

Rotary gift of \$25,000 to help pay for NZ research



Cure Kids ambassador Moneka Sinclair with President Brian Daniels, of the Rotary Club of Dunedin, N.Z., after the announcement of a \$NZ25,000 donation to Cure Kids by the Rotary Club of Dunedin and leading department store Briscoes. Photograph: Courtesy, Otago Daily Times.

One of the first people to benefit from a \$NZ25,000 donation to *Cure Kids* by the Rotary Club of Dunedin and leading department store Briscoes will be a girl aged nine.

She is *Cure Kids* ambassador Moneka Sinclair who has Nephrotic Syndrome, a disease that prevents her kidneys from functioning normally. She is just one of about 20,000 New Zealanders who have a life-threatening illness.

However, the Rotary Club of Dunedin and Briscoes made life for Moneka and many other children in New Zealand a little happier by donating a cheque valued at \$25,000 to *Cure Kids*.

Josie Fitzgerald, the *Cure Kids* South Island funding manager, said most of the donation would go toward medical research for children with life-threatening illnesses.

She said: "Medical research costs tens of thousands of dollars, so every bit of support we can get makes such a difference to the lives of the children we help."

However, \$500 of the \$25,000 donation would go directly to

Moneka Sinclair, allowing her to attend a *Cure Kids* Ticket To Hope camp in Queenstown for children with serious illnesses.

"The camp gives the young people a chance to escape from the reality of their illness for just a couple of days. It's a chance for her to be with a group of friends where no-one's different," said Josie Fitzgerald.

"Rotarians are key supporters for *Cure Kids*. Their support has been overwhelming. They founded *Cure Kids* in 1975 and have raised more than \$NZ3million for the organisation to date."

President Brian Daniels, of the Rotary Club of Dunedin, N.Z., said the funds were raised at a wine auction held at the Dunedin Art Gallery recently.

"The auction raised \$12,500 and Briscoes in Dunedin matched the total dollar for dollar," he said.

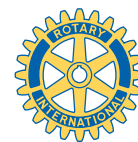
"We were ecstatic about the amount raised. We had promised *Cure Kids* about \$10,000 but we were delighted when we found we could offer \$25,000. It's a nice feeling to be able to support such a worthy cause."

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