



BE
SOMEONE'S
STAR



OUR BABY HAS A HOME

I was living with my parents, when my now husband and I fell pregnant. My whole family was very unhappy about it, and they kicked me out. With nowhere to go, we lived in my car. It was the scariest time of my life. I remember crying every day. Even though I was working, we had little money, and I was sick a lot. My husband was struggling to find a job, and we just couldn't afford to rent a private house. I was always worried about the life our baby would be born into.

I went to Work and Income, and after three months they found us temporary emergency accommodation in a hotel. Life was much better than in the car, but we never felt settled because we knew we had to move out before our baby was due. We were stressed about where we'd go, and how

we'd keep our baby healthy. We felt really alone and afraid. After four months in the hotel we had no choice but to move into a house that was way too expensive for us. We were left with just \$10 a week after rent. We had no idea what we were going to do, until our midwife introduced us to Isapella, a Mission social worker.

Having Isapella on our side was such a relief. She gave us culturally-specific food parcels, and cleaning products to stretch our budget. Isapella also started to help us get ready for our baby. She provided important items like hand-knitted blankets, clothes, and a car seat, and even introduced us to Family Start so we could learn skills to be the best parents. Even with all this help, staying in the private rental was not going to

work for our family long-term. So Isapella made sure we got on the Housing NZ waiting list, and we reminded them every week that we'd need an affordable house before our baby was born. In April we were so lucky to find our new home, and two months later, along came our beautiful boy!

Now we feel so happy and secure. I'm confident that we are taking care of our boy well, and that he will grow up healthy and safe. After meeting our son, my dad came around too and he loves being part of our life again. We're now fully independent from The Mission's support, but I know we can call Isapella if we ever need to.

It's going to be so special celebrating our son's first Christmas in our own home.

I'm looking forward to going back to work when I can, and studying part-time. My husband has got a passenger driving license, and applied for a taxi. After everything we've been through, it's going to be so special celebrating our son's first Christmas in our own home – we can't wait. What can I say, we just feel so lucky!

It's a privilege to be there for families like this one, through what was an incredibly scary part of their journey. We're so happy that they will have their baby's first Christmas in a safe home, knowing that their future looks so much brighter.

THANKS TO YOUR HELP...

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2018 KEY STATISTICS

SEE BACK PAGE FOR MORE FROM OUR PROGRAMMES

603

FOOD PARCELS WERE GIVEN OUT TO FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS

FOODBANK

STAFF MADE

504

CONTACTS WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS ADVOCATING FOR CLIENTS VIA PHONE OR FACE-TO-FACE

FAMILIES

VOLUNTEERS GAVE

2,318

HOURS OF THEIR TIME WORKING IN OUR DROP-IN CENTRE AND FOODBANK

VOLUNTEERS

OLDER PEOPLE ACHIEVED

286

OF THEIR PERSONAL GOALS

SENIORS



Help people in need this Christmas by getting involved in our Christmas Star Appeal!

Whose star will you be?

See our special insert inside for all the details or visit ChristmasStar.co.nz

WHAT IT MEANS...

TO BE SOMEONE'S STAR!



★ **Natasha**
Kitchen Supervisor
Drop-in Centre

Feeling that you belong, and connecting with others, is so important for all of us – especially coming up to Christmas. Many of the guests we serve in the Drop-in Centre don't have family to spend the holidays with. That's why one of our values is whanaungatanga – belonging. When a person comes in for a meal, they're no longer simply someone who's homeless, isolated, or struggling financially. They are whānau. Here, they can enjoy a good meal and be part of a community. You can see how these feelings of belonging bring strength and hope to their lives as they head outside of our walls too.



★ **Bridget**
Manager
Fundraising & Marketing

I'm always so inspired by the way Wellingtonians care about others in their community. As we now head into the Christmas season, it really is amazing to connect with so many generous people who choose to share their time and resources in order to make a difference. This time of year is so hard for people who are struggling, but your gifts of food, toys and funds make sure that they can have a special Christmas – and the best chance at a happy future too. It's a privilege to see the community coming together to make this possible. Thank you!



