



New Zealand
Programme

Small Grants Fund Recipient, 2006

Pillars Inc., Christchurch

Grant: \$1800.00 (plus GST).

PILLARS is an independent community based not for profit social service organisation offering comprehensive professional assistance to prisoners, their families and their children. PILLARS started in 1988 with a group of 12 women who wanted skills to keep their family members out of prison for good. The organisation seeks to empower offenders and their families/whanau to cope with their own circumstances and take charge of their own lives. Pillars endeavours to make our society free from fear of crime.

Funding from the Small Grants Fund will go towards the production of 100 copies of a mentoring guide to assist mentors to appropriately support children of prisoners who are involved with the Pillars Promise Children Mentoring Programme. The children of prisoners will benefit from receiving guidance from well trained mentors who are able to identify their areas of conflict; boost the children's self esteem; support them to get an education and trade or professional training.

According to Pillars, it is estimated that 800 children in Christchurch have a parent who is currently in prison. Save the Children is happy to support the Pillars Promise Children Mentoring Programme's efforts to minimise the risk of children of prisoners "following in the footsteps of their parents". In the spirit of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child this project reaches out to often marginalised children, challenges discrimination and advocates for the rights of children of prisoners.