

Volunteering Canterbury Youth Volunteer Awards 2002

Citations

Jennifer Bennet, Katy Luxon, Rachel Brown and Megan Johannis of Young Alcohol Helpline.

These young women did 40 hours of initial training with the Alcohol Drug Association, then made a commitment to work on the Alcohol Helpline for three four-hour shifts each month as well as attending a monthly training session.

One of these volunteers has a fulltime job and the others are all fulltime university students, yet they willingly give time to help others. They help people from all over New Zealand who struggle with their own or someone else's alcohol or drug-related problems.

Vaopina 'Ofa of Christchurch Tongan Community Association

Vaopina is a role model to Tongan youth in Christchurch. She's very active in the cultural group activities of the Tongan Community, and is well liked by people of all ages. Along with classmates at her school, she runs a small business under the school's "young enterprise scheme". She is a caring person, and this is seen in the way she relates to the elderly people within the community. She loves the great outdoors, especially camping. She values formal education highly and plans to undertake tertiary study up to postgraduate level. She hopes one day to be Dr Vaopina Ofa.

Karen Hodge of Canterbury Museum

Since she was nine years old Karen has volunteered at Canterbury Museum two days a week during her school holidays. She assists with holiday programmes and in the Museum's Discovery Centre.

She is a very kind young person who is keen to participate in her community. Her friendly manner helps her relate well to her peers and younger children. She freely shares her excitement and enjoyment with other young people and says, "Discovery is a cool place and it's a fun thing to do".

Canterbury Museum is delighted that this award will recognise her wonderful contribution to children's enjoyment of our city and the environment.

Kelly Mitchell of Linwood Resource Centre

This 15-year-old enthusiastically answered a request to participate as an actor and a narrator in 'Faces and Places of Linwood' – a video made by the Linwood Resource Centre's heritage group about the history of Linwood. She took the project seriously and came across very professionally. This project was spread over two years, and whenever scenes needed to be re-shot she always made herself available. She is a pleasure to work with, always courteous and considerate to all members of the group, and attends functions whenever help is required. The Resource Centre will be delighted if she is able to join them in future ventures.

Jonelle Bennet of Te Ora Hou Otautahi

Jonelle was once labelled “at risk” and has come a long way in her journey to be the talented person she is today. She has gained a qualification in youth work and volunteers over 10 hours a week to young women in Papanui as a support person, youth advocate and youth worker. Her role is to plan and organise youth activities, after-school programmes, and school holiday programmes, but most of all to build relationships with the young people she works with. She is a woman with a huge future ahead of her and she well deserves the respect and honour of a Youth Volunteer Award.

Bryce Tiller of Cross Over Trust

Bryce has been a volunteer leader with the Crossover Trust for nearly two years. He has a genuine passion for the work of affirming, supporting and guiding young people, building relationships, providing a positive role model, and showing real compassion towards the young people. He moved home to Dargaville for three months and showed his commitment by returning to the trust on the day he arrived back in Christchurch. He also volunteered to take over the coordinator’s role for seven weeks so the paid staff member could go overseas and participate in a cultural exchange. Those who work with him consider him to be the ‘real deal’ and totally deserving of this Award.

Trudi Johnston of CanTeen, The NZ Teenage Cancer Patients Society

This young woman has been a member of CanTeen for about seven years and an active volunteer in the organization since 1999. She is a former president of the Otago Branch where she gave at least five hours a week. Since moving to Christchurch she has taken on the role of treasurer, where she gives at least three hours each week. She is always willing to offer her time and energy to CanTeen to support other young people with cancer. She has tremendous knowledge of the organisation which she is always willing to share, putting other people’s needs before her own.

Alex Mortlock, Craig Williams, Annabel Ramsay and Harriet Sinclair -- Young Lifeline Counsellors

Lifeline telephone counsellors provide a free, non-judgmental service to callers – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. Counsellor training involves an intense commitment in terms of both time and personal energy. Individual counsellors engage in up to 19 hours of counselling each month, often working evening or overnight shifts and also attending monthly supervision. The young people working at Lifeline, without exception, combine this work with the demands of tertiary study and the need to fund their study through part-time or casual paid work. Lifeline Christchurch thanks its young Lifeliners and commends them for their compassion and their commitment to the communities of Christchurch/Mid-North Canterbury and the West Coast.

