Trudy’s story

Before attending Youth Off The Streets Key College, Trudy* was enrolled at a mainstream school. Disengaged from her education, she hated attending school, and ended up being expelled.

“I had landed myself into a lot of trouble and was constantly getting arrested and didn’t have a stable life at all. I was all over the place and thought I would never finish school.”

This all changed when Trudy enrolled in Key College at the end of 2016. In just a few weeks, Trudy’s behaviour had improved significantly. Her attitude towards school became positive; she started to enjoy attending school and doing her work, something that she had not experienced before. She returned to Key College in 2017, continuing to make improvements in her education and personal life.

With the help of Key College staff, Trudy secured employment and began building her confidence. Through all the tough times, she knew she could rely on Key College staff to support her along her journey.

At her graduation, Trudy acknowledged and thanked Key College staff for helping her turn her life around.

“I can’t thank Ben enough for showing me better ways to look at things and teaching me that when challenges enter my life take them as a lesson and learn and improve from them”.

“I can’t thank Jo enough for the countless hours she has spent with me and the amount of effort and care she has put into helping me get to where I needed to be”

“Thank you for accepting me into Key because if I never got the chance to be enrolled at Key I wouldn’t be graduating and doing something with my life right now. My life has changed forever and I hope I can continue to move on in life in a successful way.”

Inspiring stories like Trudy’s are possible thanks to you, our generous supporters. With your help, we can make sure young kids like Trudy are given the opportunity to achieve their full potential and go on to live happy, fruitful lives.

*Name and image changed for privacy reasons.*
Our People

Father’s Word

Why I have four Great Danes

There’s that song that goes “All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small”. I think that line from it sums up why I love animals – all kinds of animals, so much.

My love for animals started when I was a kid. I grew up on a farm in Echuca, Victoria where I was surrounded by all sorts of feathered and furry friends. I was pretty shy as a kid and felt more at ease watching the chickens run about or patting the horses, than I did speaking to adults.

So when I started my work helping young homeless kids on the streets of Kings Cross it made sense to do it with animals at my side. My horse, Sarah, was indispensable in those early days.

I quickly realised that Sarah would help me with my work beyond just providing transport and a greater height to look for those in need. I would ride her down the street and young people would emerge from the shadows. It’s not every day you see a horse on the busy, bustling streets of Sydney! It was the perfect ice breaker. I would start to talk to them as they patted Sarah – she was a vital assistant to the work I was doing.

I then brought my Great Dane Collingwood along and became pretty well-known by all the locals as I walked down the streets of Kings Cross.

Fast forward to today and I have four Great Danes. People might think I’m crazy, but there’s method in the madness.

My organisation has grown considerably, but one thing has remained the same – animals help me with my work.

As soon as I turn up to an event, and the four lumbering giants emerge from the van, young people will gather round and want to pat them.

They help people be at ease and help start conversation.

I’m lucky because I’ve been able to build a career out of my passions – helping young people in need and animals. From the first day to the last day, my dogs shall be by my side as trusted colleagues and friends.

From the first day to the last day, my dogs shall be by my side as trusted colleagues and friends.

Many of our wonderful donors have left a gift in their Will

A gift that lasts longer than a lifetime

Every young person has the potential to make a positive contribution to our world. Leaving a gift in your Will means we can continue to reach out to young people in the future and help them to become active and valued members of their community.

When making the decision to leave a gift to Youth Off The Streets in your Will your first priority is to ensure that it reflects the way you want to look after your family and friends and then a lasting legacy to support your favourite causes.

The Father Chris Riley Society is a way that we can thank you now for your foresight and very special contribution to our vital work. Members receive invitations to special events, a unique pin and a certificate.

There is no cost or obligation associated with membership. For any enquires please ring our Bequest Officer Cheryl Johnstone on 02 93303530 or email us at bequests@youthoffthestreets.com.au

From the first day to the last day, my dogs shall be by my side as trusted colleagues and friends.
Become a Monthly Giver

Have you ever considered becoming a monthly donor by joining our Streets Lights program?

