

## Brazier helps break poverty cycle

Julia Rabar | February 25th, 2013



Lou brazier.

**A NORTH Geelong community leader has been recognised for her efforts to combat generational poverty.**

Northern Futures executive officer Lou Brazier received an award acknowledging her as a champion of the Bridges Out of Poverty program.

The program, based on a book of the same name co-written by US consultant Phil DeVol, insists that given the right support, people subject to generational poverty or disadvantage can solve their problems.

"It's probably just human nature when we want to see people as lazy or not motivated or not ambitious, and that's just not the case," Ms Brazier said.

"Across all classes parents want the very best for their children, however not everybody comes from the same starting point."

Northern Futures last year ran a pilot program of the Bridges workshop, Getting Ahead and Linda Seredin, 39, of Corio, said it changed her outlook after long unemployment and an endless series of courses.

"Now I'm ready to go out and work," Ms Seredin said.

The single mother of four boys began volunteering at her son's school canteen and said her sons were impressed at her growing confidence.

"I'm not just sitting around doing nothing like half of the other single mums," she said.

Mr DeVol said people regarded as "dependent or needy" simply required time and space to analyse and take control of their lives.

The next Getting Ahead workshop will begin next month funded by Gordon TAFE.

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