

The Saints of St. George

Over the last 20 years, St.George Foundation has distributed in excess of \$15 million to more than 700 charities dedicated to assisting young Australians with special needs. But while the work of the Foundation is something of which St.George is very proud, recent efforts by St.George staffers to raise funds for and otherwise assist the Foundation's charities are both humbling and inspirational.

Everyday hero

St.George National Sponsorship Manager Katy Dawson has seen firsthand the good work done by the charities St.George Foundation supports. So she signed up for the Sydney Marathon.

"It was an easy decision for me, as I'm lucky enough to see where the money goes. We continually support St.George Foundation through our sponsorship properties, so I've had direct experience and seen the impact funds like this can achieve.

"I also knew that the Westpac Group's Matching Gifts program would double the donations I got from my colleagues." [The program matches employees' donations dollar-for-dollar.]

Katy also created a personalised page on the charity fundraising website Everyday Hero (www.everydayhero.com.au).

"I was training four days a week, running a total of 80 kilometres, so I wrote a blog on Everyday Hero on how hard I was finding it all! Allowing people to read all about my experience of continual blisters and injuries made them feel sorry for me – and made them dig that little bit deeper into their pockets, I guess," she says.

And that they did. All in all, with generous sponsor donations and

the Matching Gifts program, Katy raised a total of \$3,220.

The bear necessities

St.George Executive Manager Jacki Fraher runs a corporate and business banking team in Sydney. Jacki and her team volunteered to spend a day at Bear Cottage, where a St.George Foundation contribution was being used to help refurbish the children's bedrooms and common areas.

"We put together furniture and did painting in the children's room, as well as cooking lunch," she says.

Bear Cottage is a facility for children and young people with

life-limiting illnesses and Jacki's team was eager to get involved.

"It's a great chance for parents to spend some quality time with their kids while getting some extra help on the caring side," Jacki says.

"And it was so nice to see children in an environment that was more like a home, as opposed to being a hospital."

It's inspiring to know that we are in an environment in which people like Katy, and Jacki and her team, are willing to give their time to help others, demonstrating their genuine care about our communities and our children. 

Katy Dawson presents the funds she raised to the Horizon Theatre Company: a great result from some very hard work!



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