

Plea for mentors to give hope to troubled boys

ANNA PRICE

As many as 14 Christchurch boys are waiting for more good keen men in Pillars' flourishing mentoring scheme to bring fresh hope to those with a parent in prison.

Candidates must be at least 18 years old and have a full driver's licence.

Some 37 mentors, men and women, are currently matched in the scheme.

New recruits would join a pool of mentors from a wide community spectrum including lawyers, accountants, construction workers, teachers and students.

Mentoring co-ordinator Georgia Leggat said the rewards could not be underestimated.

"One mother told me her young son had been very anxious and worried his dad was in jail, and the child hadn't been sleeping well.

"Since he's had a mentor, he's sleeping a lot better, is less anxious and really looks forward to time with him."

Mentors are police-vetted and go through a process of interviews and training to prepare them for anything that may come up.

"They can take the boys home, we encourage one-on-one, or just

go out and kick a ball around, walk in the hills, go to the beach, go rock climbing, or the movies, go fishing, feed the ducks, play Lego. They enjoy seeing the kids opening up."

One boy did not smile or engage with his mentor at first, "so the first smile was a real highlight".

Pillars looks for a commitment of at least a year for only 2 to 6

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Georgia Leggat
Mentoring co-ordinator

hours per two weeks.

"Most important is that mentors are there to encourage and be a positive role model," Leggat said.

Men or women with a heart for the work are encouraged to stay committed for longer than a year to call out the potential of the young people, and "demonstrate a way of life different to what they've observed in their own homes".

"To give the security of having



Georgia Leggat, Pillars mentoring co-ordinator.

an adult male in their lives, some one they trust and who shows up consistently and doesn't let them down, is huge," Leggat said.

Once a month, mentors turn up to a supervision session she co-ordinates.

Those interested can call Pillars on 377 3990 or email georgia.leggat@pillars.org.nz



Canterbury Earthquake National Memorial
Whakamaharatanga o te Motu mō te Rū o Waitaha

UPDATE

A place to reflect, remember and pay respect

The Canterbury Earthquake National Memorial will provide a place to reflect on the events that changed Canterbury forever, paying respect to the 185 people who lost their lives as a result of the earthquake on 22 February 2011. It will also acknowledge the shared experience of the Canterbury community and recognise the huge support received from the many organisations that assisted with the recovery operation.

The site of the Memorial is on a stretch of the Ōtākaro/Avon River between Montreal Street and Rhododendron Island. The site covers both banks of the

river - The Memorial Wall on the south bank and a reflective space on the north bank.

The north bank was completed for 22 February, on the fifth anniversary of the Christchurch earthquake. This peaceful space, with established trees and a curved seat along the path edge, invites visitors to sit, take a stroll closer to the river's edge and privately reflect. From here, visitors can also watch the construction of the Memorial Wall on the other side of the river, and will enjoy a great view of the Wall from this space, once complete. ■



View of the completed reflective space on the Memorial north bank, looking west toward Montreal Street.

Memorial designer - Grega Vezjak

Following the anonymous Call for Ideas to Remember process, Grega Vezjak's Memorial Wall design was selected in May 2015 for the Canterbury Earthquake National Memorial.

Grega lives in Bilje, Slovenia with his wife and three children.

He studied architecture at Ljubljana University, and acknowledges the beauty of the city and the works of Slovenian architects which have all contributed to his architectural style. Grega's work has won numerous design and architecture awards, both locally and internationally.

Grega is honoured his design was selected for the Memorial. From Bilje, and during his frequent visits to Christchurch, Grega is working with a

wide range of people including bereaved families, the seriously injured, first responders and the Memorial project team to finalise his vision for The Memorial Wall. ■



Memorial Wall designer

Tribute through design

A large number of individuals and organisations including bereaved family members, the seriously injured, first responder organisations, embassies, Christchurch City Council and Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu were involved in the process which lead to the selection of The Memorial Wall design.

Further work is now taking place on the finer design detail, including how acknowledgement of the seriously injured and first responders, the experience and loss to the community, and events that occurred on 22 February 2011 will be expressed at the site.

A comprehensive process is also underway to ensure the names of the 185 people who lost their lives in the earthquake will be arranged in a way that is meaningful to their loved ones. The names will be inscribed into the stone of The Memorial Wall.

Construction of the Wall is due to begin within the coming month and will be ready for official dedication on 22 February 2017. This day will mark the completion of an important memorial for all those touched by the 22 February 2011 Christchurch earthquake. ■

CERA

Christchurch City Council

Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu



For more information and to view the Memorial Wall animated fly-through ccdu.govt.nz/eqm