

# Letters of Support for Youth & Community Centre Proposal

1. Peter Beck Christchurch City Council Counsellor
2. Lianne Dalziel MP for Christchurch East
3. Glen Livingstone Christchurch City Council Counsellor
4. John Harrington Canterbury Youth Workers Collective
5. Sylvia Smyth Christchurch City Council Advisor
6. Linda Stewart Chairperson Burwood Pegasus Board
7. Paul Zaanen New Brighton Business & Landowners Association
8. Natasha Graham Compassion Trust
9. Kate Ogden New Brighton Library Manager
10. Rebecca May Renew Brighton
11. Peter Burley Rawhiti Community Sports Inc
12. Jay Geldard 24-7 Youthwork Trust

21 February 2013

To whom it may concern

**Youth Alive Trust - Youth Centre Proposal**

I am a City Councillor for the Burwood Pegasus Ward representing the area most damaged by the earthquakes. As well as the physical damage and loss of community facilities, the emotional trauma experienced by so many of all ages and the social issues which have been exacerbated by the quakes, continue to be a serious concern. The impact on young people has been profound. At the same time there is considerable energy within the community to deal with the underlying social issues and to increase the well being and health of all the people of our ward.

The Youth Alive Trust has since 1989 been at the forefront of youth work in New Brighton and surrounding area. The annual report records a truly encouraging success story which has grown over the years. My personal experience of the work of the Trust, the quality of the leadership and the inclusive values that guide it, has demonstrated to me at first hand the very worthwhile work of the Trust and its staff.

The Trust plays a most valuable role in our community. I am most impressed with the proposals for the development of the Youth Centre and see these as adding even more value to the work of the Trust and the on-going growth and development of young people.

I do encourage those who are invited to support the proposal to give it your most positive consideration. I can be contacted for any further information on 021 6554445 or [peter.beck@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:peter.beck@ccc.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely



**Peter Beck**  
**Christchurch City Councillor**  
**Burwood Pegasus Ward**



## **Lianne DALZIEL**

MP for Christchurch East

Spokesperson for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

Spokesperson for Civil Defence and Emergency Management

Spokesperson for Earthquake Commission

Spokesperson for Consumer Rights and Standards

Associate Spokesperson for Justice

4 March 2013

### **To Whom It May Concern**

I am writing to you in support of the Youth Alive Trust's application for funding. The Youth Alive Trust was established in 1989 to serve children and young people in New Brighton, Christchurch. Members of the Church had a commission to serve children and young people in their community through a "practical Christian service".

The dedicated staff and their faithful & enthusiastic volunteers make the Youth Alive Trust programmes an exciting, vibrant and healthy place to be by running a variety of programmes for young people.

Some of the many programmes organised by the Youth Alive Trust are the "Safer Streets Programmes", which offer weekly activities full of fun and challenges, outings and team building exercises, "Holiday Programmes" which are CYF and Oscar affiliated and covering year 1 – 13. They also hold various camps, which involve a weekend away or overnight stays'. They have "Library Support" where they have a contract with the Christchurch City Council to place youth leaders in New Brighton Library every day and after school, on weekends & school holidays.

The Youth Alive Trust also offer "Youth Leader Training and Support" attracting, training and building-up volunteers to work in their community has been one of Youth Alive Trust's biggest strengths. Seeing young people striving for responsibility, then becoming junior leaders, and then sometimes staff members is an awesome privilege. Volunteers are placed on different Safer Street Programmes

They hold "Community Events" where they support local big events and work with partners such as Christchurch City Council on events like "I Heart New Brighton", South & North Beach Blasts, The Thomson Park Skate Jam and other youth initiatives. They organise an annual "Family Fun Night" on 31st October yearly, an annual EPIC Dance Party for local intermediates and also host dance groups, bands, speakers, and partner with groups such as Wynton Rufers Wynrs.

