

11. YOUTH FOR CHRIST, ROCK SOLID - 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 Youth for Christ for \$8,600 from the Board's 2005/06 SCAP fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Youth for Christ is seeking financial assistance towards the costs involved in running their Avonhead Rock Solid programme, In-School project, and their Volunteer Leadership Training.
3. These programmes are targeted at 11-13 year olds from the Avonhead area and aim to provide young people with a safe environment to develop new relationships, participate in various activities, and provide an opportunity for them to discuss and receive support relating to a number of social issues and challenges they are facing.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

4. There are no legal considerations in relation to this application.
5. Funding requested is broken down as follows:

Avonhead Rock Solid	\$3,000
In-School Project	\$3,200
Volunteer Leadership Training	\$2,400
6. The total cost of the above projects is \$84,000. Additional funds are obtain through Lotteries Youth, Pub Charities, user fees, Avonhead Baptist Church and school donations.
7. Previous funding in relation to these programmes has come through the Community Development Scheme. In 2004 they received \$10,500 towards the running of these programmes, and \$7,500 in 2003.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

Approve the application for funding from Youth for Christ towards programme and project costs and allocate \$8,600 from the Board's 2005/06 SCAP budget.

BACKGROUND

8. Youth for Christ has been operating in Christchurch for 50 years. Their main purpose is to provide young people with programmes, activities and events that reinforce the importance of a balanced life including social, mental, spiritual, and physical wellness.
9. The Rock Solid programme runs every Friday night at Avonhead Baptist Church and has been running successfully for 12 years. The programme is targeted at 11 to 13 year olds and provides an opportunity for them to participate in various activities, discuss issues and challenges they are facing, and to develop leadership skills and new friendships.
10. They have an average of 40 young people attending each session with up to 70 attending some evenings. They are drawn from Avonhead School, Merrin Intermediate, Russley School, and Westburn School. They also have some young people who are home-schooled who attend.
11. The In-School project is currently running at Avonhead School but will be extended next year to Russley School. The project involves a Youth for Christ staff member working within the schools to run lunchtime activities, coaching sports teams, assisting with school trips and attending school camps.
12. The Volunteer Leadership Training helps to develop young volunteers to be effective mentors, life coaches, and to fully participate in their communities. The majority of these volunteers are high school and university students and the funding requested covers their monthly training sessions, team building activities, National and South Island training camps, and reimbursement of their expenses which is mainly made up of their petrol costs associated with transporting young people to various activities and events.

OPTIONS

13. In relation to this application the Community Board could choose to:
 - a) grant \$8,600 to Youth for Christ
 - b) grant a portion of the amount requested
 - c) decline the application