

LOOKING FORWARD

CITY MISSION STORE COMING SOON!



We are excited to officially announce that, in late April, a City Mission Store will open its doors – collecting and selling quality recycled clothing, furniture, appliances, entertainment, and housewares.

This new op-shop is another valuable way you can show your support, and is a great way to help make sure The Mission can continue to be here for people in their time of need. Not only will the store reduce waste for a more sustainable environment, but its proceeds will mean many people can create sustainable and positive futures – for themselves and the communities we all live in.

The new store will be located at 180 Taranaki Street. Opening hours will be Monday to Saturday, 9am-5pm.

Right now, we're looking for volunteers, and quality pre-loved goods. It couldn't be easier to donate items too good to throw away – get in touch and we'll come and collect them!

For updates on the official opening, and for information on how to volunteer or donate goods, check in at: CityMissionStore.nz or call 0800 245 542, or email collect@citymissionstore.nz

SEE YOU AT THE FOOD SHOW!



Last year we began a wonderful partnership with The Wellington Food Show.

This year we'll again receive our very own booth to talk with passers-by about what The Mission does, and to raise funds. Exhibitors' surplus stock will also go into our Foodbank.

This year's Food Show is at Westpac Stadium from 20-22 May.

10 YEARS FULL OF BROWN PAPER BAGS



It's the 10th anniversary of the Brown Paper Bag Appeal in June, and you'll be able to choose again – 'The Money or The Bag'.

This annual appeal is vital to help keep our Foodbank and Drop-in Centre services available during the winter months, when living costs rise.

We'll have updates on our website in May, and in June's On a Mission Magazine.

A NEW FACE IN THE FOODBANK

Chloe, our awesome Foodbank & Volunteer Coordinator, is taking this year off to become a full-time mum to her new baby boy!

But we are delighted to have welcomed Louise Mearns (pictured) in the role, and look forward to seeing her impact throughout the year. "I'm really looking forward to getting to know the regular volunteers and clients, and having greater involvement with the local community" says Louise.



TRIC'S MISSIONS

WELLINGTON CITY MISSIONER

The grace of God

As we head towards Easter we're being bombarded with chocolate eggs and the aroma of hot-cross buns – and dreaming of them dripping with butter.

Easter, the remembering of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is a pivotal



event for our Christian faith. The events of that first Easter are an expression of the grace of God – showing just how deep, big, and expansive it is.

The challenge of Easter is an invitation to live lives that echo the grace of God: to live deeply, honestly, and responsibly in our own lives; to accept God's compassion for ourselves – in that it might spill over to others, and to the world. Nothing we do makes us deserve it, it's just offered. It is there wherever we are, whatever's going on in our lives, in our joy and sorrow – even, or especially, when we have made mistakes or life has dealt us some hard blows.

The challenge for us, both at The Mission and in our wider community, is to use the grace of God as a guide for our own actions.

It is all-inclusive, and doesn't leave anybody out no matter how many times we stuff up. It invites us to build community with those we are least comfortable with.

This one is a struggle for us all; how might we go about that? Where can we live out God's grace more fully, even towards ourselves? This Easter, in the midst of the retelling and reliving of the death and resurrection of Christ, may we be reminded of the great compassionate grace of God!

Kia tau ki a koutou te atawhai me te rangimarie o te Atua! May the grace and peace of God be with you!

Rev. Tric Malcolm
Email tric@wgtncitymission.org.nz

A WORD FROM MICHELLE BRANNEY – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



It's the time of year when people start thinking about what they hope to change or achieve by the year's end. Sometimes this calls for a change in personal mindset, or even help from external sources.

Education in its broadest form plays an important role for young and old at The Mission. While we offer Alternative Education (a programme for 13-15 year-olds who have disengaged from mainstream schooling), Mission for Youth offers much more. It's a place of hope and transformation, a place of safety where rangatahi (young people) can learn new skills and try out positive attitudes that carry them through to adulthood.

New skills, self-management, and a positive family life are also strengths that Mission for Families believes in and encourages. This can be in a structured way through our cooking and parenting courses, or through

the one-to-one mentoring and guidance that is woven into Mission for Families' social work practice.

You're never too old to learn, as they say, and people on our Budgeting Advice service and Mission for Seniors programme find this out – to their great pleasure. After many years of The Mission's existence, there are now countless people who can manage their

All Mission programmes are geared to offer education in its broadest sense in keeping with our Vision

own finances, are debt-free, and will never need our assistance again. We have assisted seniors in the community to connect with their loved ones using text messaging, e-mail, and Skype, because they have

mastered technology to suit their individual needs.

In life, we all learn in a variety of ways. Sometimes this is by formal education; sometimes knowledge is taken on as if by osmosis within a family setting; and at times learning situations present themselves and it's up to us to take it or leave it. Whatever the means, all Mission programmes are geared to offer education in its broadest sense in keeping with our Vision: "People and communities empowered, transformed and experiencing fullness of life."

