

BUSINESS OWNER

industry, ideas and innovations www.dailytelegraph.com.au/businessowner

MARCH 1, 2005 **The Daily Telegraph**

PROFILE

A hand in their future

One dynamic duo is motivating thousands of young people to succeed, reports **Joanna Tovia**

What the human spirit can achieve is amazing when people overcome adversity and turn negative experiences into positive ones.

Dale Beaumont and Brent Williams, both 23 years old, are two classic examples. Rather than retreat from life, they have used their hardship, experience and sheer determination to benefit others.

They joined forces after tragedy struck both their lives.

Dale's life fell apart when his younger brother died in a tragic accident. Everything he had been working toward suddenly meant nothing and for the first time he wanted to give up. Dale went into a period of depression and his cure was to immerse himself in the only thing that would help him forget the pain — intensive physical training.

Brent's life-changing experience happened two weeks after finishing year 12.

He was outside a hotel when two drunken men pulled a gun on him and demanded his money. His life flashed before his eyes and he was deeply affected by all the regrets he had and his unfulfilled dreams. He vowed that if he lived he would strive for what he really wanted in life.

Dale and Brent have been friends since they were 13 years old and, with their newfound outlook on life, decided to target youth to do what they could to change the world for the better.

They attended dozens of seminars and courses on different areas of life, ranging from Neuro-Linguistic Programming to wealth creation and motivation.

Realising that the information, while very empowering, wasn't targeting youth, Dale and Brent began to write their own program.

They progressed to running programs for



On a mission: Dale Beaumont and Brent Williams are empowering teenagers around the world

disadvantaged youth at drop-in centres and from there, established the company Tomorrow's Youth. They now run two-day programs for young people between the ages of 13 and 21 called 'Empower U' and have touched the lives of thousands.

Dale says the Empower U program aims to develop young leaders, providing participants with not only advice, but practical strategies for them to take away and implement.

"The program also helps to assist in discovering what they want to achieve in life and overcoming potential obstacles that may arise."

Empower U focuses on life skills such as leadership, communication, money management and the importance of teamwork and goal setting.

Dale says the learning environment is fun and interactive to keep attention high and includes activities, music and movies.

"At the beginning of the program, 80 per cent of participants actually don't want to be there; they don't see the point and most have been sent by their parents," says Dale. "We thrive on the turnaround in attitude at the end of the weekend; all seem to love it."

After three years operating successfully within Australia, Dale and Brent branched

out into Singapore and Indonesia.

"We discovered Asia was relatively untapped with parents starting to realise the value of personal development and life education, rather than just academic education," Dale says.

After working with more than 5000 teenagers, Dale and Brent have discovered teens are really the same the world over.

"Deep down every teenager wants to be significant, yet many choose to hide behind various masks to avoid appearing vulnerable," Dale says.

For more information, go to www.tomorrowsyouth.com.au