Volunteer Information sheet

There are numerous ways that you can assist Brahminy at present.

But first who is Brahminy and what do we do. Allan and Tash Brahminy opened a facility, their home, on a large remote property in a secret location in the Northern Territory. It is their passion and drive that makes it work. Allan became a street kid in Sydney at a very young age after being removed from his happy adoptive indigenous family. His non indigenous mother abandoned him on a river bank and his mum Audrey, found and raised him. She named him after the Brahminy kite (bird) which means wild and free.

Allan came through his traumatic teenage years and is now determined to help Australia’s youth at risk. He says that every kid can be saved and that anything is possible. He is nothing less than inspiring, to both the kids that he takes in and to his support team and staff.

Brahminy facility takes kids between 11 and 18, coming from all backgrounds and cultures, and from all over Australia. They often come from the Juvenile Justice system and it is common for them to have criminal offences, serious anti social behaviour and addictions to illegal and volatile substances. Clients stay from 3 to 24 months, with some other shorter term early intervention programs coming soon.

The Brahminy Experience:
The facility has its own school and school teacher as education is an important part of the Brahminy experience. Clients live onsite in basic but adequate accommodation. They do not have access to computers, phones, games units or other sources of external stimulation. It is no holiday camp. Kids help out with animals, meals, cleaning and all other aspects of life. This teaches them how to look after themselves and each other.
The group dynamics are an important part of the therapeutic program. Clients are constantly supervised and individual tactics are applied to each of them. Allan’s main focus is chasing the anger within them after the traumas that they have endured. Allan believes that healing can take place after the client has reached this anger.
Then rehabilitation can commence with new social skills being encouraged. Allan also encourages the client to become a survivor and not a victim. The success rate is extremely high, with very few Brahminy clients reoffending after exiting.
The future of Brahminy:
In 2011, we anticipate at least one new facility opening in Western NSW, and perhaps a second in NT.
These again will be positioned remotely and will require building from the ground up including housing, administration block, kitchens, staff quarters, school house, animal housing, solar energy, bores etc.

ABC documentary series – Outback Kids
May 19th, 26th and June 2\textsuperscript{nd} 2011
Link to Beyond Productions website to view the trailer (2-3 minutes)


From Beyond Productions website:

‘Outback Kids follows the work of the Brahminy Group as it attempts to rehabilitate seven profoundly troubled young kids deep in the isolated Australian bush. It's a place of last-resort for chronic drug abusers, juvenile offenders, petrol-sniffers, gang members, child prostitutes and the sexually abused. Aged between twelve and sixteen, the kids are a mixture of boys and girls, black and white, rich and poor; funded both privately and by welfare departments. But what unites these kids is the severity of their problems: they are at the end of the line and this place, far from the toxic temptations and traumas of their usual lives, represents the kids' last chance of salvation.

The Brahminy Group takes its name from its founder, Allan Brahminy. Abandoned at birth, Allan was adopted by an aboriginal family, yet at the age of seven he was removed from his indigenous family by welfare authorities and placed in foster care. His troubled childhood prompted him to embark on a career helping troubled youth and he established his facility. This series follows the fortunes of seven young kids as they confront the trauma they've experienced, a trauma that Allan believes is the cause of their anti-social and life-threatening behaviour. For Allan, it is critical that each kid comes to terms with what they've suffered and become a survivor. But survival is a critical issue for the Brahminy Group, too. Mortgaged to the hilt, several blows threaten to derail the facility and the kids' chance of survival.’
Inbound calls
We anticipate receiving many hundreds of calls from distraught parents, grandparents and carers in response to the documentary and require volunteers with some counselling skills to field these calls. This would commence Friday 20th May and go through to mid June. I have one full time volunteer and require one or 2 more, full time or part time. This will be supervised and signed off for the student as placement hours for their course. We also have placements available for youth workers in the Northern Territory to work hands on with the clients. This may result in permanent employment for the right candidates.

Please contact me on 02 9560 5475 or email info@brahminyggroup.org.au for more information or to volunteer.

Many Thanks
Cath Zeltner
Office Manager
Brahminy Foundation