SUPPORTER PROFILE: CHAPMAN TRIPP

We're delighted to have incredible long-term support from businesses throughout the Wellington region, particularly at Christmas. Chapman Tripp is one of those partners. So we asked Cheryl Eggo, their Wellington Services Manager, to talk about their relationship with The Mission...

How does Chapman Tripp support The Mission?

At Christmas our people get involved in many ways. We run a collection site on Street Day, and provide volunteer teams to help sort donations. We also fill the Christmas Star Boxes with food and toys, and buy a Gold Star on the Walk of Fame. Our people love offering to help The Mission, especially at Christmas, so we have no problem getting everyone involved!

Why did Chapman Tripp choose The Mission?

We believe in supporting organisations that are helping people less fortunate. As part of

our Corporate Social Responsibility policy, our board selected The Mission as one of our charities to support. We are always struck by the breadth and importance of The Mission's work, and the leading role they play in Wellington. That really hits home for our volunteer teams too. They are always blown away when they see the amazing support Wellingtonians give, and learn more about what The Mission does.

I think it's important that people have an interest in the long-term health, well-being and vibrancy of Wellington, and all the people who live here.

How does this make a difference for the Chapman Tripp team?

Well, you certainly know Christmas is coming when you see the Christmas Star

Boxes arriving! People love buying presents for kids and food for people in need, and we have collection boxes on each level of our office so it becomes a bit of friendly competition. Particularly on team events, you can see how everyone enjoys getting together to do something good. It's also really special to see our star on the Walk of Fame, and know what it represents. All in all, the appeal just creates a great buzz around the office!

Why do you think it's important to support a local cause?

I think it's important that people have an interest in the long-term health, well-being and vibrancy of Wellington, and all the people who live here. When I see or hear about people doing it tough, it strikes a chord – as it does with our people. We have a lovely place to work and are earning a steady income, so we're really conscious of those who are living on the street - or can't afford to feed their families or pay their bills.

Like many New Zealanders, for me, Christmas is about getting together with family and friends and looking forward to a well-deserved summer break. Through the work The Mission does, and seeing people less fortunate, I realise how lucky I am. Knowing what's going on for some people in our community makes me feel quite privileged, and it's a reminder how important it is to help others in need.

Our sincere thanks go to Chapman Tripp, and to all of our ongoing supporters. We're excited to make a difference for so many families and individuals again this Christmas! Please check out our Christmas Star Appeal insert to find out how you can be someone's star this year too.



I GET TO LIVE AGAIN

I was living in Australia two years ago, when one day I came home from work with the most terrible headache. I don't remember anything from that moment on. I'd had an aneurysm, and there was a long road to recovery ahead. I had to learn most things over again, but I couldn't get any support in Australia for living costs.

I came back to NZ with no money and nowhere to go, and I was still really unwell. I reported to Wellington Hospital, and a social worker arranged for me to stay at a boarding house. The next year was a really frightening time, as I stayed at a few different boarding houses while recovering. I was delighted to eventually find my little flat, and I thought things were finally going to be better. But on my budget I just couldn't get by. I was so grateful for what I was

receiving from the government, but after rent and power I wasn't left with much for everything else – like food, cleaning supplies, and expensive healthcare for my recovery. On top of everything, my washing machine broke down, and there was no way I could pay to fix it. It was embarrassing having to go around my new neighbours asking if I could use theirs. I was really struggling to make any progress alone, and I honestly didn't know what to do.

I just felt such support and care from Rowan at a time when I was beginning to accept that my life was going to be an uphill battle.

That was when I was introduced to The Mission's Community Services Advocate, Rowan, and my whole life turned around. After chatting about everything I was going through, she organised a meeting with Work and Income immediately. It was a miracle how quickly she was able to get through to them, and then arrange a Supported Living Allowance. She even got a grant for the cost of a new washing machine!

But more than that, I just felt such support and care from Rowan at a time when I was beginning to accept that my life was going to be an uphill battle. Her impact has been life-changing, and not just because I don't have to struggle and stress anymore. I also feel part of society, even just because of little things like being able to afford to knit again.