Blair Jones of NZCCS Canterbury West Coast

NZCCS works with people with disabilities and their families. Blair began volunteering for them 15 months ago. He worked at the children’s camp in January for two weeks and also helped children train and compete at a swimming and track and field event at Easter. He has given his time almost every weekend to go out with the youth group to do things such as swimming, movies and ice-skating, enabling young people with disabilities to do activities

that young people enjoy. He has done all this while in full-time paid employment. NZCCS take pleasure in nominating him for this award.

Amy Campbell of Te Ropu Tamariki

Te Ropu Tamariki is a not-for-profit organisation which teaches life and social skills to children between seven and eleven years. Amy has been volunteering with Te Ropu Tamariki one afternoon every week since February. She is a high school student who still finds the time and energy to help out at Linwood Avenue Primary. Her bubbly personality makes her well liked by the children and the other volunteers. She gets involved in every aspect of the club, no matter how big or small and gives 100 per cent every time.

Eleanor Shepherd of Agoraphobic Support Group

Eleanor started voluntary work with the Agoraphobic Support Group in April 2001 as a volunteer office assistant, working two mornings each week. The Group has been extremely impressed with the enormous contribution she has made to the smooth running of the organisation. She has shown commendable courage in overcoming personal health issues and a lack of office experience. Her dedication, reliability, enthusiasm, and willingness to go the extra mile means a great deal to the group. She has worked largely on her own, learning new skills, using her own initiative with minimal supervision, yet she has risen admirably to the challenge.

Vicky Youngman of Guides NZ – Canterbury North Region

Vicky is a Queen's Guide and has achieved the silver and gold levels of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. She has been a leader for six years, currently leading Pegasus Rangers where her well-balanced fun programme is greatly enjoyed. In addition to her service to guiding, she plays the oboe in the Christchurch Youth Orchestra and in Sunday services at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. She is a talented and dedicated young woman whose contribution to guiding in Canterbury North Region is highly valued. Guides NZ considers her to be an excellent role model to the girls and young women within the movement.

Tara-mae Tipoki of Youth and Cultural Development

Tara-mae is currently doing voluntary work at the drop-in centre at Youth and Cultural Development which works to develop and maintain a safe and neutral environment whereby young people's talents and skills can be developed, and their aspirations can be realised. She is also studying travel and tourism full time and goes out of her way to work three evenings a week in an environment where her peers are relaxing and enjoying themselves. She is currently helping to get audio equipment into working order, is very professional, passionate and has a great future ahead of her.

Harata Carlson, Danielle O'Halloran, Jasmin Lamorie, Anna Parker – the young women of WEAVE -- nominated by Network Waitangi Otautahi

The members of this dedicated group are unified by a commitment to creatively inspire a culture of peace and are especially passionate to empower young people. They engage in storytelling as an expression of alternative truths. Believing that our educational system is missing huge threads they approached high schools and community groups to present

workshops that link to the school curriculum for year 10 students. These workshops address topics such as power, inequalities, human rights and access to resources.

These volunteers embrace and celebrate the stories of our people, endeavouring to be honest and accurate in the telling of these stories.

Clare Rosemary McLennan-Kissel of Linwood College

Clare is the deputy head girl and 'Student Representative' on the School Board of Trustees at Linwood College. Both of these positions demand many hours of voluntary work. She has been a member of Students Against Drunk Driving regional council for three years, and responsible for organising several events for SADD. This year she was part of the Rapid Youth Festival organising committee. This festival was eight days long and her involvement led to her being invited to attend the National Youth in Local Government Conference. She performed in the 2001 LYFE Festival and has been a organiser for the Linwood College Fashion Show for two years. She is a delightful and talented young woman, who is very highly recommended.