The Youth Alive Trust has made a very positive contribution to the local community in so many ways by helping so many youth in the area and wider city region. I believe the Youth Alive Trust can make further progress by adding a purpose built youth and community facility so they can expand to further accommodate the current needs of youth in this area.

I fully support the Youth Alive Trust in this application for funding. If you wish to speak to me personally regarding this funding application please do not hesitate to contact me via my Electorate Office on (03) 382 0288.

Yours sincerely

**Lianne Dalziel**  
**Member of Parliament for Christchurch East**



1 March 2013

**Re: Youth Alive Trust**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in relation to the Youth Alive Trust and their seeking funding for an extension to their facilities.

The trust, through James Ridpath, has continued to provide a valuable service to the community prior to, during and following the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes.

They have been an invaluable part of the social infra-structure of New Brighton and the surrounding community. Immediately following the earthquakes in New Brighton, Bexley and surrounding areas, the Trust swung into action, adding to its already busy programme, recognising it had an important role to play in providing routine and care for young people amidst social chaos. The Trust was an integral part of literally feeding and resourcing the community in tandem with the neighbouring New Brighton Police, local elected members and volunteers at the Roy Stokes Hall. For their work, the trust received a Civic Award.

Now, as the community begins to recover, an emerging social need according to CERA surveys is a desire for community facilities. Further funding for the Trust will enable them to expand on their work and go some way towards meeting this need. The Youth Alive Trust literally brings most of the traffic into New Brighton now, with parking regularly full outside their community centre. Many community meetings are held on their premises and they are an essential part of the 'glue' of the community.

I commend their work to you and fully support any funding application to extend their premises to enable them to assist this community, of which the East of Christchurch has been the hardest hit, in its recovery.

Kind regards

Glenn Livingstone  
City Councillor  
Burwood/Pegasus  
Christchurch

February 20<sup>th</sup> 2013.



To whom it may concern

Youth Alive Trust has been a member of the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective since 1999. They have been and still are a very significant youth service in the New Brighton area.

They provide Youth Work support to the local schools in the area and the library plus run many after school activities including holiday programmes and camps. Their venue is used extensively for a variety of activities.

They have grown out of their venue to meet the needs of the activities they run for young people. It is imperative for them to be able to sustain their growth to do this they need to expand their current youth space. The new space will be able to be inclusive to a variety of groups so it can be used 7 days per week with large range of different activities meeting the needs of children and young people, plus others who can use the various meeting rooms and community spaces.

The Canterbury Youth Workers Collective endorses any funding sought for the expansion of their youth venue as Youth Alive Trust play such an integral part in the positive development of young people in the New Brighton area.

Yours faithfully

John Harrington  
Coordinator

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+ 64 (0)3 377 8080 | Email:  
john@cantyouthworks.co.nz |  
Website: www.cywc.org.nz

25 February 2013

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

I am writing in support of the Youth Alive Trust, who provides a valuable source of recreation, guidance and support for scores of young people from East Christchurch.

In my role as a Strengthening Communities Advisor in New Brighton, I have seen Youth Alive staff and volunteers active in a number of different ways throughout the Brighton community. Their professionalism, enthusiasm and genuine care for the young people of the East is always very evident.

My association with this organisation has always been very positive and I am very impressed with the commitment that the Trust demonstrates to the local community.

Their Manager, James Ridpath, actively participates in local network activities which indicates a genuine desire to work alongside other agencies.

I wish this group well in their work.

Yours sincerely,



Sylvia Smyth  
**STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES ADVISER**  
BURWOOD/ PEGASUS WARD



3 March 2013

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing in my capacity as Chairperson of Burwood Pegasus Community Board.

Youth Alive Trust based at Grace Vineyard Church, Beach Campass at New Brighton are seeking funds to renovate and expand their current building to upgrade the services they provide. I have read their funding proposal and fully support their intentions to meet the needs of area.

In the Aranui, Bexley and New Brighton areas the need for support is very high. Post-earthquake support for this district which includes a large area of residential red zoning and TC3 land designation mean that communities are struggling to cope with life. This is an ongoing concern for these communities.

