

MEDIA RELEASE
March 26, 2010



Donations Put Outreach On The Road To Success

Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets Hunter Valley Outreach program has been given a boost thanks to the assistance of two major local companies, **The Cessnock Automotive Group** and **The Bloomfield Group**.

The Cessnock-based Outreach program this week received a donated Toyota Tarago courtesy of the Cessnock Automotive Group. The Cessnock Automotive Group comprises Cessnock Toyota, Cessnock Mitsubishi, Cessnock Kia, Hunter Chrysler Jeep Dodge and Hunter Proton.

The Outreach program is also the proud owner of a new multi-purpose trailer, donated by the Bloomfield Group Foundation.

The trailer was 'custom built' to support the needs of the service and the activities it runs to engage the young people. The program provides a safe and friendly environment for the young people of the area to come together, with their families, and take part in activities designed to have a positive impact on their lives.

Father Chris Riley, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Youth Off The Streets, said:

"The aim of our Outreach work in the lower Hunter is to be there to provide support for the young people of the area. It's great to see two local businesses doing the same thing."

"The impact of having our own dedicated outreach vehicle and purpose-built trailer cannot be underestimated. These donations mean running the outreach each week will be far easier, we'll also have the ability to take young people on short excursions as opportunities arise."

Father Riley, along with representatives of the Cessnock Automotive Group and The Bloomfield Group, will be special guests at Cessnock Outreach tonight (Friday) at Margaret Johns Park, Kurri Kurri.

Len Lanzafame, owner of Cessnock Automotive Group, said:

"As a locally owned and managed business employing local people, the Cessnock Automotive Group relies on the support of our local community. Youth Off The Streets has committed its resources to our local community and we are proud to acknowledge their initiatives and support them with the donation of a vehicle."

"In 11 years of operation, Cessnock Automotive Group has supported many local organisations including local sports teams and local schools. We are also proud to have supported various charities over the years."

"The success of the work of Father Chris Riley and Youth Off The Streets convinces us of the benefits the program will bring to our area. These initiatives cannot succeed without the great support of volunteers and local businesses."

John Richards, Director, The Bloomfield Group, said:

"The Bloomfield Group, through its Foundation, has a strong commitment to Hunter Valley youth and health issues and has supported Youth Off The Streets in its work with disadvantaged youth from the Hunter region for a number of years."

"In addition to our support for the Muswellbrook Residential Program at Holborow House, we decided to throw our support behind the Cessnock-Kurri Kurri Outreach after an extensive study of the issues that affect youth in the area."

"Many of our staff volunteer at the outreach and the benefits of the trailer are obvious. It makes the ease of set up and pack up so much more manageable for the staff and volunteer, it can be operational within a short time of arrival at a site, and it enables the outreach to regularly visit other areas on other nights if they so wish."

Youth Off The Streets would also like to acknowledge the support of **Cessnock City Council**, who provide the outreach service with free access to all facilities at Margaret Johns Park; local design firm **Sign Style** for providing artwork for both the Tarago and trailer; and local businesses **Pearson's Meats** (sausages) and **The Bread Basket** (bread & cakes) for their ongoing food donations.

Media Please Note: A photo opportunity with Father Riley, representatives of The Cessnock Motor Group and The Bloomfield Group, and the donated vehicle will take place shortly after 6pm TONIGHT. Details below.

Photo & Interview Opportunity With Father Chris Riley

Cessnock Outreach

Margaret Johns Park, Corner of Northcote and Boundary Streets, Kurri Kurri

6pm Friday 26 March 2010

For More Information: call Kate McDowell on 0404 730 406.

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 non-denominational community organisation working for young people who are 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. **To donate to Youth Off The Streets, please call: 1800 06 22 88 or visit: www.youthoffthestreets.com.au**

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

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