



Charity Youth Programs

An Initiative of the Property Industry Foundation



Wesley Mission Street Smart *Mount Druitt* est. 1812

The Wesley Mission Street Smart Program, an initiative of Uniting Care Church, provides services to desperate and homeless youths in the Nepean district. The aim of the Street Smart Food Van, part of the Mount Druitt Integrated Youth Service Program, is to give homeless youth and their families' access to a safe, non-discriminatory outreach service. Their motto is, "...Caring together for children, young people and families. First time, any time, all time."

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

The Street Smart food van, operated by trained Youth Co-ordinators provides immediate help for young people, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless from drug and alcohol abuse, juvenile crime, depression and family breakdowns.

Young people access this service by approaching the van when its in their area, and are given information from Youth Co-ordinators such as agency referrals, self referrals and outreach activities to help them resolve the issues contributing to their homelessness.

The co-ordinators are committed to giving first-hand support from the van, enabling a quicker, higher level of assistance for desperate young people to access employment, safer living and educational opportunities, and to make better choices in their lives.

What is the program that PIF is funding?

PIF sponsored a Youth Services Co-ordinator who was responsible for providing immediate support to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Young people provide vital feedback to the volunteers and Youth Worker and in the food van who then review the individual needs of each homeless youth and pass on any referrals to local health clinics, educational programs; life skill programs and youth drop in centres. The Street Smart Food Van is equipped with a portable hot water supply, a mobile kitchen, and health promotion pamphlets.

Why did PIF believe that the program needed funding assistance?

PIF sponsored a Youth Services Co-ordinator over two year period for the Street Smart Program to continue providing immediate professional support services via the Wesley Mission Food Van to homeless young people. Wesley Mission aim to enhance the emotional, physical and psychological and spiritual development of these young people.

Total cost of this program?

1st Year: \$30,000

2nd Year: \$30,000

How much did the PIF Board approve for this program?

1st Year: \$30,000

2nd Year: \$30,000