OCT-DEC 2015 KEY STATISTICS

MISSION FOR FAMILIES

- **98** families were supported by Mission for Families social workers
- Staff made **420** face-to-face visits with families in their homes
- Staff made **152** contacts with external agencies advocating for families, via phone and email

MISSION FOR YOUTH

- **12** students attended the programme
- Students were assisted to achieve **37** NCEA credits
- Students took part in **31** Education Outside the Classroom and life-skills workshops

MISSION FOR INDEPENDENCE

- Budgeting Advice clients reduced their combined debt by **\$20,775**
- On average **91** guests were served each day in the Drop-in Centre
- **13** Foodbank clients were able to move on without reliance on the service

MISSION FOR SENIORS

- **96** seniors were supported by our caseworkers
- Staff made **713** contacts (face-to-face, phone, and email) with seniors
- Staff made **312** contacts (face-to-face, phone, and email) with external agencies to support or advocate for seniors

KEMP HOME & HOSPITAL

- Kemp provided **5,828** bed nights of accommodation
- Staff took **122** opportunities to improve their skills, through **10** 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@wgtncitymission.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!





When I was in Year 10 I felt completely lost. I started acting out, and got kicked out of school. But a year at Mission for Youth changed my life. Now I feel amazing. I've got a great job, and am really excited about following my passions.

It was a bit of a shock for me moving from intermediate to secondary school. I'd gone from having a pretty comfortable lifestyle living with Dad to a really tight budget with Mum. I felt isolated and angry, lost my motivation, and became quite destructive. I fell behind in schoolwork and started wagging almost every day.

But when I joined the Youth programme I knew I was in the right place. The small class size was really good for my schoolwork, because the teachers could spend one-on-one time with me to make sure I understood everything. But just as valuable was having the opportunity I needed to work with the youth workers on some of the personal stuff that was bringing me down. I thought about my decisions in the past year or so,



Tasman National Park. I felt part of something bigger than myself, and saw the importance of responsibility and caring about others. I went to class every day and began feeling positive about myself again.

At the end of my year we felt confident I was ready to move on to employment. Using the CV I'd created on the programme, I took a barista course and then got the job I wanted straight away! After a couple of years' work I wanted to push myself and learn something new, so I started doing work experience at a dental practice. Within a month, the practice offered me a full-time position. That was four years ago.

I want to use my experiences to help others believe in themselves, just like Mission for Youth did for me when I needed it

and began discovering who I am. I learnt a lot about respect, and all the things my parents had done for me. One thing I'll always remember was staying at Abel

Last year I was delighted to come back and talk to the current students. I wanted them to know they really can do whatever they want in life. My ultimate goal is to become a life coach – to help people find careers they are passionate about. I want to use my experiences to help others believe in themselves, just like Mission for Youth did for me when I needed it.

YOU'VE HELPED US TO...

CHRISTMAS 2015 KEY STATISTICS

SEE BACK PAGE FOR MORE FROM OUR PROGRAMMES

1,300 OVER 1,000 CHRISTMAS FOOD PARCELS AND 300 REGULAR FOOD PARCELS GIVEN OUT

100 100 CHRISTMAS DAY HAMPERS DELIVERED TO PEOPLE IN THEIR OWN HOMES ON CHRISTMAS EVE

1,500

28 28 OTHER COMMUNITY AGENCIES WE WORK WITH WERE SUPPORTED

MORE THAN 1,500 CHILDREN RECEIVED GIFTS



Greater Wellington again showed its incredible support for families and individuals in need!

See our special Christmas Star Appeal insert for all the details...

WHAT IT MEANS...



Tammie
Programme Coordinator
Mission for Youth

"Being a role model for at-risk youth means a lot to me. I too was out of mainstream school at 16 with no formal qualifications, but eventually went on to earn a degree. Here I get to help young people find their own pathway and see them make immensely positive changes. They will be able to do something worthwhile with their lives."

Mission for Youth provides a comprehensive Alternative Education programme for youth who have disengaged or been excluded from mainstream schools.



Shivani
Registered Nurse
Kemp Home & Hospital

"It's a great feeling knowing you are doing something really good for someone, and to see them happier and more independent than they thought possible. Through speech and physical therapy, and leisure activities like gardening and dancing, a resident's everyday abilities increase and they enjoy life more. For me that's really special."

Kemp Home & Hospital is an 81-bed facility offering both rest home and hospital level care, for residents who require permanent or short-term care.

