



# The Charities We Support

## An Initiative of the Property Industry Foundation



### **Open Family Australia in Victoria** est.1978

Established for 30 years, Open Family Australia has been working with some of Australia's most marginalised youth – many homeless and drug addicted. Their mission is to improve the well-being and self-worth of alienated and excluded street children through unconditional support, with the view to reconnecting them with the community.

They believe many of the young people's problems are not always self-inflicted as many of them come from low socio-economic backgrounds and broken-down families, often third and fourth generation unemployed.

They have operations throughout Melbourne, the Bellarine Peninsula and North East Victoria; as well as in Canberra and Sydney.

#### **How do they help youth homelessness and young people at risk?**

Open Family's team of 25 Youth Outreach Specialists work closely with disadvantaged young people, providing them with unconditional support and linking them to services such as; housing, drug and alcohol programs, education, employment, health agencies, legal assistance and counselling.

#### **What is PIF helping to fund?**

The Property Industry Foundation in Victoria will contribute to Open Family's outreach services program in Melbourne. The donations will assist young people who suffer homelessness, poor health, disenfranchisement from education, unemployment, physical or sexual abuse and drug/alcohol abuse.

The funding will assist their outreach workers to help young people with legal issues, food vouchers, legal services stable accommodation, education services and recreational activities – all in an effort to increase self-esteem and maintain a positive peer support network, and non-judgmental support.

#### **Why did PIF believe that the project needed funding assistance?**

The commitment was based on the existing relationship with the Property Industry Foundation, together with Open Family's proven track record of success in making tangible difference to the lives of street youth.

With the current economic crisis with less corporate and government funding available, as well more young people turning to the streets in Melbourne, Open Family needs extra support. The Foundation has committed to donating \$372, 000 over three years, and has already donated \$190,000 to their Victorian operation.