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OUR VISION

Young people overcoming adversity & building independence

OUR PURPOSE

Youth Outreach Service: Towards hope and independence – whatever it takes

THE MANAGER'S REPORT

BY DARREN – MANAGER

Greetings, the past six months has seen YOS trialing a number of new initiatives as we continue to ensure our work is relevant and effective for young people. In doing so we have had a number of areas that are showing promise and others that haven't worked out the way we were hoping.

AREAS OF PROMISE

STUDIO 97 This program is an attempt to build social connections around art projects. Every Wednesday night a group meets to connect, with art being the common interest. The numbers and youth satisfaction survey are showing that the efforts of YOS youth workers Krystle and Laura are making a difference.

NEW RELATIONSHIPS YOS has started outreaching one day a week at Headspace Woolloongabba: a Youth Mental Health Service. YOS is currently providing case work support to eight young people and achieving positive results. Headspace started this year, delivering a social and emotional health program, for students at YOS Spring Hill. This program is improving the coping and relationship skills of many students.

FAMILY WORKER YOS LAWNTON SCHOOL For the last three months YOS has been trialing a family worker program with families of students attending YOS Lawnton School. The demand for the family support along with the results being achieved has proven that the short term trial has been successful. The next stage is to incorporate this service into permanent operations.

AREAS NOT WORKING AS PLANNED

THE BIG FISH PROJECT is designed to work at providing linkages for young people exiting YOS programs. The program has had many great successes. It has provided a stepping stone and encouragement to a number of young people to seek employment, and/or further education. The learning from the program forms part of the action learning cycle for program improvements. However the numbers of young people involved in the program and their continued participation hasn't lived up to expectations. This has highlighted the transitional lives of the young people we are targeting. As we retool this program to improve the desired results, we are reminded that our actions to assist young people to build independent lives don't always meet with the successes we would hope. However this should not stop us from trialing new things, reflecting and improving our services so that young people can have better lives.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all the stakeholders, donors, staff and the God we serve that have made all of the things that we have done in 2016 possible. Through that support, fifty young people have alternative educational pathways, eleven young people have been housed and receive support through the YOS accommodation programs. At the courts over two-hundred young people have received legal advocacy, assessments, information and ongoing support. In 2016 YOS has positively affected the wellbeing of ten families and over four-hundred young people. YOS looks forward to maintaining that influence for the remainder of 2016.

STUDIO 97

BY LAURA – YOUTH WORKER YOS SPRING HILL

The YOS Art Group emerged from exploring community development ideas with young people currently involved in YOS programs and external youth programs. The young people were interested in building a creative space which was low pressure, and was accessible to any young person who wanted to create regardless of skill level, or experience.

During the first brainstorming session, the young people identified that they would like the opportunity to learn new creative skills in a workshop style, as well as participate in freestyle sessions where they could create however they felt led. Their ideas for content spread from painting and drawing, to photography, music, writing, drama, multimedia, and even crocheting. They suggested excursions to galleries and exhibitions, as well as holding their own exhibition of their work at the end of the year. The art group's weekly schedule is based on these ideas and suggestions.

Over the past two months, the group has been meeting every Wednesday evening, and has created masks, collages, paintings and drawings, and a range of freestyle pieces such as protest posters, short stories, and cross-stitch designs.

The participants enjoy a relaxed and respectful creative environment, where they encourage and support each other. The group has welcomed volunteers along to help out, and has been very grateful for the art supplies which have been generously donated from various sources.

At the end of each session, as the group pack up and admire each other's creations, they never fail to ask the question "What are we doing next week?"

***Pictured right:** Here are just a few examples of what the young people have achieved at art group.*



GOOD NEWS STORY

BY DESIREE – EDUCATION SUPPORT WORKER LAWNTON

Audrey first started attending YOS Lawnton in 2015 after disengaging from mainstream school because of bullying, anxiety and lack of motivation. Audrey enrolled into year 11 and now continues in the YOS Lawnton Independent Non-State School to complete her year 12 studies.

When Audrey first started attending YOS, her attendance was low and she would regularly self-harm. Audrey was quite a heavy smoker due to stress and anxiety.

Since then, Audrey is attending more regularly, has connected with an onsite Psychologist, engages with check-in appointments with her Education Support Worker and has stopped smoking. Her sleeping patterns have also improved. Audrey is working towards her learners drivers licence through the Turning Point Program with Cheryl A.

Audrey is respectful to all staff and is always willing to help out with school lunches, cleaning and sport activities.

Audrey is working hard working towards her year 12 certificate and consistently completes her school work tasks by the due date. She goes the extra mile by working on other courses such as the Certificate II in Hospitality.

The YOS Lawnton team are so proud of how Audrey continues to grow personally and achieve her academic goals.

YOS STUDENT A SPECIAL GUEST AT THE PINE RIVERS RED SHIELD APPEAL LAUNCH

BY DINA – EDUCATION SUPPORT WORKER LAWNTON

On Monday the 6th of May 2016 Lawnton year 12 school student Nikiesha, spoke at the Annual Pine Rivers Red Shield Appeal Breakfast. On the morning of the event, Nikiesha spoke about how she was mixed with nerves and excitement.

