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CHARITIES TO BENEFIT THROUGH GENEROSITY OF CITIPOWER AND POWERCOR AWARD WINNERS

CitiPower and Powercor have donated nearly \$40,000 to local charities this year as part of its Spirit of Excellence Program which acknowledges employees for their outstanding contribution to the company, its customers and their local community.

Award winning employees are given the opportunity to donate to a charity of their choice as part of their 'Spirit of Excellence' prize. Around \$280,000 has been donated to organisations since the inception of the awards program about 13 years ago.

CitiPower and Powercor's Chief Executive Officer Shane Breheny said the 'Spirit of Excellence' donations help to strengthen the electrical distribution business's relationship with local communities.

"It is pleasing for the business and our employees to be able to contribute to such a worthwhile cause," he said.

"Through the Spirit of Excellence program, CitiPower and Powercor are able to reward employees who consistently make an extra effort in way that enables them to give to a cause that they feel passionately about," Mr Breheny said.

In 2009, a variety of charities have benefited from the awards program including the Cancer Council, the Bendigo Wig Library and the Salvation Army.

Bendigo's Judy Rielley decided to help out women undergoing cancer treatment through supporting the Bendigo Wig Library which provides wigs, hats, scarves, turbans and accessories free of charge to women diagnosed with cancer.

"The side effects from chemotherapy on a person's appearance and self esteem can be drastic, particularly for women. This service gives women a choice of solutions for their hair loss so they can gain control of their appearance," Ms Rielley said.

Werribee employee, Craig Whiting chose to make his donation to the Wee Kids Foundation who provides a support network for children and their families living with urology issues."

"The funds raised by the foundation are used to purchase much needed paediatric urology equipment for hospitals," Mr Whiting said.

The Spirit of Excellence Awards is part of CitiPower and Powercor's ongoing commitment to recognise and reward the efforts of their many employees.

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