

Local's gift to 10 families

\$5000 donation to help needy with Christmas food, gifts

Charity | Anna Prytz

AN inspiring act of kindness will help 10 Manningham families have a merrier Christmas.

Templestowe resident George Puchlenko has donated \$5000 to welfare organisation Doncare for needy families.

Ten local families will each receive \$500 to go towards food and present costs.

A retired insurance broker, Mr Puchlenko said the thought of children going without had spurred him to act.

"I have two adult children and I know how special Christmas is to kids," he said.

"I just want them to have a good day."

Mr Puchlenko said giving money allowed families freedom.

"It's giving them a choice to make decisions about the toys their children get," he said.

Doncare chief executive Doreen Stoves said she had been overwhelmed by the generous gift.

"For these families, it will be absolutely life-changing," she said.

"The humanity and compassion is wonderful."

Mr Puchlenko said he hoped other people realised they had the power to do the same.



Doncare's Doreen Stoves and donor George Puchlenko sort through the Christmas toy donations.

Picture: PAUL LOUGHNAN N24

The donation comes as the Doncare team hits full swing with its Christmas preparation.

This year's move away from the hamper program to giving cash vouchers for Christmas dinner has

been well received by recipients, although donations are still needed.

With donations of toys rolling in, Doncare expects to give out 5000 toys to local parents this week.

"It really is remarkable people give," Ms Stoves said.

"It's a big operation here we're proud to do it well."

To contact Doncare please call 9841 4215.