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THE YOUTH JUNCTION INC. TIMES

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YOUTH JUNCTION INC. FINANCIAL YEAR 2008-2009

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Chairman's Review

BY MARILYN DUNCAN

THE past year has been both exciting and pioneering in the delivery of integrated services to young people at the Visy Cares Hub. Having completed our third full year of operations we have introduced our tenth tenant organisation - Melbourne Citymission-Jobs Services Australia- to complement the existing diverse range of services for young people. Program delivery by The Youth Junction Inc.(TYJInc) staff has developed in response to the demand to divert young people from the Criminal Justice System, with the addition of the Legal Services Board funded Youth, Community and Law Program being launched in September 2009.

THIS year there are 87 staff comprising the team of practitioners across the services and supported by 58 volunteers, many of whom are on youth work practice placements from Victoria University. 24,683 contacts have been made with young people ranging from face to face work, including outreach work, group work, emails and telephone calls, school based early intervention programs and youth events. In the forthcoming year, we will continue to ensure the physical building is the optimum environment for young people by installing a disability lift in March 2010, modifying a larger space to make room for further targeted services and develop our programs and activities to offer better outcomes in education, family relationships, housing, health, career pathways, legal advice and social wellbeing.



History & Future at the Visy Cares Hub

BY GENERAL MANAGER
 KAREN HART

HAVING launched the Visy Cares Hub in May 2007, the organisation has continued to develop and expand at a rapid rate. TYJInc. managers of the Visy Cares Hub became an Incorporated Association in 1999 and the aspirations and dreams for the centre have become a reality on a day to day level. The objectives for which the entity was established are to provide:

A PLACE where young people are empowered, to develop emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually so that they can contribute as active citizens in the community and wider world.

THE advancement of opportunities for education, im-

proved housing, study support, leadership, health and community capacity initiatives through youth provision;

COMBATING the distress and effects caused by poverty and social exclusion of young people, in particular but not exclusively, through the provision of advice, information and support on matters relating to their health, personal and social education, wellbeing and welfare, thus enabling them to take up enhanced opportunities in their lives;

THE continued drive of those involved, to create a colocated youth centre of excellence, built on a regional solid foundation and ensuring that young people's aspirations become a reality, allows us to move to the future with confidence, developing and expanding services for young people. Much

work lies ahead as young people continue to arrive into the West from other parts of the world. As the area continues to rate as one of the most disadvantaged in Australia, with an increase in unemployment, housing and health issues, there is a growing need to channel energies into building the capacity of the local community, particularly for young people. The Visy Cares Hub is at the frontline of responding to those needs and aims to tackle the social problems and celebrate the diversity to create a more harmonious community.



General Manager's Report for 2009

BY KAREN HART

IT has been another busy and productive year at the Visy Cares Hub. We have been making resources stretch much further throughout 2009 to provide opportunities to young people that enhance their life choices and chances in education, employment and wellbeing.

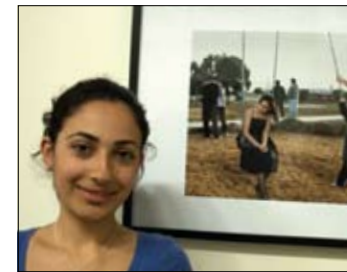
The impact of the economic crisis has led to an increase in numbers of disadvantaged young people accessing services across Melbourne's West and this sharp increase in contacts with young people from 16,000 in 2008 to 24,683 in 2009 reflects the demand for assistance in the areas of education, legal, culturally and linguistically diverse, health and employment support at the Visy Cares Hub. Young people have also looked for opportunities to socially connect with their peers through our recreational, arts and sports programs and we have been delivering more evening programs and out of school learning support much more this year than in previous years.

We are very grateful for the ongoing support that philanthropic, business and government organisations have provided to us throughout 2009 to help sustain our services to young people, despite the global financial downturn that has affected all areas of giving.

With this help and support, many young people have continued to take up opportunities that have improved their connection to their

families and communities.

There has been a shift this year from not only looking at what we do as an organisation, but the impact of this on the lives of young people throughout the West and beyond. Through early and preventative intervention with young people aged 12-25 years, our efforts have allowed more young people to stay in school. Our Homework Zone now connects with students from 25 schools around the West, many of whom have multiple and complex learning needs. This is a growth area and we are delighted that the Centre for Multicultural Youth - Learning Beyond the Bell and Ansvr Insurance support our efforts to expand this program to help meet the growing demand.



