



## NOW WE'RE ON A MUCH BETTER PATH

My kids and I have had a really tough couple of years. After having my youngest daughter, I decided I had to give up my job to look after my children – partly because I was uncomfortable leaving them with their father who has a drinking problem. Just making ends meet became really tight, so when my landlord raised our rent it tipped us over the edge. Sometimes I was left with just \$10 for everything our family needed that week.

I was so anxious because when costs came up, like birthdays or school trips, there was no way I could afford them. I was digging further into debt with loan companies like dtr and Home Direct as well. I knew it wasn't a good idea, but it broke my heart seeing my kids miss out. Eventually we got so far behind in rent that we were about

to be evicted and taken to court by our landlord. It was the hardest time in our life. That's when I came to The Mission, and started working with my financial mentor, Monique. It was a really big decision for me to go on Total Money Management (TMM) and give up control of all my income, but I knew it was what I needed.

Straight away Monique worked her magic on my budget, and dealt with my creditors. I began catching up on rent, and we had more money for food. Monique also introduced me to my incredible social worker, Trudy (pictured here with my youngest daughter). Her support with kids clothing and weekly food parcels made such a big difference in my budget, and it meant we actually had food in the cupboard. When I had nothing to give,

Trudy brought over birthday and Christmas presents too.

Just as things were getting better, we were thrown another curveball. After seven years, our landlord gave us 90 days to move. Trudy was there right when I needed her. We looked for houses but there was just nothing we could afford, so she kept pushing Housing NZ. At the last minute we found shared emergency housing in my local community, which was a massive relief.

Money's still really tight now, but it's nice knowing that we are moving forward rather than backward. I'll always remember breakthrough moments like when I paid off all my debt – it was supposed to take six more years! I'm excited about going back to work when I can, and I've been doing hospitality courses so that I can start taking on casual work. But right now it's so important to find permanent housing, and help my kids feel more settled again.

“Money's still really tight now, but it's nice knowing that we are moving forward rather than backward.”

My family has still got a hard road ahead, but with Trudy and Monique by my side I know our life will continue to get better.

## WINTER APPEAL

Thank you for supporting our Winter Appeal!

See inside for all the ways that people across our region have been making a difference this winter.

## THANKS TO YOUR HELP...

### APRIL - JUNE 2018 KEY STATISTICS

SEE BACK PAGE FOR MORE FROM OUR PROGRAMMES

STAFF FACILITATED

24

HEALTH CHECKS (WITH DOCTORS, NURSES, MIDWIVES, AND PLUNKET WORKERS) FOR FAMILIES

STAFF PROVIDED

341

FAMILIES

113

SENIORS WERE SUPPORTED BY MISSION FOR SENIORS CASEWORKERS

SENIORS

FOOD PARCELS AND HOUSEHOLD RESOURCES (SUCH AS BLANKETS AND CLOTHING) TO FAMILIES

CLIENTS WERE ASSISTED TO RESOLVE

145

HOUSING, SOCIAL, HEALTH & FINANCIAL ISSUES

COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVOCATE

FAMILIES

## WHAT IT MEANS...



**Susan**  
**Foodbank and Volunteer Coordinator**  
**Mission for Independence**

*Every day there's more people turning to The Mission for food support. When someone comes in for the first time, they're often surprised by all the other services we can offer too. You really feel their relief when they realise we're here to help them get through what is often a very tough time in their life. We're only able to meet the needs of people who are struggling because of the humbling support we receive from the community – especially our volunteers and those who donate to us. We really couldn't do it without them.*



**Tui**  
**Drop-in Centre Coordinator**  
**Mission for Independence**

*It's always special seeing people connecting and sharing a meal together in our Drop-in Centre. In this safe space we're able to provide some of life's basic nourishments like food, warmth and fellowship. I find it amazing how people start to come out of their shells because they feel accepted and part of a community again. The more we get to know them and find out about the hard choices they have to make, the more we can do to help them get back on their feet. It's a real privilege to be part of that.*

**Mission for Independence works on guiding, equipping and enabling financially disadvantaged and unemployed people towards independence and self management.**



## MY MISSION TEAM

Many years ago, I had to humble myself and ask for help from The Mission. My life before then was just really unstable. I wasn't managing well on my sickness benefit, and was finding it very difficult to get by. I couldn't pay for my expensive medication and doctors visits along with other necessities. I wanted to take pride in myself and my home, but when I spent money on essentials there just wasn't enough left for food.

Like lots of us on low incomes, I ended up going to loan sharks to stay afloat. But the extra interest was overwhelming and I was in way over my head. My whole situation got worse, because when they wanted their money, I had to pay them instead of my other bills.

