

ON A MISSION

Your Wellington City Mission Newsletter

wellingtoncity
mission



November 2015



A couple of years ago we were in real trouble. My family had just grown with the arrival of my beautiful twins, but I was struggling to provide the things we needed. I could hardly afford the basics like food, rent, and power, and was getting deeper into debt just trying to get by. Our home was cold and way too small, so my children were getting sick a lot. I felt like I was letting my children down, and couldn't see a way out. But now we're moving in the right direction, and life is so much better.



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

When I started working with The Mission, our situation immediately improved. My budget advisor helped me realise that you need to make every cent count, so I decided to move onto Total Money Management. My income is paid into a Mission account, then money for saving and spending is organised, and I've been paying off debt. To help with the budget, we receive a weekly food parcel. Things like muesli bars for the kids' lunches make such a difference, and fruit and veggies make sure they are eating healthy. I also did The Mission's cooking and parenting courses,

We're all so much happier, and I feel positive about where we are heading together as a family

so I feel like I've got more skills to be an even better mum.

The guidance and non-judgmental support from our Mission social worker has meant so

much as well. With her behind me, I felt confident to make big changes. I found a way better place for my family, and we moved in. The kids' health has improved, and they've got room to grow.

As a parent I want so badly for Christmas to be special for my children, but it had always been really hard to do anything nice for them. With help from The Mission, they get to wake up and see wrapped presents under a tree. It's an incredible moment. The kids' father and I have been building on our relationship too, and a happy Christmas helps. Having a family is what I've always dreamed of, and as we all spent quality time

together last year I felt part of something so important. We have this unbreakable connection for life.

The dark cloud that used to hang over me has gone. We're all so much happier, and I feel positive about where we are heading together as a family. I'm excited about making even more progress next year too. One of my goals is to take full control of my budget, and I'm really looking forward to that day.

**BE A STAR
THIS CHRISTMAS**



To find out how you can get involved in our Christmas Star Appeal, see the 'Looking Forward' page inside...

YOU'VE HELPED US TO...

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2015 KEY STATISTICS SEE BACK PAGE FOR MORE

FAMILIES
97
FAMILIES WERE SUPPORTED BY OUR MISSION FOR FAMILIES SOCIAL WORKERS

SENIORS
110
SENIORS WERE SUPPORTED BY OUR CASEWORKERS

INDEPENDENCE
108
PEOPLE RECEIVED BUDGETING ADVICE

YOUTH
52
STUDENTS WERE ASSISTED TO ACHIEVE

52
NCEA CREDITS

WHAT IT MEANS...

Isapella,
Families
Social Worker



"What it means to be able to help a family at Christmas is so much more than providing them with food and gifts. We work with families when they need help – through their ups and downs.

It means they can share Christmas together, when the stress of the time could push them apart. They go into the new year with motivation to keep making their situation better."

Monique,
Budget Advisor



"What it means to help people with food and their budget through Christmas is that they get to be included in this special time.

Overspending for Christmas can cause so much stress in the coming year, so it's rewarding to see when someone you're working with is committed to following their budget. They can still stay within their means, and enjoy the Christmas season."

For more about these services contact Olivia Lange, (04) 245 0829 or olivia@wgtncitymission.org.nz

A BUDGET AND LOTS OF CHANGE



One day in May last year, I was given a 48-hour eviction notice that seemed completely out of the blue. With all the extra shifts I was picking up at work, I hadn't even noticed that my rent payment had stopped for a few weeks before Christmas. I couldn't pay the overdue rent, and didn't know what to do or what would happen to me and my children. Even though I work full-time, it's always been a struggle keeping up with rent, power, food, and unexpected bills. I've never really known how to manage money, and ended up taking out loans to pay for the kids' school costs and clothing – loans I couldn't pay back.

That's when I turned to The Mission. Straight away they negotiated for us to stay in our home. It was massive relief, but it was also an opportunity to look at the bigger picture – to make sure my family would always be secure. When my Mission budget advisor showed me what my finances looked like, I knew it was time to make a big change, so I agreed to start working with Budgeting Advice.

