



MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE

27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2013

**SPREADING THE YOUTH VOLUNTEER MESSAGE**

Interchange Outer East's expertise in the area of Youth Volunteering is widely acknowledged.

In early September, Interchange's Volunteer Coordinators, Jess Van Arendonk and Marcelo Calderon, will be taking their message to the nation at the 15<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Volunteering to be held in Adelaide on 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Their presentation is entitled *Influencing Our Future Leaders*, and they will talk about creating a stronger community by recruiting and nurturing youth volunteers.

Interchange Outer East utilises volunteers to assist with the running of many of its recreation programs and services. It has been growing and strengthening its volunteering program for over twenty years, with particular emphasis on recruiting youth from the age of 14 years. This concentration on volunteering at this young age, is what sets Interchange apart from other volunteer based community organisations.

The tone of Jess's and Marcelo's presentation will be based on Interchange Outer East's belief that by recruiting young people to volunteer and exposing them to values, such as inclusion, acceptance and responsibility, and teaching them skills to support others, we are playing a part in nurturing them as responsible, caring and compassionate future community leaders.

Their presentation will explore: who these young volunteers are and where they come from; what happens to them after volunteering: how organisations can engage and keep engaged young people; the benefits to organisations and the wider community. They hope their presentation will inspire other conference delegates to take a fresh look at the role and benefits of youth in volunteering, and encourage young people to use their skills and values to be positive mentors and role models to others.

Both Jess and Marcelo are very excited and nervous about this great opportunity to present nationally at this important conference.

"We feel that the ability to use youth volunteer energy and enthusiasm complements our Interchange programs" said Marcelo "We have both attended other conferences in the past but have never presented. We look forward to hearing from others in the field and to bringing back any new ideas to develop and enhance our own volunteer program."

"Our invitation to present at the conference is a recognition of the contribution Interchange Outer East has made in the area of volunteering."

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For more information about this release or to organise interviews or photos, please contact Sandra Leehy

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