Your monthly donation as a Street Lights partner will help to give a young person a safe place to stay, counselling and access to our rehabilitation and education services. Youth Off The Streets provide over 35 services representing a continuum of care that builds safety, supports growth and opens up options for vulnerable young people. With your ongoing help we can be there as long as a young person needs us.

The regular support of our Street Lights partners allows us to plan more effectively and deliver our services more efficiently. Simply put, it's a better way to give.

Your monthly gift will go a long way to helping young people in need:

- $30 can provide our Street Walk program with a personal care kit for a young homeless person.
- $50 can help a disadvantaged young person attending one of our schools, providing stationery, books and other essential items.
- $100 can help provide a young homeless person with safe accommodation.

To become a Streets Lights partner please call our Donor Services team on 02 9330 3500.

Winter Appeal Support

Thank you for showing warmth this winter

Being homeless during winter can be tough. The nights are long, the rain falls like ice and the cold seems to pierce even the thickest of clothing.

When the temperatures fall and the refuges are full, these kids have no choice but to seek shelter elsewhere. They couch surf, sleep in tents, or find what little cover they can on the streets.

No one chooses to be homeless.

It's humiliating, uncomfortable and often terrifying when you don't have a safe and secure place to live. It fills me with sadness when I see what these kids go through and there are times I can't help but feel all hope is lost.

And then something amazing happens.

When things seem at their worst and any chance of helping these kids seems impossible, I am overcome with happiness and awe at the level of support we receive from wonderful donors like you.

And so I wanted to give my upmost thanks – from the bottom of my heart – to all of you who supported our recent Winter Appeal to help homeless young people off the streets and into safety.

You have shown immense kindness to vulnerable young people when they need it most.

Your support for our Winter Appeal means we can respond quickly and provide essential services to young people in crisis – like giving them somewhere warm to stay and enough to eat.

We still have much more work to do to address the growing issue of youth homelessness. But when our wonderful supporters show such warmth and compassion during the darkest of times, it makes me more determined than ever to keep fighting until every last one of these kids is off the streets and into safety.

When we can reach out and provide the helping hand that kids need, we don't just help turn lives around, we also save lives. You have helped make this happen.

Thank you to all of you who showed such incredible generosity.

We’re after some “tough mudders”

Fitness challenges are a great way to motivate someone to achieve their fitness goals and raise money for charity. Friends, family and colleagues sponsor the person to complete the challenge and once complete, the funds are donated to charity.

Tough Mudder is no ordinary fun run. With a full line-up of team oriented obstacles Tough Mudder guarantees that you will end up with more friends than you started with. Whether you arrive solo or with a team, all you need is the strength to leave your fears in the parking lot and the willingness to push the boundaries of your comfort zone.

It's a win-win situation where you accomplish a fitness goal while helping to raise money for a worthwhile cause.

If you know anyone considering Tough Mudder in November this year, please suggest they raise funds for Youth Off The Streets. They'll have an extra incentive to get across that finish line!

For more details see page 8.
Our New Programs

Sydney to Surfers Celebrates 20 years

The Sydney to Surfers is a 958km bike ride by road from North Sydney to Surfers Paradise. In 2018, our friends at the Rotary Club of Engadine celebrated 20 years of riding to raise funds for Youth Off The Streets. This year we had twelve young people and seven staff members riding every day, a number which has grown since our young people started joining the ride.

Dion Reed, a Youth Off The Streets staff member who also runs our ‘Cycle of Courage’ program has been a participant on the ride for the last 6 years and believes that this is a fantastic opportunity for our young people to shine.

“The Sydney to Surfers ride is always a great time for the kids,” says Dion “The support we get from all the other riders is phenomenal. This year our young riders put in a massive effort and they rode every kilometre with every young person staying on their bikes the entire time! The ride does get tiring, especially in those later days, but our young people supported each other the entire time, with the help of three returning graduate riders.”

Cycling is a big part of Youth Off The Streets, thanks to the Cycle of Courage program. Using physical activity to empower students to overcome challenges, develop supportive relationships, be part of a team, practice self-discipline and perform acts of generosity, the Sydney to Surfers ride allows the kids to shine and develop self confidence. It also opens up new opportunities. One of our young people recently secured themselves a traineeship as a bike mechanic, thanks to their newfound love of bicycles!

