

NEWS – December 2009

Sammy D Foundation

As we move into 2010 the foundation is really excited about the direction we have chosen to take and our plans for the future. I'll take this opportunity to fill you in on our activities over the past few months and the steps we are taking to ensure that the foundation has a sound future.

Our planned programs for the following year have been clearly defined now and a lot of work is going into the policies which will underpin their operations. We have done a lot of research into the areas of youth violence, youth offending, recidivism and victims of crime. Young people are not only at risk of offending but are at extremely high risk of becoming victims of violent crime which necessitates education and awareness. Our 3 programs will aim to prevent young people being involved in these events either as offenders or as victims.

SAMMY D IMPACT

Sam's story is presented and there is a focus on the prevention of this from occurring again in the community. There are themes of anti-bullying, communication, respect, mateship and harm prevention. These presentations are aimed at young people of any age, adults, carers and anyone who is involved with youth in the community. School presentations have follow up lesson plans available for teachers to use and reinforce the themes.

Presentations have been given to at risk youth, a wide range of youth workers, community groups and as part of the school curriculum. Feedback has been excellent and we are looking

forward to increasing the frequency of our presentations.

SAMMY D CONNECT

We are preparing to launch this program which will provide mentoring and support to young people who are disadvantaged, disengaged or at risk. This mentoring will be provided as part of a program which engages these young people in activities aimed at moving focus from harmful behavior to productive community involvement. Areas of activity include sport, music and arts.

PARTYWISE

We are using the incidents which occurred the night that Sam died along with research and information provided by concerned community members to educate young people and the community about the risks that parties may pose. We want parties to be what they intended, full of fun, laughter and happy memories. Not tragedy. A play will be performed during youth week which is an interpretation of the party and its problems. The play is interactive and provides the audience with opportunity to make choices which will dictate the outcome.

During the past few months we have also been busy working on policies and procedures which will set a solid base for the foundation in terms of business practice and longevity.

At our AGM in November Alex Burrows stood down as a member of our executive. He will continue to assist the foundation with our contacts in the football community. We thank

Alex for his assistance in establishing the foundation. Peter Hislop joined our team. Peter, a JP, has an extensive history in banking and junior football in South Australia. The Annual report will be posted on our website in the New Year. Copies are available if you email us.

We have also had a number of people offer to help us with areas of the foundation including teachers, politicians, accountant, university lecturer and community and business leaders. Many of these people make up an advisory team who assist us with policy and programs. Profiles and photos will be seen soon on our website.

We are continuing to add pages and information to our website so check it out. Stay tuned for a calendar that will be appearing soon. An online calendar will ensure that you all are able check our activities any time you want to and check for dates that would suit you for us to come and present at your school, sporting club, community centre or workplace.

Our success in obtaining a volunteer and youth week grant has been reward for hard work. We will be using the volunteer grant to purchase items that will cater for the needs of volunteers and the youth week grant will contribute toward the Partywise play.

2010 will be a big year for our programs and we are looking forward to their success. We will continue to combine fundraising events with harm prevention awareness. Currently we are planning Rox On at HQ Feb 26th to raise funds for the connect program at Happy Valley Football club. The Connect program will include a driver awareness campaign. Dan Wilde lost his life this year in a car accident. He was a much loved brother, son and friend who played

football at the club. He knew Sam and was a supporter of the foundation. His family has constantly been in our thoughts.

On a personal note, thank you for your support throughout what has been a very difficult year. We have managed to maintain momentum and plan steadily for the future because of your faith and support. Please contact us if there are any areas which you may be able to help with or if you would like further information. Have a safe holiday season and make your New Year resolutions count!

Huggzzzzz

Nat and Neil