



**MEDIA RELEASE - IMMEDIATE**

**7<sup>TH</sup> May 08**

**TEENAGE VOLUNTEERS ACKNOWLEDGED**

During National volunteer week 2008, Interchange Outer East will acknowledge the contribution Mater Christi College students are making to their local community.

Last year in August after Interchange Outer East Volunteer Coordinator, Tara Cantwell, spoke at school assembly, over 100 students signed up to be volunteers. This proved to be the biggest school sign up in the history of Interchange.

“The teenagers certainly disprove the commonly held belief that all teens are lazy, drunken louts – these young women are generous, enthusiastic and caring.” said Tara

“We consider this a win win situation. Interchange gets to utilise the talents of some amazing young people and through volunteering these teenagers get the opportunity to develop a maturity and an insight to the world, that will change not only their own lives, but has the potential to impact their whole community.”

State Member for Ferntree Gully, Nick Wakeling said “It’s great that a local organisation has an incredible volunteer program that welcomes teenagers. It is very heartening to see that students from Mater Christi have been able to provide such valuable assistance to both the staff and clients at Interchange.

The relationship between Mater Christi and Interchange Outer East has a long history. Students and ex students from Mater Christi have been volunteering with Interchange for over 16 years.

Interchange Outer East provides opportunities to volunteer with children with disabilities on weekend and school holidays. For more information please contact Interchange Outer East on (03) 9758 5522 or check the website [www.ioe.org.au](http://www.ioe.org.au)

***For more information on this release or for photo opportunities, please contact  
Sandra Leehy  
Publicity  
Interchange Outer East  
Ph. 9752 6502 0409 353 604 [sandra.leehy@ioe.org.au](mailto:sandra.leehy@ioe.org.au)***