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Boxing gym knocks out youth crime



By Rachel Parkin ([http://www.3news.co.nz/TabId/1741/AuthorID/60/Rachel Tiffen/Author.aspx](http://www.3news.co.nz/TabId/1741/AuthorID/60/Rachel_Tiffen/Author.aspx)) (http://www.twitter.com/Rach_Parkin)
Reporter

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A Lower Hutt boxing gym set up to change young people's lives and reduce crime by taking troubled youths off the street has been so successful, a second has been opened in Porirua's Cannons Creek.

This one will be run by one of the first academy's success stories.

Latu Talu says the Naenae Boxing Academy run by his mentor Billy Graham changed him inside and out, and now he wants to share the love with other youths who've lost their way.

"Change their lives, get them discipline, you know. Teach them the right way," he says. "I'll keep them busy, keep them here and tell them, you know, trouble will take you nowhere. It will take you no far, being good will take you far place [sic]."

Police Commissioner Mike Bush was at the launch yesterday. Police are working with the academies – for them it's win-win.

"The wonderful thing about the model Billy and now Latu are rolling out here is it's very much discipline and value-based," he says. "They teach people the very good things they need in life to get on and make a contribution."

"We've got young kids off the street and we've got them in the gym," says Mr Graham. "Not all of them are going to be boxers. A good 80 percent are just off the street, some playing table tennis, some wrestling."

With help from the Tindall Foundation and Vodafone, the dream is to set up shop in communities all over the country.

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