

28 August 2013

Suncorp manager to trek the Andes for Youngcare

Another intrepid Suncorp manager is embarking on a gruelling physical challenge in support of Youngcare, with Ms Cherie Gray tackling the Machu Picchu Challenge in September.

Ms Gray, Manager, Distribution Strategy in the Workers Compensation Portfolio, will depart with 12 other challengers on 5 September to trek along the Andes to the famous Incan ruins of Machu Picchu, at times reaching altitudes of 4500 metres.

The Youngcare Machu Picchu Challenge aims to raise awareness of and funds for the thousands of young disadvantaged Australians who are currently forced to live in aged care. Ms Gray has exceeded her personal goal to raise at least \$10,000.

“Aged care is no place for a young person, so I hoped to make a difference by taking on this challenge and raising much-needed funds and awareness,” said Ms Gray.

“I have received some very generous donations from many different people, so I’ve managed to reach that milestone. Now it’s time to take on the next goal and reach Machu Picchu.

“I wouldn’t have been able to get this far without the very generous support of Gallagher Bassett, as well as my other corporate sponsors, Big Picture Communications and Impact AV Australia. They have made an invaluable contribution.”

Ms Gray follows the exploits of Suncorp Executive General Managers Mr Chris McHugh and Mr Paul Smeaton, who earlier this year undertook the Youngcare Simpson Desert Challenge.

Mr McHugh and Mr Smeaton trekked 300 kilometres across the Simpson Desert over 10 days in June, raising more than \$150,000 for Youngcare.

There are currently 7500 young people in Australia are living in aged care facilities and a further 700,000 are being cared for at home, often with limited support.

Youngcare aims to address this gap in the healthcare system and has launched several projects to support young people with high-care needs, including specialised care facilities and grants to assist those in care at home.

Media Release

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Much of this has been done with support from government, the community and business, including Suncorp, which has supported Youngcare since 2007.

Ms Gray and her companions will trek along the Moonstone Trail, an isolated alternative to the famous Inca Trail that offers higher altitudes and rougher terrain for those seeking a more challenging path to Machu Picchu.

It will take the trekkers through seldom-visited Andean villages, Inca and pre-Inca ruins and heads onto a beautiful Altiplano plateau surrounded by glaciated peaks.

The 13 challengers are aiming to fundraise over \$100,000 for Youngcare.

Ms Gray's fundraising page will still accept donations for the duration of the trek. Please visit www.youngcaresupporters.com.au/cherie_gray to make a donation.

You can also 'like' her Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cherie-Treks-Machu-Picchu-for-Youngcare/401988579920710?ref=hl>

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