



celebrating potential, creating possibilities

8 December 2008

MEDIA RELEASE

Jacob's Christmas Gift to People with Cerebral Palsy

11-year-old Jacob from Mount Helena has raised over \$1000 to help improve the lives of people living with cerebral palsy.

While most boys his age spend the lead up to Christmas wishing for Wii's and Walkmans, Jacob and eight of his schoolmates have concentrated on how to raise funds for wheelchairs and walkers.

This Tuesday 9th December Jacob and his fellow fundraisers from Mt Helena Primary School present Marielle Azzopardi from The Centre for Cerebral Palsy (The Centre) with a cheque for the proceeds of their 'Milo Mornings' and other fundraising efforts.

Jacob is friends with a client of The Centre who inspired him to help people with cerebral palsy. Enlisting the support of school friends, he formed a fundraising committee complete with Treasurer and started planning how to reach their target.

His mother, Sue, remembers "one night before Jacob went off to bed he said to me, 'I want to fundraise to help people with CP. Not just a little bit; at least \$1000.'" "It just came out of nowhere but I am very proud of him and want to support him any way I can," she says.

Mt Helena's Principal, Jim Cassin, encourages students to help the community in any way they can and is very proud of Jacob and his committee's efforts.

"We commended Jacob's and his fundraising committee members' parents and the Mt Helena Primary for getting behind Jacob and his team and giving them the opportunity to learn first hand about the joy of giving to those less fortunate than themselves - after all that is what Christmas is all about" says Kathy Kane, Fundraising Manager at The Centre.

If you would like to support Jacob and his team's efforts please contact Kathy Kane on (08) 9443 0228 or the Mt Helena Primary School.

-ENDS-

Photo opportunity: Jacob and his team presenting The Centre with the cheque

Date: Tuesday 9th December 2008

Time: 8.50am

Address: Mt Helena Primary School, Keane Street East, Mount Helena WA 6082

For further information contact:

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FACTS ABOUT CEREBRAL PALSY

- *CP is a permanent physical condition that affects movement.*
- *In Australia a child is born with CP every 18 hours.*
- *Australians under 18 are three times more likely to be diagnosed with cerebral palsy than cancer.*
- *There is no pre-birth test, no known cure and severity is on the increase.*
- *For most the cause of CP is unknown.*
- *CP is not a disease, it is not contagious.*
- *CP can be as mild as just a weakness in one hand ranging to almost complete lack of movement.*
- *Since 1951 The Cerebral Palsy Association has forged an enviable reputation as one of the leading disability service providers in WA. In line with the outstanding work we do in the area of CP management and support to those with disability, on 13 March 2007 we adopted a new name The Centre for Cerebral Palsy and colourful new logo.*