My lovely Mission financial mentor Jill changed all that. First she helped me set my goals, (one was to never go to any loan sharks again!). She also helped me take

care of my budget, and taught me how to plan out my spending. A lot of stress was lifted off my shoulders when I stopped having to choose which necessities I'd go without. I also started coming into the Drop-in Centre (DIC) for meals, and receiving extra help with food parcels. It all made a huge difference, and as I paid off my debt I didn't need food parcels anymore.

**A lot of stress was lifted off my shoulders when I stopped having to choose which necessities I'd go without.**

I'm so grateful that The Mission continues to be there for me if I ever feel stuck in any way. Something that had caused me a lot of grief was having no form of photo ID, but it was impossible for me to get through

the expensive and complicated process by myself. Their amazing community services advocate, Rowan, supported me with all the paperwork, and along with Jill we planned for all the costs. Having a photo ID really has changed my life. It means I have a Total Mobility card and Beneficiary Permit so I get valuable discounts on things like my bus fares. I feel like I finally have my own identity too.

I still love coming into the DIC for a hot drink, something to eat, and a chat. The staff, volunteers, and other guests really are my family. I call them 'my team' because they look out for me. I feel like I'm cared for, and I enjoy being able to give that back a little bit by looking after people in our community who might not be doing so well. Looking back, I know I wouldn't be managing if I hadn't decided to come to The Mission. I have a feeling of belonging and security, which lets me get on with living a good life!



## THE BEST DECISION I EVER MADE

You always expect to have ups and downs in life, but as I got older, I noticed a few big issues were really starting to take over. I was living in a flat by myself with no family around, and felt very alone. Even when I got out of the house it seemed as though people were uncomfortable talking to me – like I was only going to bother them. I don't think they meant to, but I did feel quite ostracized. My health was worsening as well. Getting up the stairs in my home was always a battle, and climbing onto the bus was near impossible. I started making excuses to stay at home, which just added to my feeling of isolation.

I ended up in hospital, because my breathing got really bad. They told me it was time I was in care, and that I couldn't go back to my home of 25 years. It was really hard on me, especially because I was worried about losing my privacy. I fretted a lot, and hospital staff would sometimes find me weeping in my room. In the end I realised they were right, so I made the decision to get the support that was available.

“My life is so much better now.”

When I arrived at Kemp, everyone made me feel wonderfully welcome. The staff work very hard and do a fine job. My mental and physical health is watched out for, and I feel really cared about. Often it's the little things that make me feel good, like nice comments and 'hellos' from staff, or knowing I can ask for assistance when I need it.

I want to be as independent as possible for as long as I can, and to my surprise being here has meant I'm able to do so much more. I like taking trips down to the town centre, or walking around Titahi Bay. Keeping moving and getting fresh air has healed me a lot, and I can walk much further. I'm also enjoying spending time with the lovely people here. There are so many super programmes, like arts and crafts, so I try to go along to most of them. When I do need my quiet time I like going to the chapel to think and pray, and then I can come back refreshed.

I would say to older people who are like I was that even though it's hard, coming into care may be the best decision you ever make. My life is so much better now. I'm confident and connected with people, and I'm really looking forward to enjoying a few extra years too!

The Mission is so fortunate to have brilliant financial donors and volunteers, and some people like Warwick are both! He's been volunteering in our Drop-in Centre (DIC) for a couple of years now, so we asked him to share more about what keeps him coming back to help each week...

### Why did you start volunteering?

I first started supporting The Mission by donating money, and I began receiving On a Mission Magazine. When I read about all the people The Mission helps, I could see how everything that's contributed makes a difference. I had some spare time so I figured I could volunteer too, and I ended up helping in the DIC kitchen.

### What do you enjoy about volunteering?

I really enjoy working with the Mission team, and talking with our guests. I get to see the DIC helping a lot of people, by giving them the sustenance and social support they need. It's like a home for them – a place that's comfortable and safe. Volunteering has also been really eye-opening for me. It's so easy for us to make quick assumptions about people based on first impressions, but when you get to know our guests personally you discover their unique backgrounds and talents – and the circumstances that have led to them needing a bit of help. So I think having an opportunity to be there for them, and in turn



## VOLUNTEER PROFILE : WARWICK

getting that feeling of giving back, is what I enjoy most.

### Why is it important that people volunteer their time?

It's true that volunteers make sure services like the DIC can be here for people. That's important because a lot of guests first come in for a meal, but are then steered towards a staff member who can help in other ways like budgeting. It gives The Mission a good chance to connect with people in a non-threatening way, and to build trust.

### What would you say to someone considering volunteering?

I'd say to just put their hand up and go for it. You may get involved with something

completely new, and could be surprised by what comes out of it. It really isn't a hardship, and each day you can look back and see that you're part of a much bigger picture.

