

MEDIA RELEASE
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Call for nominations: Youth Off The Streets offers 20 scholarships Nationally to help young people achieve their dreams.

Youth Off The Streets is calling for nominations for their Annual National Scholarship Program. The initiative developed by Father Chris Riley, CEO and founder of Youth Off The Streets, provides financial and personal support for young people to pursue their dreams in *any field*, including (but not limited to): education and training; visual or performing arts; sport; trade skills; and music.

"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 Riley.

This year, Youth Off The Streets will be awarding 20 scholarships. Scholarship recipients will receive mentoring and funding of up to \$5000 to help them achieve their goal. Each recipient and their guest will be flown to a gala dinner at the Hilton Hotel, Sydney to receive their award on Saturday, August 30, 2008.

Nominations 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 dreams, visit the Youth Off The Streets website at www.youthoffthestreets.com.au to download a nomination form. The closing date for nominations is 5pm on May 9 2008.

Previous Scholarship Recipients: IMAGES AVAILABLE CONTACT inam@youthoffthestreets.com.au

William, aged 17, received a Youth Off The Streets scholarship in 2006 to support his talent in Artistic roller-skating. He was placed with a foster family at a young age and has overcome many challenges with their support. In 2007, William competed at the Oceania and World Championships representing Australia. In 2008 he has decided to move on to ice-skating to advance his career opportunities. He is currently completing year 10 & attends a retail course at TAFE part-time.

"I feel I was very privileged to receive a scholarship from Youth Off The Streets in 2006. My funds allowed me to train for and compete in the World Artistic Roller Skating Championships in 2007. Youth Off The Streets and the Northern Beaches Social Riders, who are my sponsors, have been very helpful and have encouraged me to pursue my dreams," said William.

18 year old Josh received a scholarship in 2007. He lives in a small home with limited space and resources to study. His family provide him with personal support, but struggle financially to offer him opportunities other families take for granted.

"This scholarship has changed my life. I am so proud to be one of the lucky recipients of the scholarship. I am using it to study for my High School Certificate, succeed and hopefully one day, I will become an art teacher. Without this scholarship, I would not have been able to achieve as much as I have," said Josh.

The Youth Off The Streets Scholarship Program would not be possible without the generous support of business and community members. Each scholarship is sponsored by a different company, individual or organisation and the award is presented in the name of the sponsor. **For sponsorship details please contact the Scholarship Program Manager on (02) 8332 5000 or katef@youthoffthestreets.com.au**

Youth Off The Streets Mission:

Helping 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.

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