



MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE

9th May 2013

TOMMY COMES TO STAY

Volunteers throughout Australia will be given the recognition and thanks they deserve during National Volunteer Week, Monday 13th – Sunday 19th May.

Volunteers are an important part of disability support service, Interchange Outer East.

Whether it is supporting children and young adults on recreational camps and activities or providing care and support through the volunteer host program they play a vital role in the organisation.

The host program matches a child or young person with a disability to a volunteer 'host' who shares their home with the young person, ideally one weekend a month. The program is very flexible in the amount of time spent together per month and also the nature of the relationship can vary hugely from being another family unit to a buddy, mentor or friend.

One such volunteer host family is the Familio family, Andrea and Matt, who live in Croydon. For the past six or so months they have been having seven year old Thomas Maybury come to stay each month. Tommy is a very active, happy little guy and they have some great times together. Andrea's brother had a host family of his own, so she knew how good the arrangement could be for everyone. So she and Matt decided to give the same opportunities to another family.

While Tommy is staying with the Familio family, his mum, Rachael, dad Stuart and sister Emily get to do things that are difficult when Tommy is around ... or just relax and have a bit of quiet time together!

Hosts can be a couple, like the Familios, singles, families with a whole household full of kids, young people and active oldies, just about anyone can host.

For more information about the Interchange Outer East Volunteer Host Program please contact Karen Munzel on 9758 5522 or email karen.munzel@ioe.org.au or visit www.ioe.org.au

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For more information about the above release or to arrange interviews or photo shoots, please contact:

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