



MY ENTIRE LIFE CHANGED IN EIGHT MONTHS

Before I came to Mission for Youth (MFY) a year ago, life wasn't good. I was struggling with my anger and violence issues, and getting into trouble with the police. I wasn't doing well at school and was challenging the teachers and staff a lot. I felt worthless.

When I was 15, I wasn't wanted at school anymore. But MFY was there for me, and everything changed. For the first time in a long time I was being told I could go further than I'd ever thought. I loved coming into MFY every day. We got to do life-skills, like managing money and bank accounts, and understanding taxes. I enjoyed being creative, especially painting, and the smaller classroom size was better suited

for me too. I actually achieved my first ever 10 NCEA credits in the first couple of weeks! The staff helped me through a lot, and I had an escape from the negative stuff going on.

“Something just clicked. I went from “I don't care about anything” to “what can I learn now, and where can I go after this?”

I could talk about anything and they'd listen and relate, and my anger issues started

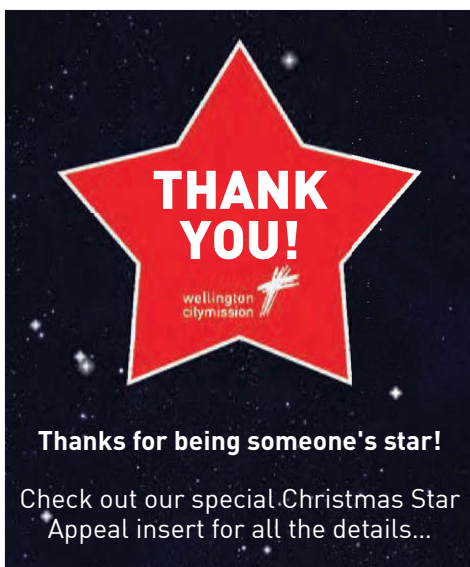
lifting away. Something just clicked. I went from “I don't care about anything” to “what can I learn now, and where can I go after this?”

Working in the trades is something I've wanted to do for a long time, so my youth worker Taylor (pictured) helped me explore the options for my next step. When I told Mum about my plan to continue studying at a trades school, she was really supportive, because she knew I could keep achieving even more.

I graduated MFY at the top of attendance and achievement. Taylor even asked me to MC the end of year prizegiving event! It was surprising having so many people talk about how well I had done afterwards. I never in my life thought I would hear a police officer say nice things about me - especially one who had arrested me the year before.

I can't believe how much MFY changed my entire life in eight months. I'm so proud to be independent, and working towards a career I'm passionate about. I can see my whole future planned out, and I can't wait to keep moving up in the world.

The massive changes this young man has made for himself have been incredible to see. We're so proud of him and can't wait to watch his journey! He truly is an inspiration to every rangatahi (young person) who comes to MFY feeling left out.



THANKS TO YOUR HELP...

CHRISTMAS 2017 KEY STATISTICS

1,650

NEARLY 1,650 FOOD PARCELS WERE GIVEN OUT, FEEDING MORE THAN 3,000 PEOPLE

38

THE MISSION SUPPORTED CLIENTS OF 38 OTHER COMMUNITY AGENCIES THROUGHOUT GREATER WELLINGTON

1,700

OVER 1,700 CHILDREN RECEIVED NEW CHRISTMAS GIFTS

WHAT IT MEANS...



Fay
Programme Manager/
Senior Social Worker
Mission for Youth

"At the start of a new year I'm always excited about working with our rangatahi (young people) again and having the opportunity to watch them change and grow. Young people often come to us feeling discouraged and hopeless, but throughout the year they begin to discover what they're good at, they grow in confidence, and their attitudes start to shift. They transform before our eyes! These changes don't happen overnight, it's a process that takes time, but it's worth every minute."

Mission for Youth is a comprehensive Alternative Education programme for youth who have disengaged or been excluded from mainstream schools, providing a place of belonging, life-skills, and new opportunities.



