

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Wednesday 3 March 2010**



### ***Youth Off The Streets Scholarship Program Nominations Open Now***

Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets is calling for nominations for its annual National Scholarship Program, now in its eighth year.

The Scholarship program provides financial and personal support for young people to pursue their vocational goals in any field.

*"Perhaps the greatest thing I've gained through the scholarship is the knowledge that someone thinks I have potential, and that I'm good enough for ongoing support. Feeling this means more to me than anything,"* A 2005 Scholarship Recipient, who has since completed the program, said.

Nominations are open for people between 14 and 21 years of age, who are disadvantaged and/or disconnected from their families or communities. Since 2004, The Scholarship Program has supported over 80 talented young people, from all over Australia.

*"The aim of the Scholarship Program is to support young people who have a genuine desire to move forward but face significant financial and personal barriers which make their everyday goals a struggle. We want to give all young people an equal chance in life,"* said Father Chris Riley, Founder and CEO of Youth Off The Streets.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the number of young people accessing high level tertiary education continues to grow. However, for young people forced to meet immediate challenges to survive, vocational training rarely an option. This lays the foundation to further widen the social and economic gap across Australia for generations to come, continuing the cycle of privilege and disadvantage.

Nominations for the 2010 Scholarship program can be made by young people themselves, or on their behalf. To lodge a nomination and help a young person from your local area realise their potential, visit the Youth Off The Streets website at [www.youthoffthestreets.com.au](http://www.youthoffthestreets.com.au) to download a nomination form.

Nominations close 5pm, Friday 7 May 2010.

**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](http://www.youthoffthestreets.com.au)

**For more information about Youth Off The Streets please contact:**  
Ross Smart on 02 9330 3543, 0457 825 295 or email: [ross@youthoffthestreets.com.au](mailto:ross@youthoffthestreets.com.au)

-ENDS-