



# Charity Youth Programs

## An Initiative of the Property Industry Foundation



### **Salvation Army Oasis Youth Support Network, *Surry Hills* est. 1881**

Oasis Youth Support Network (OYSN) is The Salvation Army's response to youth homelessness and provides twenty-one innovative and uplifting programs to help disadvantaged and disconnected young people to start turning their lives around offered at Oasis, in the inner city of Sydney.

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

Oasis helps homeless young people in crisis, and is an 'Australian first': It offers stability, direction and practical help in accommodation, health, legal matters, education and employment. Typically disadvantaged youths come from areas of entrenched social and economic disadvantage. They may suffer from chronic drug use and other criminal behaviour, impaired mental health, and low educational achievement. Currently fifty-five young people are accommodated in Oasis residential programmes and a further one hundred access Oasis programmes such as the **Get Skilled for Work** (GSFW) program each week.

The GSFW curriculum offers life-skill services with vocational level courses that provide practical, positive reinforcement and flexible self paced learning designed to introduce participants to the workforce with a combination of Statement of Attainment training, communication workshops and work experience over a five week period. At the end of week five participants are ready to enter the work environment and take part in standard work inductions and recruitment procedures of potential employers. Youth Candidates are guided through interview techniques and resume preparation.

GSFW operates in affiliation with the Foundation's Rebuild-a-Young-Life Program, providing employment opportunities, within our industry, to youth, which is the most effective way of leading disadvantaged youth back towards financial and emotional stability. When the program is fully operational, approximately 50 companies are expected to offer employment to these youths every second year.

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

PIF is providing sponsorship for GSFW's designated Training Support Coordinator. Their role includes; ensuring that the work undertaken by disadvantaged youths in training programs is reinforced and that any crisis that may arise in the workplace or the young person's personal life can be quickly identified and responded too. By funding this position, PIF will ensure that the young people, placed in the positions provided by PIF and other employers, will have the best chance of success.

Other responsibilities include; keeping stakeholders informed on the youth's progress during this transition period. This coordinator is also involved in organizing and facilitating the pre-employment skills courses for young people and building relationships with their potential employers.

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

Property Industry Foundation supports OYSN's Oasis Training Support Co-ordinator as their role is vital in ensuring these neglected and troubled youths receive the best chances of success. As OYSN's aim is to provide a normalised transition into the community by positively empowering youths' lives through vocational activities, continued counselling and support, the Foundation recognised this as an ideal fit to PIF's mandate.

#### **Total cost of this sponsorship?**

**1st Year: \$75,000**

**2nd Year: \$75,000**

**3rd Year: \$75,000**