Isapella
Programme Coordinator/
Senior Social Worker
Mission for Families

"We give special support to every family on our programme throughout the holiday season, and it's amazing to see what this means to them in the long term. Instead of starting the year feeling discouraged and set back, these families are now filled with resilience and commitment to keep working hard. They're ready and motivated to continue making amazing life changes, and our team are excited to walk alongside them this year and offer any support they still need."

Mission for Families provides early intervention for families through advocacy, education, support and guidance, equipping families to better manage their own circumstances.



SOMETIMES A HAND UP IS ALL YOU NEED

A few years ago, constant severe migraines took away my ability to work, and I went from a wage to a sickness benefit. In winter, keeping on top of costs became a huge challenge. I received some big power and gas bills that I just couldn't afford. It got to the point where my power was about to be cut off entirely, and I was having to choose between paying the bills or buying food. The added stress made my migraines worse. I ended up in an ongoing cycle of debt, stress, and sickness.

I just couldn't get into a good position to get back to work, and improve my situation, so I turned to The Mission. Walking in, I felt horrible - like I had come to beg for food as I sheepishly approached the lady at

reception. But her kindness and acceptance put me at ease straight away. We talked about what I was going through over a cup of tea, and I asked if The Mission could help with a bit of food to get through the next few days. She handed me a couple of food parcels, saying it would be enough to get me through for the next two weeks. Honestly I wanted to cry with appreciation right there in reception. I did a budgeting session as well, which was so useful in prioritising and planning for the future.

Those food parcels gave me the breathing room I needed to pay off my debt, and still have food on the table. In the end I only needed one more food parcel a few weeks later to get through that hard time, and

back on my feet. I felt better mentally and physically, so I decided to use the new opportunity to follow my dream of studying early childhood education. After four years, and a lot of hard work, I only have two papers to go before I'm a qualified early childhood teacher!

Anyone could get into a position where they need help, and it's a good feeling to know there will always be someone there.

Just before Christmas I reconnected with The Mission, when I donated a beautiful wooden play-kitchen I'd won in a competition. I wanted it to go to a child who wasn't going to get a present. It's one thing to struggle for yourself, but with children it's a totally different thing. I knew that I'd be helping those parents out, and putting a smile on a child's face.

My experience has shown me that you never know what can happen in life. Anyone could get into a position where they need help, and it's a good feeling to know there will always be someone there. I guess it has strengthened my own philosophy, which is just to be kind to people.

Sometimes the smallest gesture can make a massive difference in someone's life. The Mission and its amazing family of supporters will be here again for people who need short or long-term assistance in 2018.



SUPPORTER PROFILE: HAYLEY, THE FLORAL DELIVERY

It's so inspiring to see the creative ways that local people and businesses choose to support The Mission. This year we were excited to hear from Hayley, owner of a new online florist called The Floral Delivery (thefloraldelivery.co.nz), who chose to donate \$1 from every bouquet sold to The Mission. We asked her to share more about this support and why she thinks it's important to get behind a local charity.

Can you tell us about your business?

This year I opened my own online florist

business, The Floral Delivery, because I wanted to share my passion for creating bouquets and arrangements with others. It's a creative space where I get to spread joy, happiness and healing to others through the gift of flowers. Whatever the occasion, I want the recipient to feel loved and feel the joy that flowers bring.

What made you decide to support The Mission through your new business?

I have always felt a deep desire to help those who are less fortunate and struggling. I knew I wanted to support a

great local charity through my business income, and The Mission was the right fit. I really relate to the values The Mission stands by and love the services they offer to help others. I really care about making sure every person knows they are supported, loved, and that someone cares about them, and The Mission does that.

Why is it important to you to support a local charity?

I love Wellington – I was born here and grew up here for most of my life. I think it's important to support a local charity because they can change the lives of those around us who really need it, and make it a better place for everyone to live in.

