

9. BURWOOD CHRISTIAN CENTRE CHURCH

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Corporate Plan Output: Burwood/Pegasus Community Board Discretionary Fund	

The purpose of this report is to seek the Community Board's funding support for the Church's completion of its new youth centre facility. This youth centre facility is part of the Church's overall worship and community centre facility that is presently being constructed. An arson attack in 1997 destroyed their church/community hall.

BACKGROUND

The Burwood Christian Centre (formerly known as the Bassett Street Fellowship Church) was established in 1988 and has initiated a number of community outreach programmes and youth support services during those thirteen years. Since the arson attack three years ago many of these services have been reduced, transferred to another site or closed until the new community centre facility has been constructed.

The total construction project includes the building of a new gym/hall/auditorium; repairs and restoration to the fire damaged area between the destroyed hall and the church house which has the kitchen, dining room, lounge, toilets, storage rooms and two small meeting rooms; renovations/alterations to the existing church and church house to provide a medium size hall, a baby care room, a storage room, three office/meeting rooms and administration office.

Once constructed the new community centre facility will be available for community group and individual/family hire for social, educational and recreational activities. The centre will also enable the Church to base its all its (current and proposed community outreach programmes/services) within the one location.

These services will include:

- Powerhouse Youth Ministries provide youth worker services, weekend recreational programmes, week night youth clubs and support groups, creative music/dance/theatre groups, weekly programmes at a local intermediate and a local high school, youth leadership training, working with the Palms Management in exploring "away from The Palms" youth activities.
- Providing youth recreation events in partnership with the City Council's Leisure Unit.
- Open House hours.
- Weekly community playgroup.
- Twice weekly Oasis children's programme.
- Weekly craft and sewing groups.
- Counselling hours with a trained counsellor.
- Budget advice hours with the Kingdom Resources Trust.
- Medical centre hours.
- Home Help Outreach Services with parenting support, household management and maintenance.
- Graffiti Anti-tagging Team.

All land, resource and building consents have been obtained with all the programmes/services having the required health and safety protocols, and risk management procedures in place.

Church members visited all local neighbours and undertook a wider community letterbox drop in 1999 informing the residents of their building proposals and building use activities. They intend to repeat this exercise again towards construction completion time and host a community open day.

PROJECT

The Church is requesting funding assistance for some of the construction and equipment costs for the Powerhouse Youth Centre.

Supporting documents from Powerhouse Youth Ministries identify specific budget costs, ways that the Centre can meet/work with the recommendations identified in the Community Board's Youth Recreation Needs Survey, specific Powerhouse Youth Ministries youth activities and numbers of young people attending.

In speaking with the youth worker, Nigel Ripley, he believed that if the Church obtained funding for the skate area and for the stage lighting Powerhouse Youth Ministries would be able to have exciting new youth activities up and running by the end of the year.

The Church's community outreach programmes involve the people of Burwood, North Beach, Mairehau and Parklands.

There are two school halls and three church/community centres within 1km of this project. All these facilities have high school and community use and are regularly booked out. None of these buildings have the indoor recreation, drama/theatre/music and youth facilities as being proposed by this project.

Powerhouse Youth Ministries has a community outreach experience of over ten years in the Burwood area and has gained significant recognition throughout Christchurch for its innovative and very successful youth work. Powerhouse is a member of the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective which ensures collaboration between youth workers and youth services, co-working of community projects and supervision, mentoring and training opportunities for youth workers.

I have every confidence in recommending this project for the Board's consideration and strongly acknowledge that the youth work of Powerhouse Youth Ministries is making a significant contribution to addressing many of the issues raised at the August 2000 Youth Worker meetings.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Church's request, supporting documentation and this report be received.
 2. That the Board consider allocating \$10,000 of its Discretionary funds to the skate area and stage lighting costs.
 3. That this project also be referred to the City Council's Major Grants Funding Committee for further consideration.

Chairperson's

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That because of lack of funds the Board is unable to support the project at this stage.