

Media Release

27 June 2011

Esso Highlands Limited donates K165,000 to City Mission for much-needed refurbishment

Port Moresby's City Mission is well-known for the support it provides to troubled youth throughout the city, but it was recently their turn to be on the receiving end.

On 21 June 2011, Esso Highlands Limited (EHL), operator of the PNG LNG Project, donated K165,000 for the refurbishment of City Mission's Koki headquarters to support the valuable contribution that City Mission is making to many lives in Port Moresby.

The Koki headquarters currently houses 85 young men but the facility has a bed capacity of only 40. Some of the young men sleep on mattresses on the floor while others rotate their beds so that everyone has a space. Thanks to the funding from Esso Highlands Limited, the refurbishment will improve the dorms, ablutions, lighting and roofing to provide more comfortable accommodation.

"We do a weekly intake where we interview young men who want to change their lives. We look for the people in greatest need. It's not an easy ride here – it's an opportunity," explained Pastor John Reesink, City Mission Manager. "About 40% of the young men that come here are illiterate and we provide them with literacy, numeracy and life skills training. Most of them come from abusive backgrounds and have been forced into criminal activities because they have simply had no other means to survive."

Peter Graham, Managing Director of Esso Highlands Limited, said he was impressed with the work that City Mission is doing to help vulnerable people.

"We support a number of programs around the world that assist women and youth at risk, and I'm pleased to be able to provide this donation to improve the facilities here at Koki. I'm overwhelmed by the great work being done here and I look forward to seeing the results of the refurbishment once it is complete. It's my hope that the improvements provide a better place for City Mission to operate in, and allow them to continue their work," he said.

Pastor John said that the work of the Mission only gets done through the support of funds and initiatives such as those provided by Esso Highlands Limited.

City Mission was established in 1993 with the objective of providing physical, emotional and spiritual support to young men in Port Moresby. As well as the headquarters at Koki, City Mission has Haus Ruth at Ela Beach which serves as a crisis centre for women and children, and Mirigeda Farm which serves as a second-chance home for young men.

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