She then contacted the finance companies, and they agreed on set amounts I could pay back each week. I felt so good, because money problems were causing us so much stress. Most of my pay started going towards reducing debt and saving for bills, so the amount of spending money I had each pay was very little. To help lower our costs we started receiving weekly Mission food parcels and clothes for my growing kids, which make such a difference.

In the past, Christmas has been a tough time. Through the school holidays our empty cupboards meant my kids would go to friends and family – even on Christmas Day. With all the extra hours at work, I still couldn't really afford food and gifts – and I definitely didn't want to get another loan. It made me feel bad that they would rather be somewhere else than at home. But last year Christmas was really special. The Mission made sure we had enough food and a nice Christmas meal, and the kids got great gifts. We were able to be together as a family, and it meant a lot for all of us.

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This year has been huge. I'm all up-to-date with rent, power, and school fees, and I've got some savings. All my debts are paid off, except for a small amount on my bank loan which will be gone soon. Best of all, the kids know they're safe. They're actually really good at saving money. I think it's because they've seen the issues I've had, and we can talk more about the importance of budgeting. I'm so proud that they won't have to struggle like I have, and are better set up to have positive futures.

MAKING ALL THE RIGHT MOVES



My first year of high school was pretty bad. I didn't feel like I belonged, so I was getting frustrated and having run-ins with other students. It got to where I was pretty much wagging everyday to hang out with my mates, and we started getting into mischief. Halfway through the year my attendance had got so bad that I got suspended, which made me feel sorry for my mum.

My school told me Mission for Youth might suit me better, so I tried it out. I liked it straight away, and I knew I wanted to be here everyday. I like the small class size, because when I need a bit of extra help the teacher can spend one-on-one time explaining things. I get along with other students way better, even though I'm a bit younger. I'm doing a few of the Year 10 and 11 papers too, and I actually like being able to achieve NCEA credits.

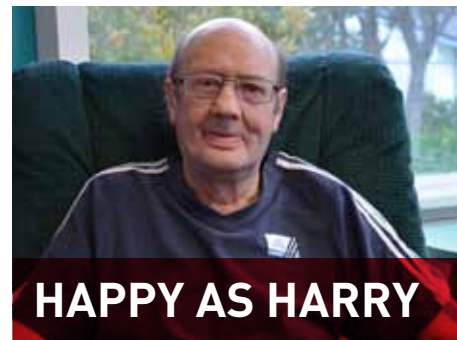
We don't just do academic stuff though – we work on life-skills that I've never really got to learn before, like cooking and health. We also do personal workshops, and I feel okay about dealing with difficult stuff here. Something I've been working on is understanding and dealing with anger. I now feel more confident to control that feeling when it comes up – so instead of it being something that holds me back, it's helping. I started dancing a couple years ago, and it's what I want to do professionally, so now

“Now when I'm frustrated with something I use the energy to create or practise a dance routine”

when I'm frustrated with something I use the energy to create or practise a dance routine.

It's only been two terms since I started at Mission for Youth, but my life is way different. If I hadn't come I'd probably be in and out of Youth Court, and I definitely wouldn't have the same passion and motivation to be a dancer. My mum is happy with me because she knows I'm working hard and doing something positive. Next year I'm going to come back to keep earning NCEA credits and working on myself. There's a special dance school that I really want to get into in a couple years – they perform all over the country, and that's what I want to do. I can't wait.

Jason has settled into our programme really well. We have noticed how positively he's responded to the environment, and he's achieved an average attendance of nearly 90% since he began at Mission for Youth. We are pleased with the direction of his new-found pathway.



HAPPY AS HARRY

When my doctor first suggested the idea of moving to a residential facility to me, I thought it was a good idea. My hips and legs were playing up on me, and it wasn't practical as day-to-day tasks got harder. I was staying at home a lot, and living quite isolated.