Maria-Ann Dalli (Aged 19 years)

"I first found out about the Visy Cares Hub through an article in The Star Newspaper about a free Digital Photography program. After completing this photography program I attended the portfolio preparation session they were offering. I have now been successfully accepted into Fine Arts at Victoria University.

I am now a member of the YAC (Youth Action Committee) which gets me involved in many events throughout the year and I have also made some great friends."

Ardoch Youth Foundation

BY AUDREY FERNANDEZ

ARDOCH Youth Foundation a not for profit community organisation, works to bring schools, communities and businesses together to develop programs and generate resources in the form of financial grants, donated goods and volunteer time. These resources are used by our partner schools to improve student wellbeing and learning. In 2009, Ardoch Youth Foundation's LinCS 'Linking Communities and Schools' Project in Melbourne's West. Our programs and supports this year include: Volunteers in Classrooms - fully trained, screened and supported volunteers who provide additional educational, social and emotional support to students in a class environment. Breakfast Clubs - an opportunity for all students to enjoy nourishing meals in a safe and welcoming environment. Lunchtime Activities - to prevent bullying and facilitate participation for students who may be isolated and lonely during lunchtimes. Literacy Buddies - a pen pal program between students and corporate volunteers to develop literacy skills and positive working role models. Basic Needs support - providing basic needs such as food, clothing and toiletries to families in need. Healthy Eating Program - a mobile kitchen trolley for use in classrooms. Feedback from Asst. Principal, Western LinCS Partner School "The volunteers show our children that people are interested in them. They give them time, direction and the support that can often be lacking in a busy classroom. The activity programs provide students with opportunities not available from us directly and not accessible after school hours. Resources enhance the appearance of the school and in turn enhance the learning environment for our children".

Melbourne Citymission

BY RICHARD DZWONKOWSKI

MELBOURNE Citymission Jobs Services Australia (MCM)-Youth At Risk Program Sunshine, commenced at the Visy Cares Hub on 01 July 2009. Melbourne Citymission manages approximately 150 clients from within the Visy Cares Hub.

The success of the program has been greatly assisted by other services within the Visy Cares Hub. A large number of clients have accessed youth services such as Sunshine Youth Legal Centre, headspace Western Melbourne, Sunshine Youth Housing and Victoria University-Youth Transitions. Clients have provided feedback to Melbourne Citymission, stating that they are impressed by the way they can access services without having to go to multiple areas or suburbs and to have their issues addressed. The fundamental success of this approach has been the consistency of clients to get to know the services at the Visy Cares Hub and the feeling that they are part of a family. Melbourne Citymission has started to form partnerships with Victoria University-Youth Transitions, assisting clients in career exploration, resume workshops and case support.

The Homework Zone program also delivered by The Youth Junction Inc. assists clients to improve their literacy and numeracy skill levels and also to obtain successful placements in further education and training.



Brimbank Youth Services -YMCA

BY MARLISE HARRIS

BRIMBANK City Council's Youth Services- YMCA, has enjoyed a very busy year filled with a diverse range of programs and new initiatives.

The success of many of these projects can be directly attributed to the strong relationships and networks built between tenants of the Visy Cares Hub.

HIGHLIGHTS have included:

- 'Sudanese Lost Boys Soccer Funraising Day for the Victorian Bushfire Victims,' which involved the Sudanese Lost Boys Association, The Youth Junction Inc., Brimbank City Council and the Centre for Multicultural Youth.

-Our first 'Brimbank Fashion Week', involving Council's Brim-



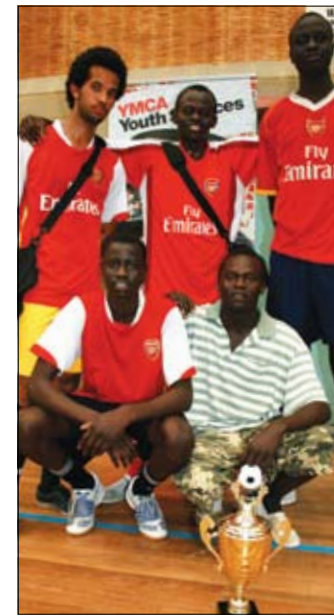
The Sudo Boiz-in partnership with The Youth Junction Inc.

bank Youth Services YMCA and Brimbank Central. Students learnt the skills to design and sew, before showcasing their pieces on the catwalk at a local shopping centre. The items were sold through silent auction, with the proceeds going to the Butterfly Foundation.

