Technology enables centre to expand business networks throughout Australia

"DonorTec has assisted the community based not-for-profit Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc (BEC) to improve efficiency and reliability to manage its computer networks at low cost,"
- *Carol Hanlon*
- *Belmont BEC Manager*

Who are they?
The Belmont Business Enterprise Centre

Where are they?
Western Australia, Australia

What do they do?
The Belmont BEC assists business clients with counselling and guidance support to start a new business, or for those growing a home-based, micro or small business in Belmont, across Western Australia and nationally.

What did they receive?
Cisco router and Microsoft Server and software.

The outcome?
"Through the Belmont BEC receiving DonorTec assistance to purchase its Cisco router and switching equipment, and the Microsoft® Server and office software, we have been able to expand our enterprise network services,"
- Carol Hanlon

About DonorTec:
www.donortec.com.au

Pictured: Carol Hanlon, Founder Belmont Business Enterprise Centre
Source: WA Business News, 6 November 2008.   www.wabusinessnews.com.au

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Those are the words of Belmont (Western Australia) Business Enterprise centre Manager Carol Hanlon, who, in October 2008, was awarded the Australian Taxation Office Award for Best Business Enterprise Centre Manager (BEC) in Australia.

"I'm passionate about innovation within my Business Enterprise Centre in Belmont, and have been supported fully by my team. In turn, the small businesses that use our service win as we all love what we do, and strive to help businesses grow," said Ms Hanlon.

As founding Manager, Ms Hanlon established the Belmont BEC in 1994. The centre has supported in excess of 16,000 clients with business counselling and guidance support to start a new business, or for those growing a home-based, micro or small business in Belmont, across Western Australia and nationally…………………………………..more...

DonorTec provides donated software and hardware from companies such as Microsoft® and Cisco to eligible Australian non profit groups, assisting them to build their ICT capacity. Hundreds of groups have already benefited from the DonorTec Program, which is provided by Community Information Strategies Australia Inc (CISA) in partnership with TechSoup. CISA and Compumentor/TechSoup are nonprofit organisations involved in a global partnership for technology donations.

Since its inception, the Belmont BEC has established an extensive range of community small business support projects and programs. These have included the Textile Clothing Footwear Resource Centre Inc. (TCFWA), Belmont Small Business Awards, WA Racing Industry Development Project, Designedge Innovation Festival, Multicultural Business Support Services, Designedge Fashion Incubator, Belmont Clothes Library, and Business Workshops for Youth.

Other centre activities include the establishment of a range of specialist business workshops, many with a focus on creative industry business development programs with indigenous and culturally diverse groups.

"As the only BEC in Australia specialising in fashion and creative industry micro small business support, our resources are continually stretched to the limit with the thousands of emails we receive and send in WA and nationally," said Ms Hanlon.

"Through the Belmont BEC receiving DonorTec assistance to purchase its Cisco router and switching equipment, and the Microsoft® Server and office software, we have been able to expand our enterprise network services," explained Ms Hanlon.

"As we have limited resources, time dealing electronically with our client base with online business mentoring support must be through our computer networks and databases," added Ms Hanlon.