Now I have so much in life, it just makes me want to cry. I wake up every day, and think to myself "Oh my goodness, this is just amazing!" I want everyone who has helped me to know how grateful I am, and I look forward to giving back however I can.

It's really heart-warming to see how brightly Sylvia is shining now. Sadly we see cases like hers all too often. There are lots of people who are genuinely struggling with the basics, but don't know how to access the support they need to take care of themselves. The Mission can help people get back to enjoying their lives, and become positive and valued members of our community.

In the lead-up to Christmas we're grateful to receive incredible support from across the community, including donations of Christmas food and gifts for kids. Along with providing these to people in need through our own programmes and services, it's also our privilege to share these items with other local social service agencies. Last year we provided support to 38 other agencies including Women's Refuge, Red Cross Refugee Services and Birthright!

We spoke with Birthright CEO Bonnie Mawson to find out how this support makes a difference for the people they work with.

Please tell us about Birthright.

Birthright is a small team working with families that are led by one person. We believe that every child has the right to a good start in life and the opportunity to reach their full potential.

What's Christmas like for the families you're working with?

A lot of our families find Christmas incredibly stressful. They want to provide the best for their kids, as all parents do, but their budgets are already stretched to the limit.



SHARING THE SUPPORT

It's heart-breaking for them to see their kids miss out, so they often fall into debt through high interest loans or shopping trucks, just so they can put on a family celebration.

How does The Mission's support help?

The food and presents that The Mission provides mean so much to our families. They're so delighted when we arrive with all the goodies, and many tell us that we've made their Christmas. This support helps them to feel like any other family celebrating Christmas together. It stops them from feeling the need to access loans or other debt, so it leaves them in a much better position going forward as well.

What would you say to those who support The Mission at Christmas and make this possible?

The Wellington community is amazing, and the level of involvement and support is heart-warming. From individuals through to schools, corporates and beyond, we thank you!

We're looking forward to providing food and gifts to agencies like Birthright again this Christmas. We love coordinating this support across the Wellington region. By working together, we're able to have an even greater impact and help more people in need!

OUT & ABOUT

COMBATING HYGIENE POVERTY

It was fantastic to partner with Wellington blogger Lucy Revill (The Residents) in July for a hygiene product campaign called Soap For Society.

Lucy created Soap For Society when she realised that there are many Wellingtonians who go without basic toiletries like soap, shampoo and sanitary items because they're unable to afford them.

She put the call out to people and businesses to donate products or funds to The Mission, and we were blown away by the response! In total we received donated products that filled more than 100 crates and boxes, and over \$1,500 in cash donations!

We've already begun distributing these products in many ways including through our Foodbank and shower service. We will also be sharing them with other Wellington agencies and schools. Thanks Lucy for organising this fantastic campaign!



Lucy Revill (right) with Mission staff.



Some of the amazing Soap For Society donations.

A GREAT WAY TO START THE DAY

It was a pleasure to acknowledge and thank many of our supporters from across the Wellington community at our new Supporter Breakfast event in mid-October.

Guests gathered at CQ Hotel for breakfast and to hear from our Wellington City Missioner Murray Edridge, and special guest speaker Guy Ryan. Guy, CEO and Founder of Inspiring Stories and Young New Zealander of the Year 2015, shared with us about his own journey and his passion for the next generation.

Mission staff and trustees joined guests at each table to talk about the things they see and do every day, and to explain first-hand how the support we receive makes a difference.

We also officially presented our 2017-18 Annual Review document at this event. If you're interested in seeing our latest Annual Review 'Hard Choices' it's now available online at wellingtncitymission.org.nz/annual-review, or you can email enquiries@wgtncitymission.org.nz to request a hard copy.

Our thanks go to CQ Hotel, and to everyone who attended.



Guests at our Supporter Breakfast.



Guest speaker Guy Ryan.



Our 2017-18 Annual Review.

WE LOVED HEARING FROM YOU!

We'd like to say a sincere thank you to everyone who returned our recent Supporter Survey. It was fantastic to hear from so many members of our family of supporters. We are currently reading

through all your responses, and will be in touch in the near future to answer any questions and reply to any comments and suggestions.