“Everyday life is so much better than it was when I was living on my own”

It didn't take me long to settle into Kemp Home & Hospital. I appreciate the nurses and caregivers here, and I actually feel a bit spoilt. Everyday life is so much better than it was when I was living on my own. My room is my own castle, it's got a TV and everything I need, but I've also made friends that I see every day. What's more, I've got my freedom back. I can go into town and do shopping, or down to the Titahi Bay beach when the weather is good. So what more could I wish for? I'm happy as Harry...

For more information about Kemp Home & Hospital contact Valelia Gibb, (04) 236 8099 or manager@kemphome.co.nz



TRIC'S MISSIONS WELLINGTON CITY MISSIONER

Light in the most unlikely of places

The brilliant thing about the story of Christmas, is that within it is held so many of the stories of those whose lives are woven into The Wellington City Mission whānau. These are stories of being on the road,

or having nowhere to stay for the night or anytime soon. Stories of teenage pregnancy, of rejection from families and friends. Stories of stepping up to parent a child not biologically your own. Stories of generosity, of people opening their home and their hearts, of offering gifts from the riches of their own lives. Stories of people coming together to celebrate. They are not related to each other, and are sometimes seen as undesirable, but gather anyway in the most unlikely place – in the shed out the back, a shelter not intended to be a dwelling for humans.

Here the miracle of new life is celebrated – not just of any life, but a life which meshes together the fragility of humanity and the wonder of the divine. In this small vulnerable child, God's divinity was wrapped with human flesh to live amongst us as one with us, to confront us and invite us to live with love at our centre.

At Christmas we are invited to live deep within that miracle; to recognise the divine within each other. We are invited to be like Christ – to be profoundly present with, and to, each other. That can be shown through giving gifts, your time, financial aid to those in need, or by opening your home and welcoming others in. The miracle of Christmas is about seeing our hearts, and our homes, as being like that stable – an unlikely dwelling for a random bunch to gather, finding love and wholeness.

The Mission wishes you a Christmas full of love, of surprising and profound encounters, with friends and loved ones you have and haven't met yet!

Every blessing of this provocative and miraculous season!

Rev. Tric Malcolm

Email tric@wgtncitymission.org.nz

OUT & ABOUT

This year we were delighted to begin a relationship with The Wellington Food Show. We're honoured that they approached us to become the official charity partner for the annual event.

The partnership meant The Mission received surplus stock from the exhibitors at the end of the show. We were also given a booth for the weekend, which was a great opportunity to talk with members of the public about the work we do in Greater Wellington and collect cash donations. The weekend went really well – we left on Sunday night with almost two van-loads of incredible food, and close to \$3,000 in donations! All the donations went to our Foodbank and Drop-in Centre, to help keep those services available for people who need them.

Our sincerest thanks go to The Food Show. Thanks also to the exhibitors and attendees for your incredible generosity. We can't wait to do it all again next year!

THE FOOD SHOW SHOWS ITS SUPPORT!



If you or your organisation may be interested in supporting The Mission, or a particular programme, please contact Marketing & Fundraising Manager Robbie Ross, (04) 245 0884 or robbie@wgtncitymission.org.nz

WELLINGTON'S YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AWESOME!

Earlier this year two Year 12 students at Wellington East Girls' college, Fontayne and Sally (pictured with our Foodbank Coordinator Chloë), organised their own fundraiser for The Mission.

They collected food and cash donations from outside Chaffers New World supermarket – and what a success it was. On top of six full crates of food, they raised over \$350!

Thank you Fontayne and Sally for your compassion, and keenness to lend a hand to individuals and families who are struggling in Greater Wellington.



LET'S FEED THE KIDS TOO!

Artists and creators of 'Feed the Kids Too', Bernie Harfleet and Donna Sarten, wanted a way to draw attention to issues of child poverty in New Zealand. So they created a wonderful installation at Wellington's annual Lux Light Festival. 1,500 lunchboxes were hung from a tree and lit up – a striking visual display with a powerful message. But aside from getting people talking about the issue, it was important to use the lunchboxes after the artwork came down.

That's where The Mission was able to help. Under City Missioner Tric's leadership, we

organised for the lunchboxes to be filled with food and given out to five primary schools around Greater Wellington. It was a great way to recycle the lunchboxes, and engage with young Kiwis on the issue.

