

United Way helps youth

MICHAELA FARRINGTON

A LOCAL program helping disadvantaged young people from diverse cultural backgrounds achieve their dreams of finding work, got a \$10,000 boost yesterday. United Way donated the money to the YES2 program, which is helping 11 young unemployed people from migrant, refugee and indigenous backgrounds learn leadership skills and secure apprenticeships with Skilled Engineering.

The program is run by Victoria Police, Barwon Youth, Diversitat and emergency services.

The 11 young people involved in the initiative have already completed a three-day camp and first aid certificates.

In December, six participants from Sudanese, Cambodian, Vietnamese and Koori backgrounds will sail from Port Lincoln in South Australia on tallship *Young Endeavour* for an 11-day voyage. They will reach Geelong on December 10.

Barwon Youth executive director Shane Murphy said the program had been a huge success, helping the young participants prepare for apprenticeships, which commence next year.

But Mr Murphy said each voyage on the *Young Endeavour* cost \$5000 per head, and more money was needed to keep the program.

People, agencies or companies interested in sponsoring the program can call Shane Murphy at Barwon Youth on 5221 4466.

Taking on a challenge with plenty of endeavour

Rebecca Adam

A UNIQUE program is giving a group of young Geelong men the chance to snare an apprenticeship, develop lifesaving skills and experience adventure on the high seas.

The Young Endeavour Scheme for Youth and Emergency Services program, also known as the YES2 program, is giving 11 men from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds the opportunity to boost their employment opportunities by improving skills, self-esteem and motivation.

After completing the program, six participants will be selected to sail on the *Young Endeavour* from Port Lincoln, in South Australia, to Melbourne, while six will be offered apprenticeships with Skilled Engineering.

Peter Nicholls, 16, said he enjoyed the program because he got to meet new people, learn skills and have fun.

"It will look good on my resume and my first-aid training may come in handy one day," Peter said.



Big opportunity: Paramedic Kim Leorke with Dy Pich and Peter Nicholls at their first-aid course.

"The chance to sail on the ship is also a big incentive."

The YES2 program, run by Victoria Police in conjunction with other emergency services and local youth interest groups,

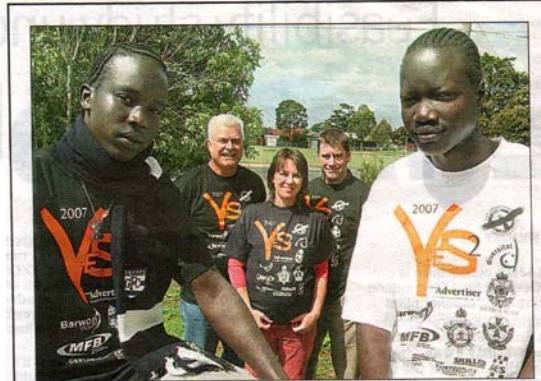
includes a three-day camp, team building activities and first-aid training by Rural Ambulance Victoria and Ambulance Victoria First Aid.

The program, which started

last month, will finish in December.

Ambulance Victoria First Aid offers first-aid courses to suit all age-groups and levels.

For further information call 1800 248 859.



Gambella Gatkuoth, left, and Duol Yang with MFB multicultural liaison officer Mark Ballantyne, Rural Ambulance Victoria paramedic Kim Leorke and multicultural liaison unit Senior Constable Paul Lees.

Photo: ALISON WYND

Skilled for a new life

BRITT SMITH

FROM war-torn Sudan, teenager Duol Yang is sailing towards an engineering apprenticeship.

The 18-year-old, a recently-arrived refugee who has settled in Geelong West, has been selected for the tall ship *Young Endeavour* voyage in December.

The feat has also landed him a job with Skilled Engineering, which has committed to employing all six *Endeavour* participants.

Mr Yang's 18-year-old cousin, Gambella Gatkuoth, will join him on the journey.

The pair, both year 11 students at North Geelong Secondary College, came to Australia under the Federal Government's refugee and humanitarian program with their families.

"Life is much better here, I am much happier," Mr Duol said.

"The best thing about it is going to school and you can find a job easily."

The YES2 program, run by Victoria Police, Barwon Youth, Diversitat and various emergency services,

has allowed Mr Yang to achieve his dream.

Victoria Police multicultural liaison officer Paul Lees said the program was unique because it gave 16-23-year-olds from culturally diverse backgrounds the chance to sail the *Endeavour* and enter the workforce.

"If you can get young people a job it ticks all the boxes," he said.

"It's such a great program because Skilled Engineering will offer traineeships in whatever field they fancy."

He also expects other positive outcomes like improved self esteem and motivation. And even the possibility participants might become role models to their Sudanese peers.

Kim Leorke, a paramedic with Rural Ambulance Victoria, said the Sudanese may have received negative press recently, but kids like these were evidence of a thriving community.

"These guys want to do better with their lives by working and contribute to the community. And Duol and Gatkuoth are doing exactly that," he said.