What would you say to other business owners about supporting a charity?

I think it's important to give and to focus on someone other than yourself. It can be as easy as giving a portion of your business income or sales, and every donation helps better someone's life and your own community.

We totally agree Hayley! Every donation, no matter the size, counts. If you'd like to talk to someone about how your business or group can support The Mission, please get in touch with our Marketing and Fundraising Manager Bridget Child on bridget@wgtncitymission.org.nz.

I've had some pretty tough times in my life, but after a special Christmas things are really looking up. I used to have a gambling addiction, until around seven years ago when I started attending Gamblers Anonymous. Since then I have been completely bet-free. But even after stopping gambling, it was still difficult money-wise. My disability prevents me from working and although I do receive a benefit, paying for rent and food is very hard. I got used to having bare cupboards and an empty fridge, and living on bread and jam.

When I started coming to The Mission's Drop-in Centre (DIC) for breakfast and lunch every day, I began feeling positive about my life. It was a battle for me to come in at first, because I've struggled to trust other people. But it was a really big deal for me becoming part of the DIC community. The guests accepted me as I am, and the staff were very friendly. They took the time to talk with me without any judgement. It was great getting healthy meals every day, and it helped lower my costs. I was introduced to Total Money Management too, so The Mission could pay my bills automatically from my income. Meeting and talking with my Mission financial mentor, Jill, helped me learn to plan my own spending budget.



THE MISSION MADE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

It opened my eyes to what I can and can't afford. I could feel things changing for me, and I started believing in myself.

I'll always remember how special last Christmas was, when The Mission helped me out with one of their hampers. Christmas is a hard time, so I was overwhelmed and very thankful when I received such a wonderful gift. It was a really special moment seeing my cupboard stocked with food. It felt fantastic inviting Mum around on Boxing Day. I got to say

"Here Mum, here's some food for you". Even just to offer her biscuits and a mince pie made me feel so great, like I was taking part in Christmas with everyone else.

Even though money coming in is still low, I feel confident and capable of managing my own budget now. I know that the DIC will be there again for me this year, and I can always ask for more budgeting help if I ever need it. I feel more in control of my life, and a lot brighter every day. I know that everything is going to be OK for me!

OUT & ABOUT

SPECIAL CAKES MADE CHRISTMAS DAY HAMPERS EVEN SWEETER

A group of local cafes and bakers rallied together to help make Christmas that much sweeter for families and individuals across our region. The 'Christmas Cake Run' initiative was organised by Claire from Cake Friday as a way to collect cakes and other baked treats for our Christmas Day Hampers.

Claire put the call out to other Wellington cafes and bakers, and the response was amazing. In the end an incredible array of cakes, brownies and other baked goods were donated from businesses such as Havana Brothers Bakehouse, Lashings, From my Kitchen, Tomboy, Caked by Dal, Sixes and Sevens Deli, and more.

These beautiful treats were a wonderful addition to our hampers. Our huge thanks goes to Claire and everyone else who got involved!



One of the special cakes donated through the 'Christmas Cake Run'

WHERE TO NEXT FOR CHILD POVERTY SOLUTIONS?



City Missioner Tric Malcolm speaking at the 2017 Child Poverty Monitor launch

In December Wellington City Missioner Rev. Tric Malcolm featured on a discussion panel as part of the launch of the 2017 Child Poverty Monitor.

This Monitor is released by the Office of the Children's Commissioner every three years to map levels of child poverty in New Zealand. The event explored the question "Where to next for child poverty solutions?"

The panel included Children's Commissioner Andrew Becroft and speakers from the McGuinness Institute and Victoria University of Wellington. Together they shared outstanding ideas on the way forward for child poverty solutions.

Child poverty is an issue The Mission is passionate about resolving. We will continue to champion improvements in children's welfare, especially through our Mission for Families programme.

