

#### 4. MAINLY MUSIC (ST STEPHENS, SHIRLEY)

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Advocate	<b>Author</b> Bruce Meder, Community Development Adviser, DDI 354-1708
Corporate Plan Output: Community Activities	

The purpose of this report is to seek funding to assist the “Mainly Music” group operating from St Stephens Church in Shirley.

This programme helps to meet the outcomes of the following Christchurch City Council Policies and Community Board’s vision:

- *Children’s Policy especially the outcome of a nurturing community, safe environment, higher self-esteem and positive worldview.*
- *Social Well-being Policy, especially the outcome of “people participate in community life and have sense of belonging and identity.*
- *Shirley/Papanui Community Board Vision of “to foster a strong sense of community”.*

#### BACKGROUND

“Mainly Music” is a nation-wide activity catering to pre-school children, babies and their parents. The group at St Stephens has been operating since the beginning of this year. It has just over 20 children and babies attending weekly, along with their mothers, grandparents, and (occasionally) fathers. The format of each, weekly, session is:

- A half hour activity to music, including songs, movement and use of equipment (eg a rainbow rope, bubbles and shakers).
- A morning tea for both the children and the parents.

The first ½ hour is co-ordinated by and facilitated by a young women (herself a mother) who has attended Mainly Music workshops.

Parents are asked to give a gold coin donation at each session, although no-one is excluded because of an inability to pay.

#### COMMUNITY BENEFIT

All bar one or two of the families attending are from the immediate Shirley area. The session benefits the children, the parents and the local community:

- **Children:** The children obtain an appreciation of music and movement as well as enjoying the time.
- **Parents:** The programmes allows parents to meet other parents within the neighbourhood with similar aged children. Indeed, many of those involved with the St Stephens programme did not know any of the others before the programme began.
- **Local Community:** The programme helps to contribute to a sense of community identity and belonging. Most participants come as a result of “word-of-mouth”. A number of volunteers are able to link people in with other groups and programmes as and where appropriate. Owing to the success of this programme, the Shirley Community Trust are looking into the possibility of basing a further once weekly programme at the new Shirley Community Neighbourhood Centre on Macfarlane Park.

#### FUNDING NEEDS

St Stephens Church have so far been able to provide their premises free of charge and to supply (on loan) some toys for the children to play with after the music activity. The gold coin donation from families goes mainly towards the morning tea.

The programme would be enhanced by the purchase of further toys, and especially music equipment. Because of the numbers, the programme needs to purchase approximately 20 of each item. Attached are four pages from the "Every Educaid" catalogue. Items that would be of special use to the Mainly Music group are drums, maracas and rhythm equipment.

The group presently has access to a tape recorder, however a CD player would greatly extend the range of music that they are able to play.

Other equipment that could be purchased to enhance the movement aspect of the programmes includes puppets and a parachute.

The approximate cost of this equipment is \$1,400.

Other programme costs (eg low child – sized tables and chairs, training course administration, stationery, power etc) runs to around \$1,200 annually.

**Recommendation:** Because this is a programme to help to enhance the sense of belonging within Shirley it is recommended that a grant of between \$500 and \$1,000 be allocated to Mainly Music (St Stephens) from the Strengthening Communities Fund.

**Chairperson's Recommendation:** That this application be referred to the Community Development Scheme.