- The 'Zotung Community Family Day' was supported by Brimbank City Council and the Centre for Multicultural Youth. Over 500 Burmese participants enjoyed a day of recreation, traditional music and dance in West Sunshine.

BRIMBANK also enjoyed its busiest National Youth Week ever, where an event was held everyday across different local areas, to ensure maximum accessibility.

It has been an eventful year, and we look forward to creating more opportunities for Brimbank youth.



Winners of the 2009 Visy Cares Hub one day Futsal Tournament

headspace Western Melbourne

BY NICK PRENDERGAST

HEADSPACE Western Melbourne (hWM) has brought together an integrated and collaborative team of co-located and affiliated services including primary care, mental health, drug and alcohol, and vocational services to provide support to young people.

SINCE opening its doors in November 2007, headspace Western Melbourne has seen 1,600 young people in its clinical program which has resulted in over 6,000 occasions of service. In response to the large and increasing demand for services, a group of very skilled clinicians has been recruited to work at hWM. Additionally, the Access Team plays an integral role in the clinical service, offering initial engagement and assessment, supportive counselling as well as providing brief interventions, casework and linkages to young people.

THE Community Capacity Building Team reached over 2,500 young people in schools with awareness-raising and early help-seeking workshops and delivered numerous training programs for hundreds of staff who work with young people in Melbourne's West.

PARTNERSHIPS with School Focused Youth Services, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Orygen, the Centre for Multicultural Youth and The Youth Junction Inc. have resulted in raising community awareness of youth mental health issues through forums, presentations, parent nights, arts projects, sports events and festivals.

THROUGHOUT 2010 headspace Western Melbourne will continue to provide opportunities for young people to improve their health and wellbeing.

Victoria University

BY YOUNES BENHIM

VICTORIA University (VU) - Youth Transitions at the Visy Cares Hub has case managed over one thousand clients and was able to career counsel and assist the majority of the clients into gaining entry to their chosen course throughout 2009. New and exciting pilot programs were delivered for young people who were disengaged from education aged from 15 to 24. These workshops focused on personal development and career/education options including getting ready to go back to study, resume writing, body image and the media, self esteem, sexual health, budgeting, leadership, professional ethics and behaviour, traineeships, and apprenticeships. The programs have made a positive contribution to disengaged young people who came into VU at the Visy Cares Hub offering them opportunities to reconnect their life choices and chances through education.



Young people at the Visy Cares Hub National Youth Week Event 2009



The Youth Junction Inc. Youth Programs

BY CHARLOTTE HILDER

THROUGHOUT 2009 The Youth Junction Inc. provided eight free programs for 12-25 year olds. Programs consisted of Drama & Performance, Mixed Media Art, Digital Photography, Indoor Soccer, Hip Hop Dance, Homework Zone, Leadership & Girls Only Friday. The Youth Junction Inc. is constantly striving to provide relevant and interesting programs for young people, and also partners with many other organisations to deliver these programs.

OUR recreational and arts programs provide young people with new skills, improved self-esteem and social support. Other programs such as leadership and Homework Zone are important in providing support and enhanced learning opportunities for young people.

OUR sport programs such as Indoor Soccer has attracted over 60 young men from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who are eager to play competitive soccer on a weekly basis. Sports Without Borders and Victoria Police have supported The Youth Junction Inc. to continue this program. These programs provide an opportunity for young people to showcase their talents not only in their weekly attendance but in live performances at youth events throughout the year.

THE Youth Junction Inc. received funding from the Optus Foundation in 2009 to increase the number of computers available for young people and on average, over 20 young people access the computers per day and youth work students from Victoria University assist with resume writing, online job search, and the creation of social networking sites.

Partnerships with the community

Police Citizens & Youth Club (PCYC)

THE Visy Cares Hub and Victoria Police have joined to re-develop the PCYC in Sunshine that will oversee the replacement of a new Street Surfer Bus providing an outreach model of support for young people to assist those who are disengaged from education and employment. This year the bus will operate on weekends and evenings thus increasing the number of young people assisted within the Western Region of Melbourne. It is estimated that on any given night that the bus will assist 100 young people to connect and participate in services provided by the Visy Cares Hub. This bus will be operational from April 2010.

Sunshine Business Association (SBA)

EMPLOYMENT and education is a clear focus of The Youth Junction Inc. for young people. We have joined with the Sunshine Business Association to create further opportunities for young people in their local area. Through this initiative TYJinc. will be able to access current employers perspectives on employing young people within local business and their local community. The Association, and events sub-committee has been formed with Westpac Bank, Youth Now, The Star Newspaper, Vic Police, Brimbank City Council and other local businesses to build the capacity of Sunshine by hosting monthly street events and local competitions throughout 2010.