TIME TO SHINE FOR OUR STUDENTS

It was fantastic to celebrate our amazing rangatahi (young people) at the Mission for Youth (MFY) Graduation in December. Parents, whānau and other supporters attended this milestone event which included speeches, awards and a special lunch.

It was particularly exciting for the nine students who graduated from the programme and have headed into higher

education opportunities such as Capital Training. Check out our front page story to hear from one of the inspiring graduates!

For the other six students who are partway through their journey at MFY, graduation was a great chance to reflect on the positive changes they've already made.

We're so proud of all the students who graduated, and those who are still part of the MFY family and are working towards their goals this year. We can't wait to see what 2018 will hold for each of them – and for the new students who will come to MFY this year!



The Mission for Youth graduation ceremony

A CREATIVE WAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

One of our amazing supporters, Richard, has found a creative way to fundraise for The Mission.

Richard skilfully builds traditional Canadian wooden canoes in his garage, two of which he has now sold for around \$5,000 each and donated the proceeds to The Mission.

"I'm from a long line of Wellingtonians, stretching back to 1840," he says. "I've always liked the idea of supporting local charities, especially the work of The Wellington City Mission. I sleep better knowing you're out there helping the less fortunate among us. Combine that with my love of building traditional wooden canoes, and it just seemed right."

We're so inspired by Richard and his keenness to use his talents to help others – thank you!



Richard working on one of his amazing wooden canoes

LOOKING FORWARD

WINTER IS COMING...

It's hard to imagine it now after such a spectacular summer in Wellington and across the country, but soon enough the colder weather will be creeping in.

Many in our community will be faced with tough choices this winter as they struggle with the extra costs the season brings. But throughout these colder months, The Mission will be there to help – thanks to your support.

Our Winter Appeal, kicking off in June, is all about collecting funds and food to assist people in need through this challenging season. The appeal includes our iconic Brown Paper Bag Collection, plus other exciting ways to get involved.

Look out for more information about our Winter Appeal coming soon on our website, social media, and in the June issue of On a Mission Magazine.

CANES IN THE COMMUNITY

Last year we launched an awesome new partnership with the Hurricanes, and we're excited to continue as one of their official charity partners in 2018!

It was always a highlight when the players came in to volunteer at The Mission last year and we're really looking forward to working with them again. Keep an eye out for news about how the team will be showing their support throughout 2018.



FOODIES UNITE!

Always a highlight in our calendar, The Food Show Wellington is taking place at Westpac Stadium from 11 – 13 May.



We're excited to be there for our fourth year as the official charity partner. If you're planning to attend, don't forget to visit our booth! For more information and to buy tickets, head to foodshow.co.nz.

MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE THIS YEAR – START AN AP!

Giving through an Automatic Payment is another great way you can help make sure that people in the Wellington region will always have somewhere to turn when they face overwhelming challenges.

This year, please consider starting a regular donation via AP. Together, we will make a significant difference and ensure that Wellington is a great place for everyone who lives here.

Please contact enquiries@wgtncitymission.org.nz if you'd like to find out more about starting an AP.

THE END OF THE 2017-18 TAX YEAR IS FAST APPROACHING!

With the end of the tax year just around the corner, any donations you make before 31 March 2018 can be immediately included in your tax rebate application.

Visit wellingtoncitymission.org.nz to make a donation at any time.

Thank you!

TRIC'S MISSIONS

WELLINGTON CITY MISSIONER



Over the summer period my family has been hanging out with my parents. One thing my mum loves doing is big jigsaw puzzles.

Mum has a certain way of doing jigsaws. So do my teenagers. They are not the same ways. But one of the beautiful things about the experience is that all the different approaches contribute to a jigsaw's completion. Part of that beauty comes from being with each other as it grows and

evolves in front of us. It reminds me of the piece of scripture from Paul's letter to the Corinthians of how all the different parts of the body work together (see below).

