

MEDIA RELEASE
November 29, 2007

Harbour BridgeClimb to be the pinnacle of a trip of a lifetime for young people from a remote orphanage in Timor Leste.

Fr Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets Overseas Relief Fund has been committed to funding an orphanage in the remote village of Bagaia, Timor Leste since 2002. The Overseas Relief Fund is giving five young people a trip of a lifetime as part of a cultural exchange programme between the orphanage and Youth Off The Streets.

On Tuesday December 4, in what is expected to be the highlight of their Cultural Exchange visit to Sydney, the young people will make the climb to the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge with Fr Chris Riley, CEO and Founder, Youth Off The Streets.

"These kids have come from a village that is so remote, their nearest water source is over half a kilometer away. They have met young people from Sydney, and seen their photos, but having come from so high up in the mountains, they are absolutely blown away by what they are experiencing here. Climbing the Harbour Bridge will be like a dream come true for them. This trip is a great way to encourage all the young people at the orphanage to continue their studies and work towards their goals," said Fr Riley.

Chosen for the trip because of their outstanding commitment to study, their leadership qualities and their kindness in helping others in the orphanage and school, the young people have a jam packed ten days ahead of them.

Throughout their ten day stay, the Timorese visitors will also reunite with trainee Youth Workers from Macquarie Fields, who made great friendships at the orphanage when they visited as part of the Youth Off The Streets Service Learning programme.

They will also visit schools that have signed the "Friendship School Agreement" which links schools in Australia with schools in Timore Leste. The creative activity and exchange of ideas that will take place will provide the Timorese and Australian students with the opportunity to learn more about each other's cultures. They will also visit Sydney Aquarium and Sydney Wildlife World.

Youth Off The Streets Overseas Relief Fund wishes to thank BridgeClimb Sydney, Sydney Aquarium and Sydney Wildlife World for providing tickets for the young people and their carers.

MEDIA / PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

When	0900hrs, Tuesday December 4, 2007 Numbers are limited, please RSVP to Ina Mullin: 8332 5005 / 0412 377 217 inam@youthoffthestreets.com.au
Where	Harbour BridgeClimb 5 Cumberland St, The Rocks
Who	Fr Chris Riley, CEO & Founder, Youth Off The Streets, four young people from the orphanage in Bagaia, East Timor and their carer.
What	Fr Chris Riley, CEO & Founder, Youth Off The Streets and 4 young people from the orphanage in Bagaia, East Timor will climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

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.

-ENDS-

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

Ina Mullin on Ph: 02 8332 5005 / 0412 377 217 or email: inam@youthoffthestreets.com.au