Robert Stary Lawyers

BY ANDREW HALPERN

ROBERT Stary Lawyers had another successful year throughout 2009. The firm has grown and now has an office in Geelong and a new office in the CBD of Melbourne. Concerning our Sunshine office we are particularly proud of our achievements in 2009. First and foremost, our assistance to the marginalised and underprivileged continues, as does our assistance to the local youth who have faced legal difficulties. We have also achieved some outstanding results for our clients at the local Sunshine Court and those who have appeared in the city Courts as well as other regional Courts. Our Sunshine lawyers, Andrew Halphen and Bridget Coath look forward to another outstanding year and are also thankful for the continued support from the other services at the Visy Cares Hub.

SUNSHINE YOUTH HOUSING

BY MARK GOODIE

SUNSHINE Youth Housing (SASHS Western) aim is to provide a case management framework, transitional support and a range of related support services linked to housing in order to help young people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, to achieve the maximum possible degree of self-reliance and independence. Within this aim the goals are to:

- resolve crisis, re-establish family links where appropriate; and
- re-establish the capacity of clients to live independently of Sunshine Youth Housing (SYH).

Our service has had a great year and is truly established at the Visy Cares Hub. This has enabled presenting "at risk" youth to be linked

Sunshine Youth Legal Centre

BY JUDY DREDGE

SUNSHINE Youth Legal Centre (SYLC) has really gained momentum throughout our first year of delivery of legal related services at the Visy Cares Hub. SYLC is both a community legal centre and a teaching clinic, exposing Victoria University law students to the operation of the law in a social context. This program has been a wonderful work experience opportunity for students while serving a role of great importance to the youth within Melbourne's Western Region. We focus on disadvantaged youth aged sixteen to twenty five who present at the Visy Cares Hub with law connected issues and concerns. In addition, throughout 2009, we have expanded our services to partner with The Youth Junction Inc. in delivering the Youth, Community and

Law Program that educates young people about the consequences of anti-social and illegal activity in order to divert them from further involvement in the Criminal Justice System. Students under the supervision of a qualified and experienced lawyer have helped clients throughout the year with a variety of legal issues such as traffic fines, wage recovery, intervention orders, motor vehicle accidents, infringement notices and mobile phone contracts.

DURING 2010 Sunshine Youth Legal Centre will work closely with The Youth Junction Inc. to deliver their Better Outcomes Program for 18-25 year olds. This program will provide a case managed approach to young peoples needs, and will provide ongoing support to these young people.



Young people at the 2009 Sunshine Showtime Youth Week Event



Participants of the Drama program

to identified services in a timely manner, by being introduced by their case worker, thus creating better outcomes in a seamless way. Other projects that SYH is involved in are: Establishing a community garden in Devonshire Rd "Homegrown" due for stage one completion in July 2010.

The creation and auspicing of the "Youth Allocations Committee" who allocate support to all "at risk" young people in the local government areas of Brimbank and Melton. This has been a great achievement in collaboration with other youth support services so that information and support can be distributed via a youth service linked assessment system.

Centre for Multicultural Youth

BY BERNADETTE MARANTELLI

THE Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) is a community based organisation that advocates for the needs of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. In supporting young people CMY combines policy development and direct service delivery within a community development framework. This approach gives CMY strong connections with young people and their communities while enabling positive change on a local, state and national level. CMY have been

based at the Visy Cares Hub since 2005 and delivers programs such as Reconnect, UCan2, Learning Beyond the Bell (LBB), Brimbank Young Men's Project, Stand Up 4 Rights, Homelands and Youth Referral and Independent Person Program (YRIPP).

Young people at surf lifesaving training at Williamstown beach



The Youth Junction Inc. Financial Report Summary

Extract from the Annual Financial Report For the year ended 31 October 2009

	2009	2008
Grants received	\$107,229	\$ 115,324
Other income	\$223,851	\$ 224,289
	\$331,080	\$339,613
Employee benefits expense	(\$ 197,668)	(\$ 167,374)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	(\$187,761)	(\$180,289)
Building repairs and maintenance expenses	(\$12,402)	(\$5,566)
Cleaning expenses	(\$22,541)	(\$20,398)
Gas & electricity expenses	(\$26,060)	(\$18,661)
Occupancy costs	(\$20,454)	(\$26,725)
Telephone & IT expenses	(\$29,991)	(\$23,559)
Other expenses	(\$41,495)	(\$33,399)
	(\$538,372)	(\$475,971)
Loss before income	(\$207,292)	(\$136,358)
Tax expense (income tax benefit)		
Income tax benefit	—	—
Loss from continuing operations	(\$207,292)	(\$136,358)