We'd like to thank everyone who donated food specially for the lunchboxes, and the Anglican churches that supplied homemade sandwiches. Thanks also to the many volunteers who packed the lunchboxes. It was an amazing collective effort which we were glad to be a part of!

KEMP'S COLOURFUL CREW!

For over three years now, Kemp Home & Hospital's nurses have worn beautiful scrubs – thanks to ongoing donors Medical Uniforms NZ. The colourful uniforms have really suited Kemp's cheery atmosphere. One resident told us: "It's always nice to wake up to a nurse with a bright uniform and a big smiley face!"

Kemp is a non-profit rest home, so we really

value this sort of ongoing support from industry suppliers. Thanks Medical Uniforms NZ, and all Kemp donors, for your incredible generosity.

If you or your organisation may be interested in supporting Kemp, please contact Marketing & Fundraising Manager Robbie Ross, (04) 245 0884 or robbie@wgtncitymission.org.nz



LOOKING FORWARD



Our Christmas Star Appeal is now on! There are lots of ways you can be a star by getting involved with our vital appeal, to support Greater Wellington's most vulnerable people.

We've got all our regular activities happening again, and some new ones that we can't wait to reveal!

We're really excited about our brand new 'Christmas Walk of Fame'. It's a Hollywood Walk of Fame-style art installation that will be displayed on the Wellington waterfront outside Te Papa from 4-18 December. You and your friends, family, or workplace can get your name or business logo on a star! Each star will represent a family being supported this Christmas.

From 13 November the Star Car will be out and about again – but with a twist. After donating (via cash or eftpos), you can sign one of the thousands of stars that it will be decorated with!

We'll again be doing our Street Day Appeal, Pack the Bus, DINEAID – and you can donate online at any time. See the list of events to the right for more details about how you can get involved with our activities.

By supporting the Christmas Star Appeal, not only are you enabling us to continue offering our services now and in the coming year to people who need them, you're bringing happiness to many and

helping them feel valued and cared for. Families and individuals will be able to take a step forward at a time when it's easy to trip, and stay on their path to a positive and sustainable future.

Did you know, last November and December The Mission was able to give out over 1,300 food parcels and 7,000 gifts to families and individuals throughout Greater Wellington – alongside all our other year-round services. Thank you to all who gave, and our ongoing donors, for all your support.

Our special Christmas website ChristmasStar.co.nz is up now. It's got everything you need to know about the appeal, and you can also make a donation.

Follow The Mission on Facebook or Twitter to keep up with what we're up to, and see your support in action!

Be a star. Support our appeal to include others in your Christmas.



WAYS TO BE A STAR THIS CHRISTMAS

OUR 'CHRISTMAS WALK OF FAME' – From 4-18 Dec

Donations from:

\$145 – for a person, or group of individuals

\$250 – for a business name

\$500 – for a business logo

Star purchase closes on 9 December. You can purchase yours via our website ChristmasStar.co.nz

STREET DAY APPEAL – 4 Dec

We'd love you to get involved in our annual Street Day collection. We're looking for volunteers to collect for an hour or two (or more) at one of our sites in Wellington, Porirua or the Hutt Valley. Please look out for our collectors on the day to donate!

If you would like to volunteer to collect, or even snap-up a spot, please contact Ingrid Kamstra, (04) 245 0882 or ingrid@wgtncitymission.org.nz

STAR CAR – From 13 Nov

Watch out for our revamped Star Car as it travels around the region, and parks up in malls and supermarkets, amongst other places. **Visit our Christmas website to see when it's at a location near you.**

PACK THE BUS – 23 Nov-4 Dec

The iconic Pack the Bus, in partnership with The Breeze Wellington, will again be visiting schools and supermarkets throughout the region. **Visit our Christmas website for the details.**

DINEAID – From 1 Nov

We're grateful to be the charity partner for Wellington's DINEAID again! **Visit dineaid.org.nz to see participating restaurants and cafes.**

For all the information about the appeal, and for all the ways to get involved, please visit ChristmasStar.co.nz

FISH & SHIPS TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!

