MEDIA RELEASE Help young people shine bright at Stepping Stone House’s annual ‘Sleep Under the Stars’ Thursday 21st September, 2016, Sydney, Australia. Sydney’s transformational organisation for youth at risk, Stepping Stone House, today announces their upcoming ‘Sleep Under the Stars’ – an annual fundraiser to support vulnerable youth and raise awareness for youth homelessness in Sydney. Come along on Friday 7th October and join the Stepping Stone House family for an overnight sleep out at Hickson Reserve, underneath the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge. Wake up to a beautiful sunrise over the harbour and experience first-hand one night on the streets, raising awareness for Stepping Stone House and Australia’s homeless youth. “More than 40% of our homeless people in Australia are under 25,” said Jason Juretic, CEO of Stepping Stone House. “Our Sleep Under the Stars is a fantastic way to empathise with what it’s like to have nowhere to go and no-one to turn to; a situation that many of our young people find themselves in before they come to us.” The inaugural event brings people of all ages and backgrounds together, from young people to families to community groups. Last year’s event raised $54,000, helping Stepping Stone House to reach their 2016 target of $150,000 and provide care and education for at least four extra teenagers. This year’s event promises to kick similar goals. Just one night of support can help Stepping Stone House to skyrocket youth at risk into a brighter future, through a unique combination of mentorship, outdoor education, learning and development programs, and community volunteering. “An amazing 87% of our youth complete Year 12, compared to teens in similar circumstances. Fundraisers like the sleep out make all difference in ensuring that our young people have a secure and sustainable path in life,” said Mr Juretic. To get involved in ‘Sleep Under the Stars’ or donate to the cause, visit: www.steppingstonehouse.com.au/events/sleep_under_the_stars_2016/ For volunteering opportunities or further information, go to www.steppingstonehouse.com.au or email info@steppingstonehouse.com.au. About Stepping Stone House (www.steppingstonehouse.com.au): For more than 25 years, Stepping Stone House has paved the way for vulnerable youth aged 12 - 24 to develop and grow into self-sufficient and independent adults, starting with a safe and secure home environment. Through their unique ‘Stepping Stones to Success’ model, the non-profit aims to transform the lives of vulnerable youth; many of whom have been homeless and are unable to live with their families. Stepping Stone House is a nurturing ‘home away from home’, where young people stay for years as part of a dedicated family.

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