

# HOMELY RETREAT FOR FAMILIES

A LOCAL not-for-profit organization assisting Tangier families affected by cancer, visited schools on the Eastern Shore to launch its annual community fundraiser day.

Homey Retreats is a support service for Tangierians affected by cancer that provides weekend respite in the form of a complimentary holiday to families with a parent undergoing cancer treatment.

The organization was established by Lee Chapman in 2014 after his own battle with cancer in 2014-15.

"I had young children at the time and spent most of the year in hospital, so the focus was not on the children," she said.

"I mean, I had challenges for families because a parent is often hospitalized, so there is kind of a social isolation and lack of support for

the other parent. We try and provide a glimmer of hope by offering them this respite."

As part of their annual community fundraiser day, Homey Retreats engaged with students from primary schools on the Eastern Shore by asking them to dress in blue and bring a gold coin donation.

The schools included South Arm, Clarendon Vale, Lunderdale and Rolods.

Ms Chapman said they received an amazing response from the students, raising more than \$1,900.

"It was around a donation jar placed in each class and that's really positive and usually everyone was willing to help and willing to help," she said.

"The reason we chose primary schools was because we want to empower children to show that they can help in the community themselves and they don't have to be an adult to show their support

they can do their piece in the community and show their support for those Tangierians as well.

"By involving more schools will become involved over the year so we can grow the fundraiser and give our services."

Clarendon Vale Primary School principal Carolyn Murray said the school got involved in the fundraising day as a way to give back to the community.

"We've got a few real needs that have been in situations that the organization is supporting so it's really nice to support something that might help them in the future," she said.

Ms Murray expressed her appreciation for the school's involvement, saying she would like to support families and people who have it as much as we can because it's a really labour process to go through.

The students were so excited and our school representatives raised nationally good



From left, Homey Retreats founder Lee Chapman, Clarendon Vale Primary School students Dasha Brown, Sam and Brooke Abernethy, and Kyla Bevine Secondary College students Jaxon, Isaac and Ryan Bevine.

at giving the message to each class in this town what it was about and that it wasn't just a dress up day.

Bevine Secondary College was involved in helping plan the fundraising day by coordinating well

with other schools, words learnt in the school, taking to students and visiting the schools to help the best dressed and collect donations.

"I wanted to get involved in the community and help families that were

suffering with cancer," Bevine Secondary College student Kyla Bevine said.

"I think it's an important cause, especially in our rural community, because of how many people it impacts and how little

support there is for families that are going through it."

If your family needs respite and has a parent affected by cancer, they can apply at <http://homeyretreats.com.au>