For more about these services contact us on (04) 245 0900, or enquiries@wgtncitymission.org.nz



SAVED TO SPEND WISELY

A few years ago I had a stroke, and it threw my whole life apart. The two months I then spent in hospital were incredibly frustrating. I had to learn to walk and talk again, and felt nauseous all the time. It all meant my head was a mess and I couldn't pay the

bills. Even though I had always worked and earned money I was thousands of dollars in debt; I didn't know how to deal with it, and the repo companies were calling. It all became too much and I felt trapped.

That's when I started working with a Mission budget advisor. Straight away we figured out all my expenses and debts, and he negotiated payments with my creditors. I started using The Mission's Total Money Management, and my income started going towards paying back debt while keeping on top of living costs. Having not much in my pocket took a bit of getting used to, but their weekly food parcels really helped me get by and stick to my plan.

I had never really learnt how to make every dollar count – I'd always just spent money when I had it. But I kept my head down and focussed on my goals. It was great not having money stress in the back of my

mind all the time. Eventually I paid off all my debt, and for the first time was saving money. It was special to be able to afford to pay cash for a car, which I then used to drive up to Tokoroa to see my daughters who I

"I've been completely independent for a year now, and it feels good"

had lost contact with some years earlier. I was over the moon to begin a relationship with them again.

I've been completely independent for a year now, and it feels good. My bill payments are set up and taken care of, and whenever I have any extra money I save it for anything that comes up. Life looks so much better than it did when I was stuck in that hospital room.



I'VE GOT MY LIFE BACK

Before I started with The Mission, health issues were ruling my life. It was impossible for me to keep up with complicated information, tests, and diagnoses. I wasn't

confident to make important decisions, and it was scary. The stress of what was going to happen was constant, and everyday life was reduced to timeslots between medical appointments. It was hard not having

"I can get on with life and do things I enjoy"

someone close by who could help me deal with everything. I have the incredible support of my loving family, but they live around the country and overseas.

My Mission caseworker was the answer to my prayers. She joined me for specialist appointments to take notes and help me

absorb information, and we'd debrief afterwards. I began making informed decisions, especially about really drastic things like anaesthetics and surgeries. Where before I would leave appointments stressed and frustrated, I started going home at peace – knowing I was in control.

Even though some of my health problems are ongoing, I'm so much happier. Now my caseworker helps me every couple of months when I need to untangle new information. Just knowing she'll be there in times of need has changed everything. I can get on with life and do things I enjoy – like volunteering once a week at the local school to help children learn to read. I really feel like I'm on solid ground to deal with the challenges that lie ahead.

My husband and I had been together for 10 years and had four children when, after a night of drinking, he assaulted me badly. It was devastating, and it changed our lives. In the year-and-a-half since then, we've both done a lot of hard work to get to where we are now. Life is better than ever, and I'm so proud of my family.

Before that night our family life certainly wasn't perfect – but it got a whole lot tougher when my husband went to jail because of what happened. I was left with nothing and had to go on the benefit. I was depressed, and barely left the house or got any sleep. It would have been easy to sit around being sad, but my kids needed me: my eldest boy has autism, and my three girls were all under three years old.

When I was referred to The Mission my new social worker took away some of the pressure immediately, with weekly food parcels. She visited me at home to talk about what I was going through, and ways to manage as a single parent. She also opened the door to a whole network of support and education opportunities that were really valuable – especially through 'Strengthening Families' where lots of



OUR FAMILY IS SO MUCH STRONGER

My Mission social worker stood by me without judgement, and made it easy for me to get the help I needed

agencies work together to help out. We built a great relationship with my son's school and specialist health providers, and I received workbooks to help me understand his condition.

Meanwhile my husband was working hard on himself, and over time he proved his commitment to our family. He completed

drug and alcohol and stopping violence counselling, owned up and took responsibility, and we started talking honestly about what happened. He stopped drinking over a year ago.

Everyone's better off now. My husband and I got married, and he started his own business. But also, we're a team. We communicate well and have stronger relationships with our kids – who are all so much more settled. My son's learning improved a lot last year, and I know much more about parenting techniques and can make the important

decisions. I'm way more confident and relaxed, and I get out of the house and socialise heaps. We make sure to have family outings every weekend too.

Through it all, my Mission social worker stood by me without judgement, and made it easy for me to get the help I needed. It was up to me to do the work and to find my own direction, but she was there to guide me – and to sometimes ask the tough questions. We don't need much help now, and don't need food parcels. My social worker just checks in to support our progress, and talk about the future – which looks more exciting and positive than it ever has.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE: JEFF

Along with our kind donors, volunteers make it possible for The Mission to continue its work throughout Greater Wellington. In 2015, volunteers contributed over 5,600 hours in our Foodbank and Drop-in Centre.

We asked one of our long-time volunteers, Jeff, if he wouldn't mind sharing a bit about what volunteering means to him...

Why did you start volunteering?

