

Southern Gazette

 **Community**

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BELMONT

NEWS

Youth charity gives trips of a lifetime

By **STUART MCKINNON**

HUMANITARIAN Moira Kelly thought it was unfair that people's nationality should determine whether they lived or died.

So she decided to set up a charity to change it.

Since its establishment in Melbourne in 1999, Ms Kelly's Children First Foundation has brought more than 350 children from developing or war-torn countries to Australia for life-saving or life-changing surgery.

The charity has secured the

support of many generous Australian surgeons and medical staff who offer their time and skills pro bono to operate on children in need.

Many hospitals have also offered their facilities and equipment free of charge or at cheap rates.

Ms Kelly visited Perth earlier this month as part of a plan to expand the charity's operations nationally.

Besides medical expertise and facilities, the foundation also relies on donations and community groups to help host

children and their families while in Australia.

The Belmont Business Enterprise Centre hosted a function for Ms Kelly during her recent visit to Perth in a bid to set up partnerships with community groups, clubs, businesses and churches.

Ms Kelly's long-time friend and Belmont BEC manager Carol Hanlon has agreed to head up the charity's WA organising committee.

Visit www.childrenfirstfoundation.com for more information.



Children First Foundation's Moira Kelly. Picture: Marie Nirme