Over the past 20 years the Sydney to Surfers initiative has raised over $3,000,000 for Youth Off The Streets to help disconnected young people, but it has more value than that. The lessons learned, relationships built and character developed from 20 years of these rides will last a lifetime.

Congratulations to all our young people, staff, members of the Rotary Club of Engadine and all the riders who took part in the ride this year and any years before it.

We look forward to seeing you for our 21st year!

BOOK NOW
Spaces are limited
RSVP by Thursday 16 August

YOUTH OFF THE STREETS

GALA DINNER

SATURDAY 25 AUGUST 2018 | HILTON HOTEL SYDNEY

New program packs a punch
Breaking barriers between young people and police

Former IBF and WBA middleweight boxing champion Daniel Geale is helping Campbelltown police overcome relationship barriers with young people through boxing. The boxing and breakfast program is run out of our Koch Centre For Youth and gives young people the opportunity to interact with police while learning ‘the sweet science’.

Melody Chime is the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer for Campbelltown City Police Command and realised that there was a need to better connect young people with police in the area. She thought a fitness and healthy eating program might be a great opportunity to get police and young people together.

“We have two police officers involved in the program – our crime prevention officer Senior Constable David Blom and Sergeant Richie Simon our Education and Development Officer. The ideal situation is to get these young people to communicate effectively with the police rather than being scared or thinking we’re different,” she says.

Daniel Geale was brought into the program at the start of 2018 and knew exactly what boxing could do for these young people. He has seen everyone around him improve themselves due to boxing and thinks that young people can achieve what they want in life through the sport.

“I’ve been boxing since I was 9 years old. I’ve seen boxers in my stable achieve so much. Boxing gives people a lot of confidence, discipline and self-esteem. There are so many good aspects to boxing.”

“I come from a working class area and a lot of people around me struggled. We didn’t have a lot, so we had to find ways to keep occupied and exert energy. A lot of my friends chose different paths, some of them chose the wrong path. Fortunately I had boxing and that kept me on track. It made me set goals for the future. I wanted to better myself and provide a better life for my family,” he said.

Bringing Daniel Geale on board was a great thing for the program. Taking on world champion quality boxers meant that there were no easy fights. He always had a very big obstacle in front of him and that’s a lesson he is passing on to the young people.

“Fighting the best that boxing had to offer at the time brought out the best in me – I never ducked anyone in my career or took an easy path. I had a great team behind me, which is really important, not just in boxing but in life as well. If you have the right people behind you they’re going to help steer you in the right direction.”

One of our youth workers Joshua Nimmo-Mestre travels around Macquarie Fields in the morning, collecting the program participants. It can get tough waking them up so early – especially in winter – but he says it is all worth it when you see the smile on their face at the end of the session.

“One of our youth workers Joshua Nimmo-Mestre travels around Macquarie Fields in the morning, collecting the program participants. It can get tough waking them up so early – especially in winter – but he says it is all worth it when you see the smile on their face at the end of the session.

“Some kids are ready to go in the morning and others struggle with the early wake up. We try and keep building the habit, getting them to training and hopefully they will keep turning up. At the end of class, they’re happy that they’ve achieved something, had something to eat and have socialised with their peers. You can see that they’re set up for success that day,” he said.

“Boxing provides discipline but it’s also about overcoming a challenge in the morning. Boxing isn’t easy, and they have a sense of accomplishment after the session and it sets a good mindset for the rest of the day. No matter what the day throws at them, they’ll be able to handle it,” says Joshua Nimmo-Mestre.

“I’d love to see the program grow. We’ve had a few talks about travelling around the area and expanding it. It’s all about helping as many young people as we can,” says Daniel Geale.
STAFF PROFILE

Beny Bol
Program Manager and Life Changer

Youth Off The Streets has come a long way since it began in 1991 with Father Riley on a horse with his dog on the streets of Kings Cross. He credits this to the strength of his staff and the people behind him.

