

MEDIA RELEASE  
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## **Economic Crisis hits Youth Off The Streets Eric Bana comes to our aid by creating a Community Service Announcement Appeal**

As businesses, individuals and families tighten their purse strings, Father Chris Riley and Eric Bana will appeal to all Australians not to forget the effect the financial crisis will have on charities, especially those delivering essential services to homeless and disadvantaged Australians.

Eric Bana, Youth Off The Streets Ambassador has donated his time to help Father Chris Riley and Youth Off The Streets to appeal for donations through a community service announcement which will go to air from this weekend.

Since the economic crisis announcements made by the government in October 2008, Youth Off The Streets has already recorded a sharp decline in donations with December donations down by 70% compared to the same time last year.

Father Chris Riley said: *"The young people we help are those who have been beaten, abused and neglected by adults who were charged with their care. As times get tougher; family breakdown, mental illness, financial stress and homelessness will increase. At the moment, I am concerned that we will have to close essential services as it is, let alone being able to boost our aid to cope with the increasing need brought about by this crisis."*

*"I am appealing to all Australians for your help. Even before the economic crisis hit, there were over 32,000 young Australians living homeless. This number will escalate as young people and families get slammed by a rise in unemployment and financial strain,"* said Father Chris Riley, CEO and Founder, Youth Off The Streets.

Youth Off The Streets is a charity organisation that provides essential services such as crisis accommodation for homeless youth, drug and alcohol rehabilitation and education to ensure disadvantaged and disengaged young people are given the opportunity to turn their life around.

**To donate to Youth Off The Streets, please visit [www.youthoffthestreets.com.au](http://www.youthoffthestreets.com.au) or  
TOLL FREE PHONE: 1800 06 22 88.**

### **IMAGES ATTACHED**

**For any media request, please contact Youth Off The Streets:  
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#### **Youth Off The Streets Mission:**

*Helping disconnected young people to discover greatness within, by engaging, supporting and providing opportunities to encourage and facilitate positive life choices.*

#### **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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