

EXPERT RESOURCE PROFILE – RONNI KAHN

“...do something meaningful for other people.”



Ronni Kahn is the Founder and CEO of OzHarvest, a non-denominational, not for profit organisation that rescues unwanted food from restaurants, retailers, food outlets and corporate kitchens across Australia to feed vulnerable men, women and children.

Ronni Kahn grew up in South Africa and moved to Israel where she brought up her family. She arrived in Australia as an immigrant from Israel in 1988.

Following an extensive career in running her own event management business, Ronni set out to make a difference in this world. To create an organisation with sound business ethics that would positively impact society. Her experience in the hospitality industry led her to question where all the excess food went that was the natural fall out in the food and beverage industry. When she saw that no organisation in Sydney was collecting perfectly edible perishable excess food and delivering it to people in need on a regular and professional basis, she created OzHarvest.

Over the past ten years, OzHarvest has rescued 10 million kilos of good quality food and delivered 30 million meals to Aussies in need.

In 2010 Ronni Kahn was named Australia's Local Hero as part of the Australian of the Year Awards announced at Parliament House. Ronni has been a NSW Australia Day Ambassador for three years and was a finalist in two categories of Telstra Business Women's Awards 2008 and again in 2012.

Why 2020 Exchange

Ronni has an outstanding feel for the crossover between the social and business sectors. As a successful business woman, Ronni has achieved extraordinary results as a social entrepreneur, a leader and innovator in food rescue.

There are common elements exemplified in Ronni's leadership that are synergistic with the 2020 philosophy. It is not easy to influence the business world to buy into your vision, let alone, share corporate responsibility with them. Ronni has engaged the business community to reflect on their own personal responsibilities and change their behavior.

Qualifications

- BA English Literature and Art History, University of Haifa, Israel
- Member of Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD)

Awards and Accomplishments



Ronni has been recognised as a leader in the fields of entrepreneurship, social impact and innovation and has been awarded numerous achievements for her work and commitment to the community, some of which include:

- Australia's Local Hero, Australian of the Year Awards, 2010
- Enriched List by American Express, 2010
- Veuve Clicquot Award Business Woman Tribute Award for Innovation, Entrepreneurial Skill and Contribution to the Community, 2012
- Nominated as one of 100 Most Influential Women in Australia, 2012
- Ernst & Young Social Entrepreneur of the Year, 2012
- OzHarvest received the United Nations Environment Day Award for Community 2013
- Official Australian Partner of the UNEP (United Nations Environment Program) Think.Eat.Save campaign

Published Works

- OzHarvest Cookbook, 2012
- Urban Harvest, 2014