With Thanks to all our
Supporters and Friends
of The Youth Junction
Inc. throughout 2009

Aust Multicultural Foundation
Ansvar Insurance – Community
-Education Programs
Besen Family Foundation
Brimbank Community Grants
Bunnings Warehouse
Centre for Multicultural Youth
Coles Stores
Department of Justice
Dominion Private Clients
Domino's Pizza
Godfathers Pizza
Helen MacPherson Smith Trust
Ian Potter Foundation
Keane Australia
La Porchetta
Legal Services Board
Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation
Newsboys Foundation
Nulab Professional Imaging
Office For Youth (DEEWR)
Optus Foundation
Passion In Assisting Kids (PIA)
Pitcher Partners
Woolworths
Slater & Gordon Foundation
Second Bite
Sports Without Borders
Sunshine Magistrates Court
The Pratt Foundation
The Colour Factory
Victoria University
Vic Council of Social Services
Vic Women's Benevolent Trust
VicHealth
Westpac Bank
WYPIN



Youth Events in 2009

BY JESSIE ROBERTS

National Youth Week 2009

THE Youth Junction Inc. continued to provide free youth festivals throughout 2009. Our National Youth Week Festival was held at West Sunshine Community Centre on Saturday 4th April and in excess of 400 young people attended the festivities of Hip Hop Dancing, Live DJ, Rap Artists, Photographic and Art Exhibition created by young people from the Visy Cares Hub. We had a full day soccer tournament, 8 teams enrolled and challenged each other for the title, large carnival games, graffiti workshops, skate boarding and basketball competitions. It was a fun filled day.

International Youth Day 2009

Our International Youth Day Event on August 12th 2009 was a great success, the participants of our programs showcased their talents to their peers, family and the community. Prizes were given for the People's Choice Award for photography and there were great performances in hip hop dance as well as the MC participants performing songs, from their recently recorded CD.

End of Year 'Off-Street Festival'

On Saturday 28th November 2009, over 500 young people and their families joined us to watch some great local youth bands perform

Balance sheet as at 31 October 2009

	2009	2008
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$241,714	\$147,676
Trade receivables	\$3,041	\$10,825
Total current assets	\$244,755	\$158,501
Non current assets		
Property, plant & equipment	\$1,205,077	\$1,367,702
Total non current assets	\$1,205,077	\$1,367,702
Total assets	\$1,449,832	\$1,526,203
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	\$73,250	\$84,495
Grants received in advance	\$143,000	---
Provisions	\$11,120	\$7,954
Total current liabilities	\$227,370	\$92,449
Non-current liabilities		
Payables	\$70,515	\$74,515
Total Non-current liabilities	\$70,515	\$74,515
Total liabilities	\$297,885	\$166,964
Net assets	\$1,151,947	\$1,359,239
Members funds		
Retained earnings	\$1,151,947	\$1,359,239
Total members fund	\$1,151,947	\$1,359,239
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS	\$1,151,947	\$1,359,239

for free at the Visy Cares Hub as part of Social Inclusion Week and the National Street Party weekend. Over 10 bands, solo artists, hip hop dancers, and rap artists performed. Western Edge Youth Arts and a group of young sudanese people launched a DVD documenting their personal journeys from Sudan to Australia. This event was supported by local businesses, Brimbank City Council, Brimbank Youth Services – YMCA, The Youth Junction Inc. and a crew of young people who advertised and volunteered throughout the festival.

YAC

Youth Action Committee

THE Youth Action Committee (YAC) was developed to ensure that TYJInc. and hWM programs and services were meeting the needs of the young people utilising them. The YAC has a total of 12 registered members between the ages of 12-25yrs and meets fortnightly at the Visy Cares Hub to discuss youth issues, help organise youth events, and confer and plan new initiatives for young people. All the members of the committee have different roles, and they work together to initiate discussion, and plan and develop ideas and objectives.

The YAC has been a very important contribution to the Visy Cares Hub, as all members have committed to help organise and deliver our youth events throughout 2010. The YAC also provides valuable information to staff around new and emerging issues and concerns affecting the youth in the Western Region of Melbourne.

Participants of the MC program

