

2. AVONHEAD COMMUNITY TRUST - APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

General Manager responsible:	Stephen McArthur, General Manager, Community Services
Officer responsible:	Lesley Symington, Unit Manager, Community and Recreation Unit
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information in relation to an application for funding from the Avonhead Community Trust for \$20,000 from the Board's 2005/06 SCAP fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Avonhead Community Trust is seeking funding towards the employment of a Community Worker for the Avonhead area.
3. The Community Worker will coordinate the existing community activities and programmes provided by the Trust and expand these activities to meet the needs of the Avonhead community.
4. Current activities provided by the Trust include:
 - Craft group
 - Community Nursing and Foot Clinic
 - MOPS – Mothers of Preschoolers
 - Operation Friendship – a programme targeted at welcoming new migrants to the area
 - Youth Group
 - Community Help Scheme – sharing of resources and skills within the community
 - Evergreens – social outings for people aged over 55

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. There are no legal considerations in relation to this application.
6. The Avonhead Community Trust has not received any previous funding from the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board. The majority of the funds are raised by the group themselves to cover operational costs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

Approve the amount of \$10,000 to the Avonhead Community Trust for the remainder of the 2005/06 financial year from the Board's 2005/06 SCAP fund towards a Community Worker and suggest that the organisation submit an application to the Board's Community Worker fund for 2006/07.

BACKGROUND

7. The Avonhead Community Trust aims to meet the social needs of the Avonhead community. It specifically targets the at-risk people within the community such as the lonely and isolated, young people, elderly, disabled, and recent immigrants. The Trust was set up in January 1996 and is incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957.
8. There has been a large increase in demand for the services the Trust currently offers, which has placed strains on the volunteers who have been running these programmes. This application is seeking financial support to employ a Community Worker to coordinate and develop these activities.
9. The Community Worker employed is Doug McConnell, who is well known to the Burwood Pegasus Community Board through his extremely effective work as a community worker in New Brighton where he developed and maintained a number of successful community services.
10. The Avonhead Craft Group provides an opportunity for all people, young, old, lonely, with craft ability or not, to spend a morning in a friendly setting to work on and learn a variety of craft skills as they choose. There are usually six or seven different craft activities each term with up to six of these being tutored by skilled craftswomen. A crèche is also provided during the craft group for babies and toddlers. The average attendance each week is 65 adults and 12 children in the crèche.
11. There is a small charge of \$2.50 per person at the Craft Group and \$2.50 per family for the crèche. This provides a donation which is given to each tutor at the end of each term in appreciation for his or her leadership.
12. The Community Nursing service has eight volunteer nurses who offer:
 - Blood pressure checks monthly or as needed. Average usage 8-10 people.
 - Foot Clinic which focuses on care for the elderly. There were 60 people in attendance at the last clinic.
 - Children's Health Pack prepared, with information about childhood diseases etc.
 - Health education and advice to senior citizens.
13. MOPS (Mums of Pre-schoolers) offers a place where mothers can come together and make new friends as well as providing children with a safe environment to play and interact. There are approximately 15 families currently utilising this service.
14. Operation Friendship is mainly targeted at international students studying at Canterbury University but with the employment of the Community Worker, this group can be promoted to other migrants within the Avonhead area who are isolated and wishing to meet new people and make new friends.
15. The Youth Group is targeted at 11-23 year olds that live or study in the Avonhead area. There are currently 180 people involved in the youth group. This programme aims to work with young people as they transition from children into adults.
16. The Community Help Scheme is still in development and aims to develop an asset bank of skills and experience within the community and to share resources. To date, successful examples of this have included assistance with English language skills through to help with computers and the Internet.
17. Evergreens is a two monthly social outing for those aged over 55. Most times they travel within a 20km radius of Christchurch and use private cars for transport. The numbers attending these outings range from between 20 and 40 people. These outings are advertised in the local community newspaper.

OPTIONS

18. In relation to this application the Community Board could choose to:
 - a) grant the full amount requested to the Avonhead Community Trust
 - b) grant a portion of the amount requested as per the staff recommendation
 - c) decline the application