



## Rotary Club of Christchurch Sunrise Project-District 9970 2016

### GoBabyGo Rotary partnership

When you read the attached GoBabyGo New Zealand Pacific brochure you cannot help but ask the question, what can Rotary do to help?

The Rotary goal is to assist GoBabyGo by establishing regional hubs to deliver the GoBabyGo service. This will free the current GoBabyGo organisation to focus on the macro view and it's national role. In addition we see Rotary clubs working within their local community to promote and further the goals of the GoBabyGo organisation in two ways;

1. Networking within their local community to assist to identify children that would benefit from one of these cars and then to participate in the delivery of the car.
2. Funding or seeking funding for these cars

The first hub to perfect the model is here in Christchurch and will be operated as follows. The GoBabyGO organisation has recently appointed Bruce Jackson as is's South Island Coordinator. Bruce is a member of the Rotary Club of Christchurch Sunrise however this role is outside Rotary but is through this role that the Rotary project will be coordinated.

Within our Club the project will be coordinated by Michael Burson. It is because of Michael our club became involved with GoBabyGo and he has a very strong passion for this particular cause.

A technical team has been set up here in Christchurch to assist with the delivery of the cars and in time helping to carry out any adjustments and modifications that are required. This team will be coordinated by Len Holland and includes John Harrington, a member of Christchurch Sunrise Rotary Club with other people will be coopted into this group as the needs develop and the roles become clearer with time.

### Promoting the GoBabyGo cause.

We have a car available so that we can carry out presentations to all Rotary Clubs in the Christchurch area.

The presentations to the Rotary Clubs have the following goals:

1. To present the GoBabyGO opportunity outlining the needs, the solution and the outcomes for recipients.
  2. To outline the challenges the GoBabyGo organisation faces and where Rotary can help.
  3. Present the Hub idea.
  4. Once proven then roll out to Nelson, West Coast, Blenheim and Ashburton.
- Once this is completed and successfully running then the plan is to involve all Rotary Districts throughout New Zealand.

### Details of vehicles

The base car which is provided is a BMW electric car which is then modified to suit each particular child. These modifications include seats and head rests, seat belts, adapted steering controls, switches and specific remote controls as needed for \$1500 inc GST each.

## **The benefits of creating the Hub are:**

1. To provide a local group of hands on people to assist in delivering all new vehicles to ensure that parents are correctly trained and that all the adjustments and adaptations are correct.
2. Work with local groups, therapists, pediatricians and support groups to help identify children that could benefit from a car.
3. To directly fund cars, raise money to fund cars or seek charitable, philanthropic people or entities or companies to fund cars.

## **What can your Rotary Club do?**

1. Sponsor a car for \$1500 inc GST
2. Use your network of contacts, or find new organisations to identify children who could benefit from a car.
3. Identify a child directly supplying the funding for this project and complete the project with the help of the local Hub.

## **What is in it for our club?**

- Each car will come complete with the Rotary logo. The PR opportunity exists in completing each project with the passing over of a car living with you forever! To see the freedom a child receives from the car along with the reaction from parents, grandparents and siblings is amazing.
- Creating new networks within the community when identifying children in need
- Creating new networks with sponsors and organisations as you seek to obtain funding for cars using leverage from our Rotary profile.
- Finally and most importantly making a huge difference to a child and their family. When we come from a normal family we don't appreciate the issues that come with having a child with severe disabilities. These parents live a very restricted existence so a gift like a GoBabyGo car is life changing.

## **Conclusion**

This project represents a great opportunity for Rotary Clubs to work together to help change the lives of many families. If every Rotary Club in Christchurch sponsored one car this Rotary year we would provide 18 cars at \$1500, a total \$27,000.

When you consider that to date 9 cars have been passed over in Christchurch with approximately 1500 children needing cars nationally or 130 cars for our local community, we have years of need to satisfy.

To register for this Rotary project please or to volunteer your services for this program please contact Michael Burson on [mikeburson@gmail.com](mailto:mikeburson@gmail.com) detailing the skill set you think would benefit your local Hub and we will be in contact with you.