“I couldn’t do what I do today without the dedicated staff that I have,” says Father Riley. “It is essential that we have the right people for the work that we do and Youth Off The Streets is fortunate to have staff that are passionate about improving the lives of our young people.”

Youth Off The Streets works locally and employs within the community, to ensure our young people are given the best access to services within their local area.

Our services are now located across New South Wales, Queensland and, most recently, Victoria, to best respond to communities in need. These services are run by our “heroes in the field” – from youth workers, teachers, to counsellors, who are committed to breaking the cycle of disadvantage and giving kids in Australia a fair go.

One such hero is Beny Bol, our program manager for Logan Outreach in Queensland. Beny’s determination and positive attitude has a big impact on the young people he works with in Logan, and now Wyndham, Victoria.

Where Beny and his team arguably make the biggest difference is in their specialised programs for disengaged youth.

“We run a few special programs outside of our regular outreach programs. Our Kicking Goals 2 Transition program runs inside a juvenile detention centre and helps young offenders who’ve been locked up. Our primary aim focuses on personal goal-setting and information sessions in order to facilitate their transition back in to the community when they get released. We also have a Court House support program and boxing program which target disengaged youth who are out of school.”

Managing Logan Outreach’s three weekly outreach services can be tricky enough, especially when up to 90 young people can turn up at any one time, but Beny and the rest of our Logan team go that extra mile to provide a safe and fun environment.

“Our activities range from sports, art, social games and skating,” says Beny. “The team organises various activities to ensure young people have options and can choose what activities they like.”

Once young people engage in the activities, youth workers can start to interact and support them in practical ways. Beny manages his team very well – evident through winning the “Manager of the Year” award at Youth Off The Streets in 2017 – and says that his team remains patient until they find success.

“I remember one kid who came to us in 2014. It was tough to break through at first, but eventually we were able to get him in touch with our youth worker Natasha. With support from Natasha and outreach staff he went on to secure his learner’s licence and apprenticeship. It isn’t always easy and it’s important to be patient, but those success stories are the reason we come to work every day.”

Beny has been part of the Youth Off The Streets family for five years, so he knows that it takes passion, patience and dedication to work properly and effectively with young people every day. Like every job, some days are tougher than others.

“Feeling rejected by some young people, a lack of adequate resources to completely meet the all the complex needs of our clients, and even slow positive progress with helping young people can really put a dampener on the job. But at the end of the day, it’s the victories that keep me going.”

How to help

Merchandise
Father Chris Riley’s books, stationery and eGifts are available to purchase online through our eStore. Visit www.youthoffthestreets.com.au/shop

In Memoriam and Celebration
For donations in lieu of flowers or celebration gifts please ring Cheryl Johnstone on 02 9330 3530. You are welcome to request donation envelopes for a funeral service.

Give a Monthly Gift
Your regular gift today provides us with the consistent income we need to ensure our young people receive vital support now and in the future. All it takes is a small donation each month to help kids in need. Call 02 9330 3500 and become a Street Lights partner today.
WHY I DONATE

Zoran Bakovic

Youth Off The Streets is lucky to have many committed supporters who are passionate about the work we do for disadvantaged young people. One such supporter is Zoran Bakovic, owner and founder of the Traffic and Engineering Centre in Sydney. Since 2012 Zoran has donated a percentage of his business revenue to help the young people in our care.

Since moving to Australia many years ago, Zoran has earned two Masters Degrees and founded a successful local business. He came with a dream to make a better life for his family and believes strongly in using his success to give back to others.

Zoran, like many of our supporters understands the importance of donating regularly to Youth Off The Streets. In times of crisis, we simply cannot wait for government funding to be approved, and the regular income we receive from our donors helps us respond to those kids who need urgent support.

Q What interests you most about Youth Off The Streets’ work?
I think all areas are equally important. For a young person to lead a happy and prosperous life, a balance is needed.

Q Do you have any ideas of what could be done to further assist young people in need?
Extending the number of scholarships, as well as further assistance in helping the young people find employment.