Youth Alive Trust are pivotal providers of activities that support these communities in a meaningful and practical manner.

The Community Board is hold Youth Alive Trust's activities in the community in the highest regard and fully support this funding request.

Yours faithfully



Linda Stewart  
Chairperson

# NEW BRIGHTON BUSINESS AND LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION

✉ newbrightonba@gmail.com ☎ 022 105 3118



7<sup>th</sup> March 2013

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Letter of support for Youth Alive Trust**

We have been working with Youth Alive Trust in a series of ventures and youth programs in New Brighton, we have been impressed at the level of commitment that they shown towards our youth and community in New Brighton.

We would like to show our support to Youth Alive Trust in their endeavour to seek further funding; we believe that they are an invaluable asset to our youth and to our community as a whole. They have been operating for over twenty years in our community and have always provided great service.

The Trust runs a variety of events, workshops and group sessions for our youth in this suburb and I cannot emphasis how much this is appreciated by the community as a whole, the New Brighton Business and Landowners Association would like to show our commitment and support by assisting where we can and ensuring a great working relationship exists between our organisations to help with our youth and community.

We can only wish the best for Youth Alive Trust and if you seek any further reference or information please do not hesitate to make contact.

Kind Regards

Paul Zaanen

Manager NBBLA





## **Compassion Trust and Their Involvement With The Youth and Community Centre.**

Compassion Trust has a free budget advice service which caters for all ages and ethnic groups. We aim is to embrace, equip and empower our community.

Compassion Trust Budget Advice regularly assists clients requiring help with:

- Addressing financial issues relating to a lack of accommodation, being advocates for housing New Zealand, Christchurch City Council and private landlords.
- Relationships strains, post quake separation, clients under extreme financial stress while managing their families too.
- Providing limited food assistance and employment solutions for seekers.

We are the only locally based budget advice service and in collaborating with local agencies, Compassion Trust has gained the capacity to provide a wrap around service which ensures the best possible outcome for our clients.

Commonly we act as advocates for our clients, ensuring they have access to all that is available in their current situation and growing their confidence to want for a better future for their families. We are not duplicating services but meeting a public need, we have taken over an existing service which had its own clients, wait list and proven success.

Compassion Trust Budget Advice has a successful referral system in place with our local WINZ office. This means we are better equipped to be inclusive of our community people including the most poor and disadvantaged families in New Brighton area.

Many residents in the poorer eastern suburbs of Christchurch feel isolated with housing and businesses being demolished around them, the immediate population in decline and the need for assistance with everyday living has increased.

Our volunteer base means that our community have this service available to them without having to travel (many can't afford the costs) or join a month long waiting list. In as many ways as possible we are helping to fight the social exclusion evident with those living in poverty, illness or isolation.

The budget advice service is co-ordinated by two part time staff and a team of trained volunteers dedicated to journeying with their clients. We have seen 70 clients, many for more than one consultation since opening the doors in October 2012.

With rapid growth and successful outcomes, we are planning to recruit/train another team of volunteers over the next eight weeks, this should help with the increased demand for our service. A very real threat to Compassion Trust is the loss of office space which could prevent further growth and comprise this service and so our focus now turns to sustainability.

We want to serve our community during the ongoing ripple effect of this natural disaster, and assist them to live in our economy which continues to suffer in the wake of it. We would prefer our office space to remain close to Youth Alive Trust as in many ways our work crosses over.

As the support to our region dissipates, Compassion Trust Budget Advice is committed to the long term support of the young people in the New Brighton and greater area. We hope to continue working alongside the families already involved with Youth Alive Trust and maintain our capacity for expansion.

Our need for separate office space and consultation rooms is due to confidentiality and privacy, it also allows multi use of the space with a team of volunteers and the ability to accommodate the clients as needed. The main office area will be utilised by staff for the purposes of administration, recruitment, training and fundraising.

