

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ..... THANK YOU! ... THANK YOU! ... THANK YOU!**

**“24 HOUR TABLE TENNIS MARATHON FOR CHLOE & YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS”**

**Held from 5.30pm Friday October 28<sup>th</sup> to 5.30pm Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 at**

**Corrimal Community Church & Neighbourhood Hub - 9 Augusta St EAST CORRIMAL**

On behalf of Josh & Stephanie Rowles, Graeme & Karen Hush, the Rowles and Sackett Families, and of course The Saxby Family and the Co-ordinators of the Salvos ‘The Couch Project’; we would just like to wrap up this year’s 24 Hour Table Tennis Marathon by taking a few moments to thank you so much for the support we received before, during and after the event.

There are absolutely no words that would do justice to how we feel towards you for your selfless effort and generosity. We raised over \$2.5K including the vouchers etc. that will be auctioned at events in the near future.

We will undoubtedly forget someone which is always the danger when you try to name specific ‘above and beyond’ support people, but we will give it a try and ask for your forgiveness if we unintentionally miss you out.

**Thank you to ....**

Member for Keira Ryan Park for your community mindedness in taking the time to launch our event on Friday evening.

Salvos ACT & South NSW Divisional Secretaries Captains Nigel and Sandy MacDonald, and in particular Nigel who drove up from Canberra Friday night to introduce and give context to ‘The Couch Project’ for the Youth Homelessness part of our effort, play 2 or 3 hours with us and then drive back to Canberra.

Mark Matthews and 97.3FM ABC Illawarra who have been excited about this event since its inception and provided for live radio interview crosses during play on Saturday.

The WIN Illawarra Local News desk and in particular Jared Constable and his camera team for the follow up news reports on Saturday and Tuesday nights.

The McDonalds Fairy Meadow team, in particular manager on duty Morgan Jackson for helping us partner with McDonalds Regional Illawarra Sponsorship Committee and Community Marketing Rep Jessica Pestana to provide brekky for the team on Saturday and food and gift vouchers for the fund raising effort equating to over \$500. Thanks for coming to the venue and putting a face on the gift by playing an hour or so with us and with Chloe.

Local Fire Pty Ltd, Bombora Seafood Restaurant, Illawarra Production Services and Kim Kelly Remedial Massage & Acupuncture for other donations and support above and beyond.

**An initiative of:**

**Y-CARE NEXT Alliance – Corrimal Community Church**

**In partnership with**

**YLD@Heartland – Heartland Ministries Inc.**



The people of Corrimal Community Church who hosted the fund raiser and provided ongoing food service and logistical/resource support to enable Josh & Graeme to actually play as well as to welcome and bless ANYONE who showed up at any time during the event.

Mates from the local churches we have relationship with and other family and friend connections who kept us awake and alert by picking up a table tennis bat and returning ping pong balls from the other side of the net; particularly people like Gary, Mark, Scott, Nathan and Michelle who saw that the hours between midnight and 6am were particularly important.

The photo takers and the live video producers who kept our efforts updated on social media. (You should check out the FB page if you haven't already)

Finally, we are so thankful to Chloe and her family, Nyree, Grant and Maddy for allowing us the honour and privilege of playing a small part in supporting them as they battle their own lifelong marathon to raise awareness about Vanishing White Matter Disease and of course to find a cure for Chloe and other children who suffer from it.

We are also thankful to the unseen pillars throughout The Salvation Army in Australia who are fighting for young homeless, displaced and marginalized young people through 'The Couch Project'. We are committed to all of you and we believe in you and we will share in the effort.

When we were asked why this small group of committed people around us would do such a crazy thing in the hope of making even a small difference for and on behalf of others in dire need, our response of course was, 'it's the only thing that ever has (made a difference)' and it was and continues to be the example our team leader Jesus showed us time and time again. We can do no less.

Even though this is our official wrap up and thank you shout out for our event, if you would still like to add to our fund raising tally so we can continue to bless Chloe, her family and other young people with significant needs; **please direct deposit into the Westpac Account named Heartland Ministries, BSB 112908, Account Number 203307 and identify your donation with '24HrTT', OR download the FREE Heartland Ministries app, click on the music icon, then the CD Baby link then download Graeme's 'Home' Album. 50% of sales will go to our causes with thanks.**

Once again, thank you all for responding so graciously to our backyard need awareness and fund raising event.

Love and blessings

Josh, Graeme and the Team

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