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Young ASC winner, 8, is donating to her sponsored overseas family

When you are eight years old, \$500 seems like five million. Just think how much that could buy an eight-year-old. A new play house; a new bike, a new swimming or spa pool; new toys and clothes, and of course let's not forget shoes – every eight-year-old loves lots of new shoes.

But Meghan Templeton, of Spur Road, Timaru, this month's winner of the Caroline Bay Aquatic Supporters Club's monthly \$500 BNZ draw, is an eight-year-old with special values – she is donating most of her winnings to charity; to a little Tanzanian boy her family sponsors through World Vision.

Kondera Clements will probably never know where his latest sponsorship money has come from, and that's just fine with Meghan.

Her thrill is coming from just knowing she is helping someone less fortunate, she said this week.

But she does know and is very grateful for the source of her winnings. She is a keen swimmer and when her family became members of the Aquatic Supporters Club she saw the opportunity for Timaru to get a new aquatic centre that would mean she would not have to keep travelling to Oamaru to enjoy her "favourite love", swimming.

She also knew that her swim squad coach Rob Naylor would be particularly pleased that a swimming star so young could enjoy the money put up by Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre partner the Bank of New Zealand – Rob is on the Aquatic Supporters Club committee.

Born in the United Kingdom to South African parents who moved to Timaru seven and a half years ago, Meghan can't wait for Timaru's new aquatic centre to open in mid-2012. The talented young swimmer is already achieving her swimming qualifications and plans to develop her career with the Timaru swimming squad.

"Our new pool will make training so much fun. Timaru needs a lovely new pool and I know that there will be so many other attractions at the centre like warm water and a place to buy soft drinks," she said.

What were her first words when she found out from Timaru District Council staff member Stacey Scott that she had won the monthly draw?

"She just squealed and squealed," sister Sarah said.

For information about how to join the Caroline Bay Aquatic Supporters Club and become eligible for a monthly draw of \$500 from BNZ, just go to www.carolinebayaquatic.co.nz and register or phone 0800 GO CBAY or 0800 462 229.

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The sprinklers will be made redundant on hot Timaru days when Timaru gets its new aquatic centre. And that's something that prize winner Meghan Templeton (left) and sister Sarah just can't wait for.