



## Who we helped in 2005

*The StreetSmart Advisory Committee would like to thank every one involved in making the 2004 StreetSmart campaign a huge success. In only its second year, with minimal resources, this community initiative has provided some much-needed funding to smaller organisations and/or projects helping those experiencing homelessness.*

*These grants will make a significant difference to many peoples' lives. Do not underestimate the positive effects that your efforts, support and \$2s have had. The Committee is delighted to have been able to support the following organisations and their work with the homeless.*

*Hilary Bolton, Phil Lynch, Paul Ronalds and Deb Tsorbaris*

StreetSmart made the following grants from funds raised in the 2004 campaign:

### **Bentleigh Bayside Community Health Service Homeless Health Promotion — \$5,000**

This grant will support innovative health promotion work with marginalised young people, and enable the further development and implementation of a Cooking Program. Working with disadvantaged and isolated young people, the program teaches important living skills and promotes physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing through positive social connections and positive experiences, within the community.

### **Essendon Youth Accommodation Service Arts Project — \$3,500**

Over the course of a year the service will have significant contact with over 120 young homeless people in the Essendon area. This grant will support the 'Through the Lens' project, which will give young homeless people an opportunity to creatively express themselves while telling their story. Young people are tutored in the basics of photography and supported in taking photographs of things, places, and people that represent a part of them and then displaying their work. Witnessing their work have an impact on people has been very encouraging for all the young people involved.

### **Footscray Youth Housing Savings and Credit Program — \$5,000**

Founded by concerned members of the community, the FYHG is a support agency for young people between the ages of 15 and 25 years old who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. The Group is dedicated to promoting the rights of their service users, and to responding in creative and diverse ways to the problem of obtaining and maintaining secure housing for young homeless people. The Savings and Credit program encourages young people to take control of their lives through basic financial skills to enable them to become self dependent.



### **Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Housing Program — \$4,500**

The Asylum Seeker Program aims to contribute to the development of a comprehensive framework of support and ensure a safe and welcoming environment for asylum seekers with no rights or entitlements; that is, no work rights, Medicare or welfare benefits. The Project has worked with over 300 asylum seekers in this situation and presently houses around 100 people. There is no core funding for this program and all donations are from community and church groups, trusts and individual donors.

### **Iramoo Youth Refuge Independent Living Skills Project — \$3,500**

This innovative community-based organization, in Melbourne's West, provides short-term crisis accommodation for young people from diverse backgrounds and cultures between the ages of 15–25. Iramoo Youth Refuge provides a respectful, safe and positive living environment for young people who call Iramoo home for a while. This grant will help develop an Independent Living Skills program designed to give these young people the skills to survive beyond the refuge and to sustain independent living.

### **Mallee Accommodation and Support — \$5,000**

The service works intensively with clients in severe personal crisis, often arriving with few belongings and very little income. This grant will be used to help fund the Rural Students Hostel, a small hostel providing safe and secure accommodation and care to school-aged children wanting to complete their education.

### **Matthew Talbot Soup Van — \$5,000**

This grant will be used to help fund a new vehicle to replace a van that has been a faithful friend of the Vannies and the homeless for many years. This funding will improve the efficiency of the infrastructure of the soup van so that more resources can be concentrated on forming strong relationships with the people that are encountered on the street.

### **Sunshine Youth Housing Recreation program for young women — \$3,500**

Most of the young people helped by this organisation come from crisis accommodation services such as refuges; some will have been sleeping rough in abandoned buildings or cars. Many of the young people are isolated from mainstream recreational activities. This grant will allow the development of a program specifically to help young women, with many benefits to the participants. Providing this kind of opportunity has great potential to transform young people's lives.



## **The Big Issue**

### **The Street Socceros — \$1,482**

Each week volunteers from the Big Issue help run a community soccer program in the inner city. It encourages homeless and marginalised people to take up sport as a way of increasing their personal well-being and self-esteem, as well as making new friends and setting positive goals. This grant will help to secure this pilot project, and ensure that the weekly soccer sessions can continue to benefit the maximum number of men and women interested in playing sport.

## **Urban Seed**

### **Homeless Stories Project — \$5,000**

Urban Seed is a not-for-profit community organisation in Melbourne's CBD providing hospitality and support to people in their local neighbourhood who are marginalised as a result of homelessness, poverty, substance-misuse or problem gambling. This grant will be used to collect personal stories of homelessness, its causes and outcomes. These stories will greatly assist efforts to influence media, decision-makers and the broader community and promote better understanding of the need for social inclusion and support for people experiencing homelessness.

## **VCOSS**

### **Housing Rights Community Campaign — \$4,000**

This campaign brings together an open, independent group involving members of the community, many of whom have been homeless or are living in public housing, and workers from the housing and homelessness sectors. The group is focused on developing a grassroots campaign for more adequate, affordable housing in Victoria and the realisation of the human right to adequate housing.