*Warwick is right when he says The Mission's services simply couldn't be here for people without our volunteers, and of course our financial donors. We'd like to say our sincere thanks to Warwick, and all of our dedicated and generous supporters. You are making sure The Mission is positively influencing people's lives every day!*

*If you'd like to find out about how you or your organisation can volunteer, please get in touch with our volunteer coordinator Susan on (04) 245 0836 or [susan@wgtncitymission.org.nz](mailto:susan@wgtncitymission.org.nz)*

# OUT & ABOUT



## WINTER APPEAL

### THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE THIS WINTER

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all the families, individuals, groups, businesses and schools that got behind our Winter Appeal this year!

Whether you filled Brown Paper Bags with goods, donated when buying a coffee during The Great Wellington Pick Me Up, showed your support at The Food Show or Hurricanes game, donated online, or gave to our magazine appeal – thank you!

Every donation of funds and goods has meant so much, and enabled us to continue making a difference throughout the cold winter months.



Thanks to everyone who donated during the Great Wellington Pick Me Up in May.



Thanks to teams like this one from Springload who filled Brown Paper Bags with goods!



At The Wellington Food Show we received donated goods and raised nearly \$3,000!



Thanks to schools who supported our Brown Paper Bag Collection, like Scots College (pictured here).

## COMMISSIONING MURRAY

In June, Murray Edridge was officially commissioned as the Wellington City Missioner at a service at St Peter's Anglican Church on Willis Street. It was fantastic to host our Mission whānau at this service, along with guests from many different parts of the community. Thank you to all who attended.

During the service it was also special to acknowledge outgoing City Missioner Rev. Tric Malcolm. We're so thankful for all that Tric contributed during her time as City Missioner. Her impact was felt by many in the community, and we wish her all the best in her next endeavour.



Murray and his wife Alyson at The Commissioning Service.



Murray with outgoing City Missioner Rev. Tric Malcolm.

## THANKS FOR HELPING US DO MORE GOOD IN OUR HOOD!

Thank you to everyone who voted for The Mission at Z Energy in Newtown during the recent 'Good in the Hood' campaign! We were thrilled to receive a total donation of \$1,357.65. Special thanks to Z Energy and the team at the Constable Street station for their support.

**GOOD** *in the* **HOOD**

## HONOURING OUR VOLUNTEERS

We were proud to honour many of our regular volunteers at a special 'National Volunteer Week Breakfast' in June. Mission staff prepared and cooked the breakfast to thank our regular volunteers for all that they do. Our Foodbank and Drop-in Centre services are powered almost entirely by volunteers. In the last three months they have given over 1,900 hours of volunteer time, allowing us to provide more than 5,550 meal servings and food parcels!

Along with our regular volunteers, many other amazing individuals, workplaces

and groups volunteer their time for us throughout the year. To everyone who has gifted their time to help The Mission – thank you!



City Missioner Murray and Catherine, one of our social workers, serving breakfast.

# LOOKING FORWARD

## COUNTING DOWN TO CHRISTMAS!

Can you believe that Christmas is only four months away? Here at The Mission we're already getting ready for our Christmas Star Appeal!

While Christmas is a season of joy for many of us, unfortunately it can also be a time of great distress and loneliness for others in our communities. By getting involved in this appeal, you'll be a star-to-families and individuals who are in need and help make this Christmas one to remember. You'll also ensure they can start the New Year filled with hope for what it can bring.

There will be lots of fun ways that you and your family, friends, workplace, team or group can get involved and "Be Someone's Star" this Christmas, including:

### ★ Christmas Walk of Fame ★

Our iconic Christmas Walk of Fame is back! Last year we displayed a record number of Hollywood Walk of Fame-style stars along Wellington's waterfront, but there's still room for more. You can help lead the way by pre-ordering your star, and yours will be one of the first down in December! Look out for pre-order information coming soon.

### ★ Street Day ★

We're looking forward to our annual Street Day collection! This year it's happening on Friday 7 December and you can get involved by volunteering as a collector or donating on the day. If you'd like to express your interest in volunteering, please email: [ella@wgtncitymission.org.nz](mailto:ella@wgtncitymission.org.nz).

We'll have further details about these activities and more coming soon, so please keep an eye on our website and social media for updates.

## CITY MISSION STORE

Our City Mission Stores on Taranaki St (Wellington City) and Jackson St (Petone) are looking for donated goods in tip-top condition.

Everything you donate or buy helps The Mission continue working in our local communities.



If you have good quality furniture, household items, books, clothing or bric-a-brac that you would like to find a loving new home for, please get in contact with the Stores on **0800 245 542** or [collect@citymissionstore.nz](mailto:collect@citymissionstore.nz).

