



Lord Mayor's Community Trust

Supporting Brisbane's Charities

Trust supports young mothers

Mums and babies will soon be able to obtain the vital care and education at Sunnybank's Southside Parenting Centre and Crèche more easily, thanks to a \$50,000 major grant donation from Lady Mayoress Lisa Newman.

The Lady Mayoress, Chair of the Lord Mayor's Community Trust, has presented \$50,000 to volunteer organisation Searchlight Inc to help purchase a passenger bus.

"Searchlight is a great organisation staffed by volunteers who want to help improve the lives of disadvantaged young women," Mrs Newman said.

"The funds toward the bus will not only cover the purchase, but also the fitting of child safety seats.

"Searchlight wants to enable at-risk young women without their own transport to continue their high school education, by getting easily to and from Southside."

The Lady Mayoress said each year the Lord Mayor's Community Trust allocated major grants to Brisbane's charities.

"We focus particularly on prevention and support services for people who are homeless, suffering mental illness or disability; or services for drug or alcohol trauma.

"Our major grant giving program is all about seeking out smaller charities that are doing amazing work to directly help people in need, and committing to supporting them through the donation of major sums of money."

Mrs Newman said the Trust recognised the bus would be crucial to the success of Searchlight, and its bid to help young mothers finish their high school education.

"Having a high school education will stand these mothers in good stead to get jobs and ultimately be more financially independent," she said.

"Escorting the mothers to the school also has the advantage of bringing them directly into contact with the resident doctor, who can guide the mother on childcare practice and nutritional advice to improve the health of the baby.

"I'm happy we could support these young mothers through Searchlight and I wish them the very best for their ongoing education."

[Ends] June 08, 2009