



MEDIA RELEASE

21ST April 2011

National Volunteer Week 2011

Community organisation Interchange Outer East will acknowledge local teenage volunteers during National Volunteer Week 9-15 May, 2011.

Interchange Outer East will present Belgrave's Mater Christi College with a plaque to acknowledge the contribution their students have made to the community through the Interchange Outer East volunteer program.

Interchange Outer East teenage volunteer and Mater Christi student Meaghan Finlayson said "I love going on camp with the kids, I don't know who has more fun them or me. It's such a great way to spend the weekend or holidays and makes me feel good knowing I'm giving a little back to my community as well.

Neither Mater Christi College nor Interchange Outer East can remember when their relationship began but it probably goes back to around 1989 when Interchange Outer East started using volunteers from the age of 14.

During this year's school holiday program in January, 135 volunteers were matched to 137 children with disabilities providing fun, supervision and support on camps and day activities. The energetic teenagers contributed 9,494 hours over the holiday period, enabling Interchange Outer East to provide high quality services to more children than if they did not use volunteers.

Interchange Outer East Volunteer Coordinator and former Mater Christi student, Kimberley Hannett said, "Teenagers often get a bad wrap but what we see are inspiring young people providing opportunities for others to get involved in fun activities and new experiences."

"Volunteers are an integral part of the service we provide, without them we would struggle to provide the amount of quality services we do to the 850 families accessing our programs. We ensure our volunteers have ongoing access to training and development and that they know we appreciate them and will support them to be the best they can be." said Kimberley Hannett.

Interchange Outer East will acknowledge all recreation volunteers during National Volunteer Week giving them a little gift that shows they are appreciated.

You do not need any experience to volunteer with Interchange, so if you are over 14 years of age and would like to find out more please call Emma Kay on (03) 9758 5522 or email emma.kay@ioe.org.au

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For more information about this release or to arrange photo opportunities (Mater Christi presentation date still to be confirmed) please contact:

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Publicity

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