

8. GENERATION OF DISCIPLES

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Bruce Meder, Community Development Adviser
Corporate Plan Output: 3.1.text.27	

The purpose of this report is to seek funds from the Board to enable this organisation to transport young people to and from their activities.

BACKGROUND

The “Generation of Disciples” is a group operating under the umbrella of the Hosanna Baptist Church. The congregation of this church are primarily Pacific Island people. The “Generation of Disciples” youth group was founded last year by a young woman from the church who recognised a need amongst young Pacific Islanders in the area. The group presently operates out of the garage at the rear of the pastor’s house in the Morrison Avenue area of Papanui. They began with less than 20 Maori and Pacific Island young people, but now have grown to catering for more than 50 young people. The numbers have outgrown the garage and alternative venues are constantly being sought.

ACTIVITIES

The aims of the Generation of Disciples group are to “help young people to stop offending by keeping (them) off the streets (and to) give them hope and future direction.” A number of activities are run throughout the week with a weekly games night which includes badminton, indoor basketball, volleyball and touch rugby. They have been able to hire the Burnside High School gym for this purpose. (NB This group spent many weeks, with assistance from the previous Community Recreation Adviser, looking for a suitable venue. None was found in the Papanui area, further highlighting the need for such a facility in this area.)

NETWORKS

In the short time that this group has been operating the leader of the group has established good and effective networks in the area and has been supported and assisted by the Community Recreation Adviser.

FUNDING NEEDS

In March of this year the group applied to the Hillary Commission Community Sport Fund for funds to assist with venue costs, equipment and transport costs. Although the group operates in a low socio-economic environment they have managed to raise \$550 and were seeking a further \$2,000 to enable activities to continue throughout the year. The group regularly uses the community van and although there is no charge associated with the use of the van, petrol costs are a high cost for the group. The Hillary Commission Funding Committee allocated \$1,200 to the group and recommended that the Community Board consider funding the transport costs of \$800.

Recommendation: That the Generation of Disciples youth group be allocated \$800 towards their transport costs from 2000/2001 Discretionary Funds.

Chairperson’s

Recommendation: That the officer’s recommendation be adopted.