

MEDIA RELEASE
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Youth Off The Streets Chief Operating Officer, Vittoria Borazio, announced as Finalist in the NSW 2008 Telstra Business Women's Awards.

On Wednesday 22 October, Youth Off The Streets Chief Operating Officer, Vittoria Borazio, was announced one of 26 Finalists representing NSW in the prestigious 2008 Telstra Business Women's Awards.

Ms Borazio is one of only 6 Finalists from NSW to be announced in the running for the coveted IBM Community and Government Award which aims to recognise employees in government departments, statutory bodies and not-for-profit organisations.

Upon hearing the announcement, Ms Borazio said: *"I am both honoured and humbled to have been chosen as a finalist in a group of wonderful women who have chosen to use their skills and talents to make so much positive difference to the lives of others."*

Ms Borazio hopes that her nomination in such high profile awards will help to draw attention to the issue of child protection and the responsibility for all children that is held by every adult, not only in NSW, but right across the nation.

"Over the last two years, states across the nation have been rocked by headlines of severe cases of child neglect and abuse. In NSW alone in 2007, there were 156 reviewable deaths of children.

It is simply not good enough to blame Departmental failures or bad parenting. We as a society must step up and realise our responsibility towards our young. We have got to stop incidents of abuse and neglect before it is too late.

At Youth Off The Streets, we believe it is the responsibility of all adults to care for every child. Neighbours, friends and family – anyone who comes in to contact with a young person, must start being the eyes and ears for our nation's most vulnerable." She said.

Ms Borazio would also like to congratulate Telstra and IBM for celebrating women in community organisations through the IBM Community and Government Award.

"I congratulate Telstra and IBM for taking the opportunity to recognise women working in the community sector. By supporting this award, Telstra and IBM are raising awareness of an extremely satisfying career path and one that many working in traditional corporate roles may not have considered.

Many community organisations have the same functional requirements as organisations in the corporate world. A person with a corporate background brings skills and competencies that can add enormous value to the community sector at the same time as bringing a very rewarding career," continued Ms Borazio.

Father Chris Riley, CEO and Founder, Youth Off The Streets congratulated Ms Borazio: *"We are very proud of Vittoria for achieving this recognition. The sound financial management skills and strategic advice Vittoria has brought to our business operations combined with her passion for young people and her profound sense of responsibility for their welfare has made her a fine leader and a great asset to Youth Off The Streets."*

In the two and a half years that Ms Borazio has dedicated to Youth Off The Streets she has achieved:

- a significant expansion of the financial sustainability of the organisation
- improvement in the organisation's corporate governance regime
- the set up and leading of the first strategic planning process for Youth Off The Streets, engaging PricewaterhouseCoopers and developing Youth Off The Streets first business plan, new vision, new mission statement and organisation's set of values (P.R.I.D.E – which stands for Passion, Respect, Integrity, Dedication and Engagement)
- negotiated with a generous benefactor to buy Youth Off The Streets a new Head Office saving Youth Off The Streets approximately \$4 Million over 10 years.

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 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. **To donate to Youth Off The Streets, please call: 1800 06 22 88 or visit: www.youthoffthestreets.com.au** -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