Budget and debt management maybe the core of what we do, but the problems will not be solved until we can address the issues that surround it. This is why our goals also sit around the bigger picture of social change and improved capacity our vision coincides with that of The Youth Alive Trust.

Compassion Trust and Youth Alive Trust work together by actively seeking to reach and engage disadvantaged families, assisting them to reach their full potential and improve the families' capacity. Compassion Trust does this by teaching clients to live within their means while educating/addressing debts and the surrounding issues. Youth Alive Trust by supporting the children of these families with various programmes and resources.

**Natasha Graham**

**Trust Co-ordinator**



**Grace Vineyard Church**

**111 Seaview Road, New Brighton**

**PO Box 12006, Christchurch 8242**



To Whom It May Concern:

Staff at the New Brighton Library have enjoyed a long and successful working relationship with Youth Alive Trust. Their role in the library has been to engage with young adults to proactively prevent trouble and help ensure a positive library experience for both the youth themselves and other customers.

I would describe them as committed to the ongoing good of the wider New Brighton community and particularly to the youth of the area as demonstrated by their efforts following the Christchurch earthquakes and the programmes they run both at their premises in New Brighton and in the local schools.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Ogden

Team Leader  
New Brighton/Parklands/Aranui Libraries  
Christchurch City Council  
Christchurch

DDI: 03 941 7781





Renew Brighton  
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Youth Alive Trust  
James Ridpath

RE: Letter of Support,

Dear James,

It is with absolute pleasure that I have the opportunity to write a letter of support for Youth Alive Trust and the proposed Youth Centre refurbishment in New Brighton.

As the Feasibility Study suggests, Youth Alive Trust are the most significant providers of youth programs and services in New Brighton. The recommendations of the Study would be of huge benefit to the youth in our community, especially with Youth Alive Trust at the helm.

Renew Brighton values community development, inter-agency partnerships and positive youth engagement, all of which would be realised with the development of this Centre.

I wish you luck and would welcome the opportunity to work alongside you at any occasion.

Nga mihi,  
Rebecca May  
Community Co-ordinator  
Renew Brighton



25 February 2013

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This statement is in support of the Proposal by the Youth Alive Trust to renovate their current building to upgrade the youth gym/sandpit, youth lounge, an updated crèche and outdoor play area, budget advice center, music practice room, youth worker offices and a multi-agency office.

Rawhiti Community Sport Inc is a sport partnership organisation representing five sports clubs in the New Brighton area with membership in excess of 2000 members.

We have been following the progress of the proposed developments by YAT and fully support the direction they have taken to focus on new and innovative activity space and support services for young people. We see the need for quality facilities and have our own plans to develop improved infrastructure for sport and recreation for our clubs, ancillary sport and physical activity programs.

Our two organisations have worked together in the past and we as an organisation would welcome the opportunity to connect with YAT and potentially utilise some of these spaces (particularly the proposed youth gym/sandpit) for some of our community based activity programs.

We believe this is a worthwhile initiative by an organization that has a long history of delivery to youth and we would encourage funders to support it.

Peter Burley

Chairperson  
RCSI Board



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01/02/2013

**To whom it may concern**

On behalf of the **24-7 YouthWork** I would like to commend the work of **Youth Alive Trust** who have been providing a holistic wrap-around support for the young people in the New Brighton / Aranui area.

Youth Alive Trust have been a part of the 24-7 YouthWork Network for the last five years and I have been impressed at the high standard of youth work service they provide, especially in schools.

Youth Alive is built on creating a place of belonging, which is safe and engaging for the young people. They have been leading the way with youth work in Christchurch for more than 20 years and I look forward to hearing many more stories of transformation in the lives of young people through their good work.

I have no hesitation in putting forward my recommendation and support for Youth Alive Trust and the work they are doing. James and the team do a fantastic job and are seeing some astonishing results in the lives of the young people

Yours faithfully

Jay Geldard  
Network Coordinator

**Being Local – Staying Committed**