

## 9. THE CAROLINE REID CHARITABLE FOUNDATION: APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Advocate, Spreydon/Heathcote	<b>Author</b> Ingrid de Meyer, Community Development Adviser, DDI 941-5102
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The purpose of this report is to request funding support for this new Mental Health Community initiative.

This project contributes to meeting the Council's Social Well-being Policy and to creating healthy communities. It meets the objectives of the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board through support for appropriate programmes and facilities.

### THE CAROLINE REID FOUNDATION

The Caroline Reid Charitable Foundation (CRCF) received its Certificate of Incorporation in May 2003. The Foundation is governed by a board of trustees, and Graeme Reid is the project manager.

Graeme Reid previously set up the Stepping Stone Trust, a community-based psychiatric rehabilitation, accommodation and support service, currently employing 60 staff.

### ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES/PURPOSE

To provide a community support service for children and adolescents aged between 9 and 17 years (approximately), living in an environment where mental illness has invaded the family unit's quality of life.

This community service is attached to the Spreydon Baptist Church's already wide and extensive range of community services, and is working closely with the 'Holding it all together' subcommittee.

### PROJECT DETAILS

The CRCF are looking to establish 'Caroline House', a 24-hour respite accommodation and support services.

The service will provide in the main:

- respite care
- educational support
- recreation

for young children and youth from families with mental illness.

'Stepping Stone' will provide professional support.

They have outlined a three-stage process of implementing these services, of which 'Caroline House' is the third stage.

A review and planning team is working through the results of a community assessment survey.

As part of implementing this initiative, the CRCF are seeking funding support to employ a full-time project co-ordinator/field worker for a period of 12 months, beginning January 2004.

The total cost of salary is \$38,000. The amount requested from the Board is \$6,000.

### FUNDING PLAN

The Foundation has applied to other funders for financial support, namely COGS, Maurice Carter Trust, and Social Services Contingency Fund for funding to employ a worker.

### CURRENT SITUATION/CONSULTATION

Currently, there is no facility of this kind in Christchurch or New Zealand. Funding dollars are targeted towards people with mental illness.

The CRCF community support initiative is a preventative programme aimed at supporting families and young people. They intend to establish the 'Caroline House' in the Spreydon area.

Preliminary findings of the needs assessment process has been overwhelmingly positive. These indicate there is a real unmet need, especially in respite care, recreation education (school work) areas, and the setting up of a safe place where young people affected can meet. This initiative has the potential to play a major role in contributing to the on-going well-being of young people vulnerable to mental health difficulties.

#### **OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

This is an example of a community initiative which has identified a gap in service, looked at seeking solutions and has proactively sought resources and support of the work. The positive response from health workers, agencies and community groups, from families and young people indicate the level of unmet need.

By supporting this project, the Board would be meeting the following outcomes relating to its objectives:

"To ensure local people's needs are being represented, especially children, youth and the elderly" by:

- Encouraging young people in engaging in civic and community life
- Supporting child, youth and elderly-based initiatives.

"Empowered Community" by identifying programmes and facilities that are effective in increasing social well-being.

It is interesting to note that at a recently re-formed South Christchurch Youth Network meeting, youth mental health was one of three major issues discussed. Board members will have received a copy of minutes from that meeting, highlighting this issue.

This project would also link into the following Council policies:

- Youth Policy
- Social Well-being Policy

#### **Staff**

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board support this new initiative.
  2. That the Community Board grant \$6,000 from its 2003/04 Discretionary Fund towards the employment of a project co-ordinator/field worker.

#### **Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** This is a social initiative (mental health) which has great future potential at a metropolitan level. The Board should give positive consideration to this application.