

Monday 24 November 2008

Galilee thanks Trinity students for helping Canberra families

Canberra children who live in out-of-home care can now meet their parents in a more home-like environment thanks to the volunteer work carried out by Trinity Christian School students for Galilee, to be revealed at a ceremony tomorrow (*Tuesday 25 November*).

Twenty-one students from a year 9/10 textile class at Trinity chose to makeover the Galilee portable building, located at The Galilee School in Kambah as a community minded, volunteer program.

On weekends and out of school hours, the students gave their time to clean, paint and redecorate the room, which enables Galilee to host supervised contact meetings between children in foster care and their parents.

"Thanks to the great work of these girls, Galilee's children and young people can now meet with their parents in a home-like, relaxed setting," Galilee Family Placement Scheme Manager Judi Whiteman said.

"In the two to three hours of supervised contact that children have to catch up with their parents, we want them to be able to relax and be in a normal environment. Sometimes, the child in care is a baby who needs to have a sleep. We can now accommodate that in this space."

Ms Whiteman said she hoped the students gained an understanding that not all children have easy lives, and that foster carers play a very important role in any community.

"I think it's really exciting that these girls have made this commitment to help others in the Canberra community and Galilee is grateful for their work," Ms Whiteman said.

Galilee has provided flexible, quality care to Canberra's children and young people for more than 20 years. Galilee Foster Care helps to place babies, children and young people with committed foster care families throughout the ACT when their families temporarily or permanently are not able to care for them.

Ends...

Media are invited to attend a special ceremony to thank the 21 Trinity students for their efforts at The Galilee School on Tuesday 25 November from 12-1pm.

On Thursday 27 November, Galilee will officially launch the Galilee Christmas Appeal to raise much needed funds for The Galilee School and to call for more foster carers. Donors or potential new foster carers should call Galilee on 6290 2191 or visit www.galilee.org.au