Like our family's jigsaw puzzles, all year-round, people from different spaces come together at The Mission in a variety of ways to bring hope and joy to others. It's always incredible getting to see businesses, community groups, individuals and our regular Mission whānau contributing to create hope for those who are searching for it. Just as a new picture slowly emerges in a large puzzle, those who contribute to the mahi (work) and life of The Mission offer hope in the form of a new picture – giving a new outlook for those who are struggling.

As we move forward in this new year, many people across The Mission's whānau will

unite to offer others the chance to build their own pictures of hope. We remain here for those who were partway through their puzzle at Christmas, and we will also be here for those who come to The Mission seeking a fresh start. They will begin fitting their pieces together, as yet unsure of the new picture they too will create.

It is wonderful to have you beside all of us, the staff and clients of The Mission, as we continue journeying along this rewarding and hope-filled road!

A body is not just a single part blown up into something huge. It is all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together. 1 Corinthians 12:14.

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

A WORD FROM MICHELLE – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

After eleven eventful and truly rewarding years, I have resigned as CEO of The Mission – so this will be my final message to you, our treasured Mission whānau.

Thinking back to when I started at The Mission, it was only a year or so before the Global Financial Crisis started to bite. The number of unemployed and underemployed people grew, and it really hit a lot of people hard, as they felt devastating knock-on effects on their families and wider whānau. We continued to see people who were “running on empty” as a result for years to come.

To provide the wraparound support that would help them best, we invested in our people and services. Practical staff training, a re-imagined vision and values, and stronger links between different services means The Mission has a clear purpose, and offers relevant and inclusive care for people who need it. For example, in the Drop-in Centre (DIC), we created new activities that brought together DIC regulars, Mission for Youth students, Mission for Seniors clients, and Kemp Home & Hospital residents – to encourage a better connected and stronger community.

What has always been so important, is making sure we can always be here for anyone who needs us – in the ways that they need us. That meant not only adapting our services, but also our ways of fundraising. So when Ezee Meals (which was tailored to benefit older people) had done its dash because of more consumer choice, we regrouped, and moved on. We saw that there was a gap in the market for op-shoppers in Wellington, and that we could fundraise in a new way, sell affordable goods, and recycle all in one place. So we brought second-hand shops back to The

Mission, and opened two high-quality new stores.

But what has remained the same, is how The Mission brings a positive message of tūmanako (hope) to people, and that all of us together as a community can make a big difference. That's because the soul of The Mission is its community. Clients, staff, volunteers, and supporters come from all walks of life, and combined this is a place of diversity, tolerance, hospitality and hope.

One thing I particularly love about Mission staff and supporters, is how they really see the goodness and uniqueness in everyone who asks for help. I have been privileged to witness firsthand so many extraordinary acts of kindness and generosity. These people don't ask for recognition or return. It's purely about knowing they are doing the right thing by humanity and their own moral compass. This is particularly so of the tireless volunteers and financial donors. Without their gifts of time and money, The Mission simply couldn't have such a powerful impact on people in Greater Wellington.

So I'd like to say my sincerest thank you for the years you have joined with me in serving our region's most vulnerable. The Mission is in good heart as I leave. I'm sure it will continue to innovate in ever-changing times, and of course remain a profoundly positive force in our communities, alongside you, its family of faithful supporters.

Ngā mihi maioha
Michelle



We have been blessed to have Michelle in the role of CEO/Tumuaki of The Mission, for the impact she has had in so many ways and the stability she has brought. Her legacy is evident, and positions us well to continue developing ourselves. We are grateful for her leadership and her deep commitment to The Mission and all that it represents, and wish her the very best for whatever role she decides to take up next.

The Board has decided to recruit a single leader for The Mission, to be called The City Missioner, in place of the split CEO and Missioner roles we have had for the last 20 years. This decision echoes The Mission's history, and also the leadership of the City Missions in Auckland and Christchurch.