Our Fish & Ships fundraiser will go ahead on Friday 12 February 2016 aboard the HMNZS Canterbury – and you're invited!

Enjoy lunch on the deck of a remarkable naval vessel.

All proceeds go towards keeping The Mission's programmes available for those who need help, when they need it. Our sincere thanks to the sponsors, and especially the Royal NZ Navy – we couldn't do it without you!

To order a ticket, or for more information, please email Anne Hannah anne@wgtncitymission.org.nz



A WORD FROM MICHELLE BRANNEY – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



With Christmas approaching and people already on the go organising their various activities and plans for Christmas, I'd like to take a moment to express my thanks for the support we receive during the year. Throughout the seasons The Mission sees the hardship people face: the start of the school year can incur extra cost and stress for families, and is often unsettling for children and youth starting back at school; winter is particularly tough for those on tight budgets and for the homeless; and Christmas can cause setbacks for parents who are struggling to provide, and amplify feelings of isolation for those who feel lonely at this time of year.

All through the year, the seasons, from month to month and payday to payday, our supporters and financial donors make it possible for The Mission to direct our resources and attention to some of the most vulnerable in our community. Through our regular newsletters, Facebook page, and website we quantify and offer examples of

the wide-reaching work and progress of the people we have assisted, and the work that is done in order to improve and transform lives. We hope you enjoy seeing some of the difference you're helping to make. It's important to us that you know we plan and act based on a long history of understanding what works and how to make positive improvements to people's lives, as the world moves on.

“Our supporters and financial donors make it possible for The Mission to direct our resources and attention to some of the most vulnerable in our community”

As we work toward our Vision: People and communities empowered, transformed, experiencing fullness of life, I am acutely aware that this occurs in the context of a

cohort of similarly-minded people, families, and organisations. If you are reading this, you are probably one of those people who also want the best for others, and have the insight and opportunities to accomplish this.

At The Mission we experience Christmas in all its intensity. Throughout the months of November and December, we do our best to ensure that the goodwill of the season is shared among those who may find this the hardest time of the year.

From all of us, may your home be filled with joy and peace this Christmas.

Michelle Branney

JULY-SEPT 2015 STATISTICS

MISSION FOR FAMILIES

- 32 of our families were new referrals
- Staff made 435 contacts (face-to-face, phone, email) with families

MISSION FOR YOUTH

- 14 students attended the programme
- Students were able to take part in 61 Education Outside the Classroom and life-skills workshops

MISSION FOR INDEPENDENCE

- 5,614 servings (soups, mains, desserts) in the Drop-in Centre
- 68 people were assisted by our Community Services Advocate

MISSION FOR SENIORS

- Staff made 382 face-to-face visits with seniors
- Staff made 550 contacts (face-to-face, phone, email) to external agencies to support or advocate for our seniors

KEMP HOME & HOSPITAL

- Kemp provided 5,838 bed nights of accommodation
- Staff took 238 opportunities to improve their skills, through 14 training sessions

IF YOU WANT HELP, IF YOU WANT TO HELP

If you or anyone you know wants the help of any of our services, please drop in or phone our Newtown office.

If you want to help – thank you! We rely on the goodwill of Mission supporters so we can continue our work throughout the Greater Wellington region. Whether it's an offer of goods in-kind, volunteer hours or monetary donation, we are always amazed by the generosity and community spirit people demonstrate on a daily basis.

Please see the contact details provided, but for information on ways to support, please go to this address:
wellingtoncitymission.org.nz/public/help-us

Call in, or contact our Newtown office and Drop-in Centre:
19 Gordon Place, Newtown, Wellington
PO Box 7477, Newtown, Wellington 6242

T: (04) 245 0900
E: enquiries@dwgtncitymission.org.nz

Kemp Home & Hospital:

21 Te Pene Avenue, Titahi Bay, Porirua
PO Box 52081, Titahi Bay, Porirua 5242

T: (04) 236 8099
E: info@kemphome.co.nz

wellingtoncitymission.org.nz

Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

