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MEDIA RELEASE

Jacobs making a difference

11 year old Jacob Whyte from Mt Helena, together with eight of his fellow classmates at Mt Helena Primary School have joined together to raise \$1000 for people living with cerebral palsy in WA.

Jacob's passion and desire to help was inspired by family friend, 19 year old Melissa Ball, who has CP.

"One night before Jacob went off to bed he said 'I want to fundraise to help people with CP, not just a small amount, I want to raise at least \$1000'," said Sue, Jacob's mum. "It just came out of no where, but I am very proud of him and want to support him anyway I can".

With support from his school and family, Jacob and his committee of friends are well on their way to reaching their target, and have already raised over \$100 by holding a Milo Morning at school.

Kathy Kane, Fundraising Manager at The Centre for Cerebral Palsy, said, "This initiative is a great example of how young people in our community are making a difference by supporting the work of The Centre and people living with CP".

Cerebral Palsy Awareness Week runs nationally from 3-9 August. Judy Hogben, CEO for The Centre for Cerebral Palsy said "Our aim is to celebrate the achievements of people living with CP; raise awareness, understanding and acceptance of CP and provide a forum for people with CP to share insights and exchange ideas. Importantly the week is about bringing the WA community together through community and fundraising activities to ensure better lives for those living with CP."

There are many ways the community can support CP Awareness Week. For further information, please visit www.tccp.com.au.

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For further information or to arrange a photo or interview opportunity, please 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.*