Life at The Mission continues as normal under the guidance of the senior leadership team and Board as we move through the recruitment process. We are excited about the future as we continue the mahi (work) we have been focused on for over 110 years of helping Wellingtonians in need.

Jon Hartley
Chairman of The Board



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, or for information on ways to support, please go to the 'Want to Help' page of our website.

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

City Mission Stores:

Corner of Taranaki & Abel Smith Streets, Wellington
228 Jackson Street, Petone
T: 0800 245 542
E: welcometocitymissionstore.nz

wellingtoncitymission.org.nz



The Wellington City Mission



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THANKS FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!



For our 2017 Christmas Star Appeal we asked people, families, businesses and groups to “be someone’s star”. We’re so thankful to those who answered the call! Whether you got a star on our Walk of Fame, entered our Christmas Raffle, volunteered on Street Day, got involved with Pack the Bus, donated funds, food or gifts, or helped in some other way, your generous support is making an incredible difference in our community!

More than just meeting people’s physical needs, you brought hope and joy to those who were struggling at Christmas, filling them with the courage and confidence to continuing improving their lives this year.

So thank you for being someone’s star!



Wellington Phoenix, Billy Graham & Mission team ready to deliver Christmas Day Hampers



It was fantastic to have Starry out and about during the Christmas Star Appeal



Some of our amazing volunteer collectors on Street Day!



One of the many volunteer groups that helped sort food and gift donations



We celebrated 25 years of Pack the Bus! Thanks to The Breeze and everyone involved



The Walk of Fame along Wellington’s beautiful waterfront

THE DIFFERENCE YOUR SUPPORT MADE!

1,650

Nearly 1,650 food parcels were given out in November and December – that's approximately 1,200 Christmas food parcels, 350 regular food parcels, and 100 Christmas Day Hampers – helping feed more than 3,000 people!

1,700

Over 1,700 children received new Christmas gifts.

38

The Mission supported 38 external agencies with food and/or gifts, including Red Cross Refugee Services, Newtown Union Health and Kahungunu Whānau Service.

270

Over 270 stars were displayed on our Christmas Walk of Fame – that's a record number!

420

Over 420 workplace Christmas Star Boxes were sent out to businesses and organisations to fill with food and gifts.

170

170 people from more than 15 organisations and groups volunteered to sort food and gifts and make up Christmas parcels, and hundreds collected on Street Day.

100

We held three sittings for our final Drop-in Centre hākari (feast) – the first for regular Mission volunteers, then two sittings for guests – catering for 100 people in total.

OUR GOLD STAR WALK OF FAME SUPPORTERS



The US Marines donating toys for families in need



The winner of a 2017 Mitsubishi Mirage in our Christmas Raffle



Hurricanes players helping sort donations

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CHRISTMAS STAR APPEAL KEY SUPPORTERS...

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| ★ Cigna New Zealand | ★ The Breeze Wellington | ★ Kiwipank | ★ MTA |
| ★ PwC | ★ Henshaw Signs | ★ Ocular | ★ Countdown |
| ★ Datacom | ★ The Mad Butcher | ★ Whittaker's Chocolate | ★ Pak'n Save |
| ★ Precinct Properties NZ | ★ Hellers | ★ The US Marines | ★ The Warehouse |
| ★ Chapman Tripp | ★ Tegel Chicken | ★ My Food Bag | ★ DINEAID |
| ★ Booster Financial Services | ★ The Hurricanes | ★ STA Travel | ★ New World |
| ★ Z Energy | ★ The Wellington Phoenix | ★ JB Hi-Fi | ★ Everyone involved in |
| ★ EFTPOS NZ | ★ Billy Graham, Naenae | ★ InterContinental Wellington | Pack the Bus |
| ★ Mitsubishi Motors NZ | ★ Boxing Academy | ★ Aylstone Martinborough | |

...and all our other amazing business supporters!