

# Perth Wildcats captain Damian Martin and St Stephen's School present donations to those in need

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Perth Wildcats captain Damian Martin with service learning co-ordinator Donna Lund and students Jamie Wright and Jasmine Hollier. Picture: Martin Kennealey d477285

PERTH Wildcats captain Damian Martin recently teamed up with St Stephen's School to present \$25,000 worth of donations to locals in need.

The donations were the result of a pilot program launched by WA Charity Direct where students from the school's Duncraig and Carramar campuses researched and chose the recipients.

Mr Martin, who is the WA Charity Direct ambassador, contacted the school about creating and testing the pilot program, collaborating with students over a series of workshops and brainstorming sessions while helping them to develop their philanthropic experience.

"It's about teaching children that you're never too young to start helping people in your environment," Mr Martin said.

"Whether it's just helping your neighbour or someone at school, you can always improve your surroundings.

"I've loved the concept, I've loved the experience of working with the St Stephen's School students and it's something that I hope continues."

St Stephen's School service learning co-ordinator Donna Lund said being part of the pilot program was "invaluable" to the school.

"The students have loved it... from the researching and business-minded skills they picked up, hearing a range of people's stories and meeting the people they were helping and seeing how happy they are is what made it for them," she said.

Local charity Vincent's Project, which was launched by Sacred Heart College student Vincent Pettinicchio to help those suffering from homelessness received a \$16,500 donation, while a local family received a wheelchair and Rocky Bay received iPads and a camera.

Rocky Bay assistant manager Bridget Carr said the iPads would "give our guys a voice".

"It's going to give them the opportunity to make decisions," she said.

"It's going to open up a whole new world to them."

St Stephen's School will meet with WA Charity Direct in the coming weeks to create a program plan that could be rolled out to other schools.