserve your seats call CanDo4Kids on 8298 0900.



Thanks to
sponsors...



Lotteries and Fundraising



'Christmas Treat' Lottery Total Prize Pool \$83,950

Only 12,500 tickets at \$40 per ticket for your chance to win this amazing prize package:

1st Prize: Toyota Yaris value \$17,000, Home Entertainment Package value \$15,000, Trip for 2 to Langkawi for 7 nights with \$1,000 value \$5,000. Total Value \$37,000.

2nd - 3rd Prizes: Home Entertainment Package value \$15,000.

4th Prize: Home Computer Package value \$4,000.

5th - 6th Prize: Home Computer Package value \$3,000 each.

7th - 16th Prize: CanDoNet Voucher value \$500 each.

17th - 25th Prize: CanDoNet Voucher value \$300 each.

Buy TWO tickets and get one BONUS ticket.
Call our HOTLINE on 8298 0915.

Winners are grinner!



Kristen Keley with her new Toyota Corolla, part of her 1st Prize package won from our recent 'Three way Bonanza' lottery. Kristen is pictured with call centre staff and Luke from Comes Toyota.

Keep up-to-date with the latest news, events, activities and lotteries by visiting the CanDo4Kids website at:
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?

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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.

