

MEDIA RELEASE
November 27, 2007



Youth Off The Streets volunteers to receive Australian Government's Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal.

On Friday November 30, a team of volunteers from Youth Off The Streets will be awarded The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal in recognition for their outstanding service to the community in Aceh, Indonesia, in the wake of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia His Excellency Hamzah Thayeb and Consul General Bapak Sudaryomo will present the Medals that honour members of recognised Australian groups who render humanitarian service overseas in hazardous circumstances such as war zones, during peacekeeping operations or in times of natural disaster or civil strife.

13 volunteers including The Hon. Tony Stewart MP for Bankstown, will receive this prestigious award.

"The satisfaction we received from going over came out of our primary reason for going, to help the kids. The accolade that followed afterwards has been the icing on the cake. We all feel it is a great honour to be receiving this award and to have our efforts recognised," said Ken Hutt, Youth Off The Streets volunteer.

The volunteers were nominated for this award as they were the first group from Youth Off The Streets on the ground in Aceh. With very few resources and support they were dealing with an extremely confronting crisis as they sought to create a safe haven for children, most of whom had lost their families and in many cases, their entire village.

The volunteers were instrumental in establishing the Muhammadiyah – Youth Off The Streets Aceh Children's Care Centre which resulted from a significant relationship between Fr Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets, an Australian charity organisation, and Muhammadiyah, the second largest Islamic welfare group in Indonesia. The Children's Care Centre continues to provide accommodation, care and education for orphaned survivors while ensuring the children's social, cultural and religious needs are being met.

The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal was established in 1999 by the Australian Government as part of the Australian Honours and awards system. The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal is placed just below the Police Overseas Service Medal in the Order of wearing Australian Honours and Awards.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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| When | 1930hrs Friday 30 November, 2007 |
| Where | The Mirambena / Flinders Room. Level 2, Bankstown District Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, BANKSTOWN |
| Who | Fr Chris Riley, CEO & Founder, Youth Off The Streets, The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia His Excellency Hamzah Thayeb and Consul General Bapak Sudaryomo and 13 volunteers receiving the Medal, including The Hon. Tony Stewart MP for Bankstown. |
| What | Presentation of the Australian Government's Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal at the Youth Off The Streets Annual Presentation Night. |

About Youth Off The Streets:

Youth Off The Streets is a community organisation working for young people who are chronically homeless, drug dependent and recovering from abuse. We support these young people as they work to turn their lives around and overcome immense personal traumas such as neglect and physical, psychological and emotional abuse.

Since opening in 1991, Youth Off The Streets has grown from a single food van delivering meals to young homeless people on the streets of Kings Cross to a major youth specific agency providing a wide range of services offering a full continuum of care.

It is our goal that these young people will leave our care drug free, with a high school education, living skills and a full or part time job in hand.

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For more information, about Youth Off The Streets please contact:

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