Q What do you think are the most important issues facing young people today?
Lack of employment opportunities and the constant pressure of social media. Also, unaffordable housing, as our Government is allowing for our properties to be sold to foreign investors in an uncontrollable way, making it difficult for our young generation to compete and subsequently buy any property here in Australia.

Q Do you have a favourite quote or piece of advice that you live by or that you wish you could have told your younger self?
“It is the finish, not the start that counts the most in life.”

HOW TO HELP

Youth Off The Streets Speakers
Would you like to have a Youth Off The Streets speaker present at your next Rotary, Probus or Lions Club meeting? Our presenters give a real insight into the organisation and the work of Father Chris Riley and his team. We present in the Sydney and Greater Sydney area.

Please call Cheryl Johnstone on 02 9330 3530 to book in a date.

Volunteer
Call Ann Leadbitter on 02 9330 3547, email volunteer@youthoffthestreets.com.au or visit www.youthoffthestreets.com.au/support-us/volunteer-main

Fundraise For Us
Host your very own fundraising event for us. Email fundraising@youthoffthestreets.com.au or visit www.youthoffthestreets.com.au/support-us/run-a-fundraiser

Support our Op Shops
In Bowral, Cessnock, Maitland and Singleton.
Call 02 9721 5700.

Donate Today
Call 1800 062 288 or visit www.youthoffthestreets.com.au/donate

THANK YOU Zoran!
The Chapel School changed my whole expectations about school. I am now graduating year 10, I never thought I'd make it past year 9. Thanks to Chapel staff and students, my attendance is great. Also, they have brought me out of my shell and I have become a much brighter person. I have a lot more courage to succeed with my goals in life.

My advice to future Chapel students is to make every moment valuable, and as you settle, make sure to be yourself. Do your best, and realize this school is a place you can achieve any goal you set out for. Every teacher is here to support you in whatever way they can.

**SCHOOL NEWS**

**WELL DONE**
To our students at Lakes College for participating in World’s Greatest Shave and raising over $400!

**CONGRATULATIONS**
to two of our students for having 97% attendance for Term 1

**GREAT JOB!**
One of our students achieved 98% in his first maths assessment this year!

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**GET INVOLVED**

**What’s On?** To find out how you can take part, visit youthoffthestreets.com.au/events or email events@youthoffthestreets.com.au

**Real Estate Sleep Out**

**Date:** Thursday 26 July 2018
**Venue:** Bondi Beach
Real Estate Sleep Out, initiated by Cooley Auctions, sees hundreds of real estate industry professionals face the winter chill by spending a night sleeping on the sand at Bondi Beach. This event helps to raise funds and awareness for Youth Off The Streets.

**Youth Off The Streets Gala Dinner**

**Date:** Saturday 25 August 2018
**Venue:** Hilton Hotel Sydney, 488 George St, Sydney
Join us for our annual celebration of Father Riley’s work. Book now at youthoffthestreets.com.au/event/galadinner For more info: events@youthoffthestreets.com.au

**Morning Tea with Father Chris Riley**

**Date:** Wednesday 24 October 2018 at 10am
**Venue:** Eden Gardens 307 Lane Cove Road (Cnr Fontenoy Rd) Macquarie Park
Hear Father Chris Riley speak, meet our young people, and enjoy a delicious morning tea. $10 per person, payable on the day. Bookings essential: Contact Eden Gardens on 02 9491 9976 or email events@edengardens.com.au

**Tough Mudder**

**Date:** Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 November 2018
**Venue:** Glenworth Valley
For more info contact Peta Gillis on 02 9330 3544 or email community@youthoffthestreets.com.au

**Youth Off The Streets Presentation Night**
A special evening where we celebrate the achievements of the kids from across our services.

**Date:** Friday 23 November, Supper 6:30pm, Ceremony 7:30pm
**Venue:** Grand Ballroom, Bankstown Sports Club
RSVP by phone (02) 9330 3500 or email info@youthoffthestreets.com.au

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**STREETS AHEAD**

Get the latest on upcoming YOTS opportunities, initiatives, and events in 2 easy steps:
- Sign-up to news and events alerts at youthoffthestreets.com.au
- Follow us on social: