

Key fundraiser for public to help homeless youth

By FREYJA
POSTLETHWAITE

SUPPORTING young people without a safe place to call home is the main aim for North East Support and Action for Youth (NESAY) staff.

NESAY will hold a fundraiser in support of young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless at 1 Stop Driving School at 23 Racecourse Road from 11am on Thursday, October 26.

The organisation has partnered with 1 Stop Driving School Wangaratta, who donated a forklift licence to be raffled off as part of the fundraiser.

People can purchase key tags for \$20 from NESAY to go in the draw to win the licence, which will be exchanged for keys at 12.30pm on the day.

The attendee whose key

unlocks a padlock attached to a forklift will be awarded with the licence, and the key tag purchaser or a representative must be present on the day to participate.

A barbecue lunch is available for a gold coin donation.

The fundraiser aims to target a different audience, including people working in or hoping to enter industrial or trades positions.

NESAY community engagement services manager Joy Ware said money raised would be used to support young people in need until they are back on their feet.

"We have had fundraising activities in the past that have helped us provide important goods for young people that often aren't covered by government funding," she said.

"With the funds raised we

can look at individual needs and purchase things like food, clothing, pharmaceutical goods and different other needs.

"Our office is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and anybody can come in to see reception staff to purchase a key tag."

Three main factors identified to be contributing toward youth homelessness in Wangaratta include unaffordable and limited housing, family violence and family and relationship breakdown.

NESAY offers a range of programs to support young people, between the ages of 15 and 25, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

More than 150 young people have received individual support in the past year.

For more details contact NESAY on (03) 5720 2201.



HELPING HANDS: NESAY staff (back, from left) Marc Cowan, Cas Sampson; (front) Amanda Beach, Kristy Styles and Joy Ware are grateful to 1 Stop Driving School for donating the forklift licence to allow them to coordinate the fundraiser.

PHOTO: Emma Hillier