Nadia Bleaken of Canterbury Rowing Association

On commencing University Nadia volunteered her services as a rowing coach and mentor to her old school Villa Maria where she had been a successful rower. This is the fourth season that she has worked as a coach and the school has continued to develop, taking its first school title under her tutelage early this year. She keeps meticulous records and in the last season has devoted over 500 hours to developing rowing at Villa Maria. She also plays a significant role in the Avon Club and Canterbury Association administration as well as remaining an outstanding club competitor.

Sarah Pheasant of Waltham Youth Trust and Opawa Baptist Church

Sarah has volunteered with the Waltham Youth Trust and Opawa Baptist Youth for the past four years, giving 10 hours each week while also studying fulltime at University and working at a part-time paid job. She is treasurer for the Trust, presenting regular financial reports and keeping accounts for all the programmes they run. She has been part of initiating programmes and facilities, working with at-risk youth. She is a willing volunteer at events and an excellent team worker, sensitive, thoughtful to others, and always a peacemaker. She is involved in mentoring young girls, puts a lot of time and effort into local young people, and is thoroughly deserving of this award.

Sam Skinner of St Martins Community Youth Trust

Sam has been a committed volunteer leader at St Martins Community Youth Centre at least once a month for almost three years. The Youth Centre provides young people with a space that is their own, where they can be themselves and spend time with their peers knowing support is available if needed. This volunteer is a great role model, discerning, sensitive and caring, always willing to help, and he provides a sensible, stable presence among the young people. He has undertaken youth leadership training, and this year he has become a Trustee, providing much thoughtful insight and representing the views of young people at Board meetings.

Laura Verksaik, Nancy Milki and Lavinia Tan of the Kidsline Resource Team of Kidsline Christchurch

These three young people currently volunteer in the Kidsline Resource Team. As part of this team they have assisted in planning and facilitating on-going training for the buddies, helped with the recruitment process including speaking in schools, assisted with orientation afternoons, organised social events, taken responsibility for the monthly newsletter, organised a movie night fundraiser for camp and assisted in planning and facilitating at the first Christchurch Kidsline weekend residential. They are currently involved with the Kidsline Resource Team and have been nominated because of the amount of time given and responsibility and skill shown, their extraordinary dedication, commitment, skill and willingness to learn and grow. Without them Kidsline could not function.

Ariana Sour of YMCA Christchurch – Youth and Outdoors

Ariana gives other young people hope, love and, most importantly, someone to talk to. She has been involved with the Christchurch YMCA Youth and Outdoors department for over 10 years now and throughout that time she has shown commitment and enthusiasm for the teenagers she works with. She gives up her time – and her talents – without complaint. She has volunteered to be coordinator with the YMCA's holiday programmes and willingly gives up free time to fill in as a driver. She is a member of the YMCA Board – on which she represents young people. To do all this and more, she has sacrificed valuable university study time as well as her personal space.

Youth Volunteer Judges Group of Canterbury Gymnastics Association

This group of 17 young volunteers judges gymnastics at both pre-national and national level. These levels involve boys and girls, generally between the ages of five and 14. Judges make themselves available at both regional and club competitions throughout the winter season. They need to reach a high level of technical expertise and demonstrate their ability to apply that expertise. Judging also requires great maturity and an ability to maintain composure under pressure. The majority of these young volunteers are ex-gymnasts who want to put something back in the sport. If it wasn't for their time commitment and willingness, these competitions could not take place.

Marijke Freeman-Moir of Youthline Central South Island

Marijke has been a telephone counsellor with Youthline Central South Island for 18 months, providing support, information and a referral service to young people with problems. To do this work volunteers need to be self-aware, warm and understanding. She is a member of the Youthline Trust Board, the supervision coordinator, and a member of the training team. She has worked tirelessly for the organisation and is very much appreciated by the other volunteers. She is an inspiration and an excellent role model to other young people.

Crew members of the Linwood Youth Festival Experience

The 24 young people in this group have given an enormous amount of their time to make the Linwood Youth Festival Experience possible. An untold amount of energy, focus and dedication needs to go into planning and organising an event of this size which annually attracts over 6000 people. The young people of the LYFE Festival crew have worked hard to

organise entertainment and procure sponsorship, ensuring that this celebration of local youth was a success. They did all this with a positive cheerful attitude.