

## 7. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND – APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Advocate, Beckenham	<b>Author</b> Elaine Greaves, DDI 941-5105
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The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to an application for funding from its 2004/05 Youth Development Fund.

Funding is being sought by a 17 year old youth living in the Hoon Hay area towards costs associated with traveling to Thailand and Cambodia as part of a group of ten young people and leaders from Spreydon Youth Community to experience first-hand work that they support and children they have sponsored through World Vision 40 hour famine, together with community projects sponsored by New Zealand World Vision.

In Thailand the group will be hosted by a church in Bangkok. They will be joining in the programmes run for disadvantaged children living in slum communities. They will also be spending some time visiting Bangkok primary and high schools and give a presentation on life in New Zealand.

In Cambodia the group will be hosted by World Vision. Here, they will visit projects funded by money raised from the New Zealand 40 Hour Famine. All the young people going on the trip have taken part in the 40 Hour Famine and this trip will allow them to see the difference they have made in the lives of street kids living on dumps, and young people sold into prostitution. They will also be visiting rural Cambodia where they will meet five sponsored children that the leaders and young people of the group have committed to sponsoring.

By traveling to Thailand and Cambodia, the applicant is hoping to further his experience in youth work, and develop a wider understanding of cross-cultural differences, in the hope of becoming more sensitive to the needs of those living in poverty and homeless situations both in New Zealand and abroad.

The applicant is a volunteer leader for the SHARP Holiday Programme, and a dedicated and enthusiastic member of the St Nicholas Scout Troop, rarely missing opportunities that come his way to participate in activities, camps and a number of major events. The applicant has developed positive leadership qualities and eventually became an efficient Patrol Leader. As part of that role he willingly undertook training that was offered in both leadership skills and practical skill areas so that he could better his role as a youth leader. Now as a Venturer Scout, the applicant continues to display a personal commitment in a slightly older environment that requires him to be both self motivated and organised.

The report writer has sighted references and letters supporting this application, together with an itemised breakdown of costs associated with the trip. The total cost per person is \$2,979.00. The group leaves Christchurch for Thailand on 7 December 2004, returning on 22 December 2004.

The applicant has saved \$1,100 by holding sausage sizzles and working during the school holiday periods. This fundraising has had to be balanced with study and assignments to keep up with school work required for NCEA level 2, whilst continuing his involvement as a voluntary youth leader.

### Staff

**Recommendation:** That the Board consider allocating \$500 from its 2004/05 Youth Development Fund to assist with costs associated with the applicant travelling to Thailand and Cambodia to visit sponsored children and World Vision community projects.

### Chairman's

**Recommendation:** For discussion.