We collect all donated items free of charge.

## ANOTHER YEAR WITH OUR NIX

We're excited to team up with Wellington Phoenix supporters clubs Yellow Fever and LFC Wellington to plan another Phoenix game collection! Every year these generous clubs are incredible at rallying Nix fans to support The Mission.

Keep an eye on our website and social media for more details coming soon.



## MURRAY'S MESSAGE

### WELLINGTON CITY MISSIONER



Having been the Wellington City Missioner for three months now, I've had the wonderful opportunity to get to know The Mission and its people.

These are both the remarkable people who are practically demonstrating the love of God in real and meaningful ways, and the extraordinary guests, clients and residents The Mission serves. Those who ask for help are people just like us, but through circumstance or misfortune their lives have become too challenging to manage alone.

Nelson Mandela said: "May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears". For

most of us, we have the privilege of making choices that do reflect our hopes and aspirations. Unfortunately many in our communities are forced into less palatable choices every day – often deciding between the most basic of requirements, for example: food versus electricity, versus health care, versus the wellbeing of their children. When life is this tough, fear is real and present. Hope can seem a long way away; hope for stability, warmth and wellness, hope for quality relationships, and hope for a better future!

At The Wellington City Mission, we have the chance to make a genuine and sustainable difference in the lives of those we have the privilege of serving. Walking alongside people is about helping them with their immediate needs, and then working with and advocating for them in order to change their life's direction.

Those of us working or volunteering for The Mission do the very best we can with

the resources we have. Wellingtonians are remarkable in their support of their Mission and we are enormously grateful. The more support we receive, the more people can create better outcomes and sustainable change in their lives.

All of us can choose to do something about what happens in our communities. For those of us who do have hope, let's share some of it with those who might not!

*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. - Romans 12: 10 - 13*

**Murray Edridge**  
Email: [murray@wgtncitymission.org.nz](mailto:murray@wgtncitymission.org.nz)

# A WORD FROM CHRIS – CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER



As one of the senior leaders at The Mission, I see first-hand just how important great decision-making is throughout our organisation; from our financial mentors who help people make the best choices in challenging times, to our teachers and social workers who offer guidance and support to families and young people.

The same goes for us staff who stand behind that front line. As a Chartered Accountant, it's an honour being entrusted to make wise financial decisions. One of the biggest challenges charities will always face is having the funds to run the programmes that are making a difference in people's lives – particularly at really difficult times. At The Mission, we are so lucky to have such generous regular and one-off donors who make sure we can always be there for people through overwhelming challenges. Now, the three of us in the Corporate Services

team are busy finding new ways to keep on making the most of those donations. It's all about best reaching vulnerable people in our communities, and continuing to provide the services they need.

We understand that many of those who give to charities want their funds to go to the front line, rather than meeting running costs. In truth every dollar we receive ends up helping people in some way. For example, our social workers need reliable vehicles so they can visit young families and seniors in their homes. Mission for Youth needs a building to give our young people a place of learning and belonging. And our Drop-in Centre needs a functional kitchen to serve the many people who rely on it for warm and nourishing meals. These all create necessary costs, and meeting them is critical to ensuring The Mission can keep delivering life-changing support.

The Mission is actually striving to create a region where we're not needed at all. But in reality, we know there's always going to be someone who genuinely needs a helping hand. It's so rewarding for me to have joined The Mission family. I get to see the impact it's making, and contribute in my own way – by making sure that all the support we receive goes to where it's needed most. Because just as we teach our clients to be responsible with their means, we also take responsibility as an organisation to make the best choices with every donation.

APR – JUN 2018 KEY STATISTICS

## MISSION FOR FAMILIES

29

29 families successfully completed all the objectives in their personal plans

673

Staff supported or advocated for families 673 times (face-to-face, phone, and email) with external organisations

## MISSION FOR YOUTH

29

Students took part in 29 Education Outside the Classroom sessions and life skills workshops

13

Staff had 13 post-programme contacts/review meetings with students who have completed the Mission for Youth programme

## MISSION FOR INDEPENDENCE

76

76 clients no longer required food parcels

1,933

Volunteers gave 1,933 hours of their time working in our Drop-in Centre and Foodbank

## MISSION FOR SENIORS

167

Older people achieved 167 of their personal goals

352

Staff made 352 face-to-face visits with seniors in their own homes and in the community

## KEMP HOME & HOSPITAL

5,527

Kemp provided 5,527 bed nights of accommodation for 67 people

250

Kemp residents participated in 250 planned recreational activities and community events/outings

## 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: welcome@citymissionstore.nz

Find us on social media!

[wellingtoncitymission.org.nz](http://wellingtoncitymission.org.nz)



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