

22 September 2008

MEDIA RELEASE

Soroptimists continue to support CP

Ten year old Tiana Humble from Mt Helena will soon receive a specialised seating device thanks to the generosity of Soroptimist International of Darling Range who donated vital funds to The Centre for Cerebral Palsy's Equipment Sponsorship Programme.

Tiana has cerebral palsy, a condition affecting the muscles in her arms and legs.

Living with CP often requires services and support beyond the means of most West Australian families, and hence The Centre's Equipment Sponsorship Programme plays an important role in fulfilling unmet equipment needs for over 1000 children and adults with CP across the state.

"There is over \$59 million of unmet needs for specialised equipment for people living with CP in Australia," said Kathy Kane, The Centre for Cerebral Palsy's Fundraising Manager.

With the help of individuals, local businesses, corporate groups, social and sporting clubs, and community groups who generously donate much needed funds, The Centre's Equipment Sponsorship Programme offers a means of funding for items that are not eligible for Government funding, which can enhance the lives of children and adults living with CP.

"The Centre commends Soroptimist International of Darling Range for their generous support over the last 16 years; donating the proceeds from their annual Ploughman's Lunch to provide specialised equipment for children living with CP." Kathy said.

Tiana's new Bambach Saddle Seat, a therapeutic seating system worth over \$1000, will help Tiana improve her balance, hip alignment and sitting skills while at home and at school.

Soroptimist International of Darling Range member Geraldine Smailes, a recent recipient of The Centre for Cerebral Palsy's Community Excellence Award for the club's ongoing support for children living with CP, said "We are pleased to be able to raise funds over the last 16 years through our Ploughman's Lunch to purchase equipment for children with CP".

"Soroptimist members really get behind this annual event, making homemade soups, preserves and apple pies. We encourage community groups to organise similar events for children in need of support".

To make a donation or to support other WA kids like Tiana contact Kathy Kane on (08) 9443 0228 or visit www.tccp.com.au.

-ENDS-

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Geraldine, and other members of the Soroptimist International of Darling Range, will be hosting a Garden Open Day, where they will meet Tiana and her family.

When: Saturday 11 October 2008

Time: Tiana and her family will arrive at 1:30pm
Where: Congellia, 39 Orange Valley Road, Kalamunda

For further information 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.*