

BRUNSWICK

Time to pay it forward

WALK CELEBRATES CARERS

Suzanne Robson

HUMANITARIAN Moira Kelly has spent her life helping disadvantaged children but says she has only recently identified herself as a carer.

The Children First Foundation founder, mother of Iraqi-born brothers Emmanuel and Ahmed and guardian of formerly conjoined twins Trishna and Krishna, said she only fully understood the challenges and rewards of being a full-time carer after looking after a child with special needs 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The renowned humanitarian is an ambassador for Walk to Care, a 4km walk Carers Victoria will host on Sunday, November 17, at Maribyrnong's Coulson Gardens to recognise the contribution carers make to our communities.

Ms Kelly urged schools, community groups and residents to spread the word and join the walk.

"The thing with carers is we will always put other people before ourselves. The great thing about Carers Victoria is for once someone is caring for the carer."

Ms Kelly recently moved her family to Brunswick, including a new addition to the clan, Papa Oo, a 10-year-old orphan from Burma who has hearing and vision problems.

"When you have a sick child and when you have a child with special needs it is different, very, very different," Ms Kelly said.

"The long nights, the hard moments, the lonely times but (there are) also the great joys when something wonderful happens. And then you just revel in that moment when everything is good."

Ms Kelly said it was important the community recognised carers, who cross all ages and backgrounds, through a kind word, break, meal or joining the walk.

For details of the walk visit walktocare.com.au



Moira Kelly, with sons Ahmed and Emmanuel and care recipients Chogkyi, Kyizom, Papa Oo and Mimoza, will take part in Walk to Care.
Picture: DAVID CAIRD