

# Charity Building Projects

An initiative of the Property Industry Foundation



## Stepping Stones House *Dulwich Hill* est. 1989

Stepping Stone House (SSH) provides for disadvantaged young people independent Family Counselling services operating within the house. The House was established by a local group of residents concerned by the number of homeless teenagers in our society. The Stepping Stone program is designed to help young people, often abused as children to take responsibility for their lives by nurturing them through their challenging past.

### How do they help youth homelessness and young people at risk?

Their programmes provide for six young residents at any given time, who receive specialist care in order to learn the daily routines of a normal household. The training is extremely important as these young people have experienced neglect, drugs, poverty under previous circumstances. Youths receive 24 hour/ 7-day-a-week supervision plus family counseling under the "Independent Living" and "Aftercare" programs. They are taught essential life skills such as cooking and budgeting. SHH's aim is to counsel them through their challenging past and empower them to successfully enter mainstream society. There is ongoing support for ex-residents with a constant contact network enabling them to seek advice, in a crisis.

### What is the project that PIF is funding?

The project consisted of the extension of the existing house site (approx 787m sq.), which was expanded to house 8 street youths at a time. Renovations included converting one bedroom to a kitchen and living area and improving youth accommodation through building an additional common room. Architectural, engineering, landscaping, carpentry and construction services were required for the project.

### Why did PIF believe that the project needed funding assistance?

Stepping Stones House help desperate adolescents in crisis who would otherwise remain homeless and destitute. PIF recognized SHH's aim to give youths education and employment by offering a normal household and constant care. PIF recognized the need for the project because it was designed to accommodate increased numbers homeless youth requiring immediate help in the area, by providing expanded lodgings and doubling staff in the house to care for them.

### What is the total cost of this project?

**\$299, 500**

### How much did the PIF Board approve for this project?

**\$250,000**

### The Project Team who have provided in-kind professional services to PIF.



Mark Flanagan, *Project Manager*