Upon entering the Pine Rivers Bowls Club where the breakfast was held, Nikiesha spoke about how fancy it all looked. As she sat down to the breakfast, the room filled with local business people, politicians and members of the community.

After some initial welcomes Nikiesha was introduced by her Youth Worker Dina and she took to the microphone. Nikiesha spoke about her struggles with couch surfing, homelessness, mental health issues and her difficult childhood. Because of her circumstances she had given up on school and was homeless.

Following the speech was an auction. Guests present were able to bid on items. A local business man bid on a diamond watch and at the end was able to gift it to Nikiesha. Several guests thanked and congratulated Nikiesha afterwards and told her how well she spoke and how brave she was. Nikiesha said that it was such a great morning and she felt so proud of herself for getting up and sharing her story.

Following is an excerpt from the speech Nikiesha gave:

"I'm so happy I realised that I wasn't really going anywhere and that I couldn't do it all by myself. Reaching out to YOS has helped me so much. If it wasn't for the support that I got from YOS I wouldn't be where I am now. YOS is always there to talk to. No judging. No criticising. Just listening and making sure we are okay and we achieve the best that we can in life."



PARENT NIGHT A HUGE SUCCESS

BY MAREE – EDUCATION SUPPORT WORKER SPRING HILL

Earlier this year, Maree from YOS Spring Hill hosted our inaugural Parent Evening for parents of the YOS Spring Hill School Students. The purpose of this event was to engage parents, acknowledge their expertise, offer some tools to assist and provide support via external services as appropriate. This first workshop focused around Communicating with Teens, run by Relationships Australia.

In planning for this event, so many individuals and organisations were passionate about being involved and were present on the night. These included; Relationships Australia, Indigenous Health, Psycare and Moneycare Financial Counselling. The YOS Big Fish Project was also showcased. Big Fish is a program aimed at engaging year twelve students to assist with next step transitions after graduating from YOS School. The Salvation Army StreetLevel supported us with their catering and hospitality.

Parents expressed interest in the event and we had five parents in attendance for the first evening with apologies from three others. To have seven out of twelve students represented at the first event was also very encouraging. Parents spoke openly about their experiences. The Relationships Australia presenters kept the focus on those things the parents do well and highlighting the things that work for them and their family. It was so refreshing to hear their stories and celebrate the amazing work that our student's parents are doing.

The overall feeling from the night seemed to be, that although we are not always confident, we are all doing our best, we all care deeply, having successes and learning from our mistakes. Sincere thanks to all our parents and support services!

PAST EVENTS

APRIL

5th April – Excursion to water park
11th April – Commence QLD School Term 2
14th April – Red Shield Appeal Launch Brisbane
Thursday's – Accommodation Program tenant dinner
Spring Hill Art Group established

MAY

4th May – Art Group Spring Hill
11th May – Art Group Spring Hill
18th May – Homeless Connect
18th May – Art Group Spring Hill
31st May – East Brisbane Flats / TechnologyOne
volunteer working bee
Thursday's – Accommodation Program tenant dinner

JUNE

8th June – Art Group Spring Hill
10th June – First Aid Training Spring Hill students
15th June – Art Group Spring Hill
22nd June – Art Group Spring Hill
24th June – End QLD School Term 2
Thursday's – Accommodation Program tenant dinner

CONGRATULATIONS GREG!

RECIPIENT OF THE SALVATION ARMY FELLOWS 2016 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Each year, The Salvation Army Aged Care Plus Services, awards a number of Salvation Army Staff and Volunteers a financial grant towards their professional development.

All Salvation Army Officers, Staff and Volunteers are invited to apply for a grant. The selection process is very thorough and competitive as many high standard applications are submitted.

The grants are available to further staff development, skills and knowledge, culminating in greater service delivery.

Our Spring Hill Team Leader, Greg, was fortunate to gain such a grant and as a result will be attending a conference in the USA focussing on how the Christian mission and values can be best delivered in an educational setting. Perfect! As YOS is moving into the education arena.

Greg says "It is my goal to extract all that I can about how the Christian message can be delivered in such a way that it delivers everlasting results. At the very core of The Salvation Army, and its message to all, is that it brings hope. This conference is about equipping youth workers to bring hope to students that engage with our education programs. I feel a great responsibility to bring back the learnings for the benefit of YOS and The Salvation Army."



Well done Greg!

Well done to all our students who have worked so hard to achieve great results this term.

UPCOMING EVENT - THE COUCH PROJECT

The Couch Project Campaign runs for the month of September with the official 'sleep over' date being Friday 16th September. Participants are encouraged to gain sponsorship from family and friends to sleep on their couch for a night. The campaign aims to raise funds and awareness around the issue of couch surfing – the most common form of youth homelessness.

Staff and volunteers of The Salvation Army YOS will be present at King George Square, Brisbane City on **Friday 23rd September** to raise funds and awareness towards this campaign, which will assist us in supporting homeless young people who engage with our service.

On the day we will be providing information about our service, sharing client stories, collecting funds, selling BBQ sausages, cold drinks and coffee! Please visit us there anytime between 7.00am – 5.00pm. Look for the red couch!

If you would like to show your support by way of volunteering for a shift, or if you would like to donate, please contact us; E: yosbrisbane@ae.salvationarmy.org Ph: 07 3854 1245