In 2001, my wife Betty and I moved back

to Wellington after retiring from full-time work. We didn't know many people in the wider community here, and had spare time, so I thought it would be a good way to get involved and do something positive. After researching The Mission, and their "hand up not a handout" approach, I knew it was a cause I could believe in, and a way to put into practice the ideals of my Christian faith.

What did you get involved with?

I was offered lots of opportunities to volunteer, which I still do: collecting for Street Day, sorting food and toys at Christmas, and coming in once a week to help in the Foodbank. I also served as a Board member.

Why is it rewarding?

First off, I know the food parcels we make up go to people who really need them. It's also a pleasure to be part of a much bigger team, which ranges from members of the Mission Auxiliary to corporate groups, families, adults, and school students. While it's actually all enjoyable, it's the big appeals that are really special – the amazing generosity of people in Greater Wellington always bowls me over.

Why is volunteering important?

It's clear that The Mission simply couldn't do everything it does with just its paid staff. From regulars to those who give a couple of hours a year, volunteers back up the frontline staff so they can work in our community.

What would you say to someone considering volunteering?

Any time you can give to a charity is valuable, and you could be really helpful in some way. But make sure to volunteer for an organisation that you believe in, because by volunteering you're becoming a part of it.

Our sincere thanks go to Jeff, and all our amazing volunteers. Without you, we couldn't offer the vital support of our Foodbank and Drop-in Centre. Many people would not be able to feed themselves and their families, connect with their community, and continue working to achieve the long-term goals that will help transform their lives.

For more information, to discuss any ideas, or to volunteer, contact Foodbank & Volunteer Coordinator Louise Mearns, (04) 245 0825 or louise@wgtncitymission.org.nz

OUT & ABOUT



GREATER WELLINGTON IS FULL OF STARS!

We're so grateful to the people of Greater Wellington for all the ways they supported our Christmas Star Appeal. Included is a special insert with all the details – including photos, statistics, and thank yous!

SMOOTH SAILING FOR FISH & SHIPS



Fish & Ships, our incredible one-of-a-kind fundraising event in partnership with the Royal NZ Navy, went ahead in February. Nearly 400 guests boarded the magnificent HMNZS Canterbury for a fancy fish-themed lunch, under a massive marquee on the Canterbury's deck.

Our sincere thanks to the Royal NZ Navy, Ruth Pretty Catering, and all the businesses and organisations that supplied equipment, food, and auction items. Our thanks also go to MC Peter Biggs, auctioneer Chris Gollins, and to the students of Samuel Marsden Collegiate and Rathkeale College who

served our guests. Thanks also to everyone who bought tickets, and bid on the auction items!

Fun events like this are one way to help The Mission keep such a wide range of programmes and services available.

FULTON HOGAN HELPS BUILD UP OUR YOUTH

Civil engineering company Fulton Hogan showed its incredible support for the young people enrolled in our Mission for Youth programme, by donating a brand new 12-seater van last year – and it's been getting plenty of use!



Our students and staff can now easily travel together to activities and learning opportunities outside the classroom – including camps, exhibition visits, and sports practice.

Adventure-based learning is really valuable in helping students no longer in school to re-engage positively with learning. These opportunities complement the formal education our Youth programme offers, including NCEA papers and accredited life-skills courses.

Thanks Fulton Hogan for your incredible generosity!

\$96,000 COOKED UP!



Mission Auxiliary Chair Sharon presents CEO Michelle with a cheque!

With help from sales of their cookbook 'Fresh from The Mission', The Wellington City Mission Auxiliary Committee raised over \$96,000 last year!

The Mission Auxiliary is an important part of The Mission's fundraising efforts, and they are always coming up with wonderful ways to help. Thanks so much for all your hard work and enthusiasm!

Thanks also to everyone who purchased the book. We're sure you're using it to create great things, just like those who are working with the

programmes you've supported!

There are still a few books available – contact us if you would like one!

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AS A COMMUNITY



During December the Drop-in Centre (DIC) held two extra special meals to help include people, who may have otherwise missed out, in the happiness of Christmas. We had the annual AMP Barbeque lunch, where 18 of AMP's IT Team volunteered to serve a Christmas-themed lunch. Then, to finish the year, there was a shared hākari (feast).

Over 150 people came through, and the atmosphere was one of peace and togetherness. Lots of guests expressed how much they enjoyed being part of a shared meal. Thank you everyone who kindly donated food!

The DIC is one way The Mission helps feed, engage, and build positive relationships with struggling people in the community who can be a little harder to reach. Our sincere thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who give so much of their time to make this possible.

The Kemp Home & Hospital community also came together to celebrate. Ninety-six residents and their whānau enjoyed a wonderful lunch and entertainment in the beautifully decorated hall. Kemp prides itself on its inclusive nature, and events are a way to maintain ties with the wider community.