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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### CHARITIES DOING IT TOUGH IN THE RECESSION

“It’s not just the corporate sector which is experiencing a downturn during this economic crisis” stated Laurie Maher, Executive Officer of Coast Shelter.

As a direct result of the economic crisis, charities are finding it more and more difficult to support their programs.

Philanthropic organisations, which support many of the charities assisting the needy, have experienced a 26% increase in funding applications in 2009.

“This compounds a problem caused by a reduction of 30% in revenue to these same philanthropic organisations, which depend on the economic viability of the corporate sector” Maher said.

“It’s those who are closest to the edge who will bear more of the pain and Coast Shelter is one of a number of charities which are experiencing an ever-increasing number of requests for assistance” Maher stated.

Financial hardship has now replaced family breakdown and substance abuse as the main cause of homelessness in Sydney.

“I haven’t got the figures for the Central Coast, however anecdotal information clearly suggests that it is worse here in our community and unfortunately, with the continuing increase in the rate of unemployment, things are going to get much worse” Maher said.

The generous support of victims of the Victorian Bushfires and repeated floods in Queensland and Northern New South Wales have put a lot of pressure on our usual group of supporters, however it has been truly remarkable to see individuals and groups digging deep to help out.

Coast Shelter, with the help of Gosford City Council, is working towards relocating the Donnison Street Restaurant to a new permanent location in North Gosford.

“The Central Coast Leagues Club has been extremely generous over the years, however it is essential that the Restaurant has a permanent location” Maher said.

“Unfortunately it couldn’t have been a worse time to undertake such a project, however with the help of all levels of government and our community we will succeed” Maher stated.

Those doing it tough and needing help in the community, can contact Coast Shelter phone 4324 7239.

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