LOOKING FORWARD

BE SOMEONE'S STAR THIS CHRISTMAS!

Make a difference across the Wellington region this Christmas by being part of our Christmas Star Appeal activities!

★ WALK OF FAME ★

Get your name on our Christmas Walk of Fame when it's displayed on Wellington's waterfront! You and your business, organisation, team, group, family or friends can get your name or logo on our Hollywood Walk of Fame-style stars when they're displayed during the month of December.



★ STREET DAY ★

Get involved in our annual Street Day Collection on Friday 7 December! We rely on hundreds of volunteers to help us collect across the Wellington region on Street Day and we'd love to have you as part of the team.



★ DONATE ONLINE ★

We're so grateful for the generous financial donations people make throughout the appeal. Your donation will make a significant difference in the life of a Wellington family or individual who is struggling.

These are just a few of the ways you can get involved this Christmas. For more details check out our special Christmas insert in this magazine or head to ChristmasStar.co.nz

WELLINGTON PHOENIX COLLECTION

Calling all football fans! We've teamed up with the Wellington Phoenix and supporter's clubs Yellow Fever and LFC Wellington again for a fun game day collection on Saturday 3 November!

Support our Foodbank by bringing your favourite 'classic Kiwi' items (like Marmite, Weetbix or Watties cans) to Westpac Stadium, or you can make a cash donation on the night. Our collectors will be outside the stadium before the game kicks off at 7.35pm.

We'll also have some prizes to give away to a couple of lucky donors, thanks to the Wellington Phoenix.

See you there!



MURRAY'S MESSAGE

WELLINGTON CITY MISSIONER



Spring feels like a wondrous time of year, when we emerge from the chill and challenges of winter. The sun is warmer and a more frequent visitor, the daylight hours are longer and more useable, and we have a renewed sense of well-being and hopefulness.

This idea of restoration was perfectly illustrated at the recent Anglican Synod, when there was a wonderful reading of Oscar Wilde's story: The Selfish Giant.

This story is about the consequences of selfishness and the eternal winter that it created. It was only when the giant had his heart melted by a small child, and he became generous with what he had, that the children and the beauty and newness of spring returned to his garden. And so it is with us; the more we give, the more we receive!

Over the winter months The Mission has focussed on the theme of hard choices, as many of those we serve struggle to choose which necessities they can do without in order to survive. Now as we move into a new season centred around the celebration of Christmas, those hard choices remain a reality and we need to be mindful of these. Christmas is the ultimate experience of love, joy and generosity as we acknowledge again the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We do know however that many people's experience of Christmas is one of deprivation, loneliness and disappointment.

Together, we can make a tangible difference. Our Christmas Star Appeal provides us with the privilege of making Christmas a better and more blessed time for those who have little. By helping others through our generosity we can invite them to share the beauty of "our gardens", and as for Oscar Wilde's giant; know the love, joy, and peace that comes from this. May our "light shine" for those in darkness as we do what we can, and may God bless and encourage us as we do it.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5: 14 -16

Murray Edridge
Email: murray@wgtncitymission.org.nz

A WORD FROM OLIVIA - COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES MANAGER



Making Christmas a special time of year for everyone really resonates with me. Growing up, we didn't have a heck of a lot of money but we always had something to open on Christmas Day, and a special meal to share.

There's certainly a fair bit of pressure for all of us to be part of that 'Kiwi Christmas'. In reality though, this isn't possible for many people in our community. Families are barely scraping by just trying to maintain the basics. They're trying to pay back massive debts, get through personal challenges, or they have very little means because they are working poor, beneficiaries, or sole parents. Being unable to provide the best possible experience for your children is a heart-breaking thought for parents to live with.

Even though it's a commercial way of looking at Christmas, young kids don't understand it all. As a parent, how do you explain that

your child has been good, but they just won't get something special this year? Under pressure some parents go to loan sharks, which becomes a downward spiral. Others will simply go without, and feel ashamed during what should be a happy time. These pressures can open up cracks in already strained relationships as well, leading to high rates of alcohol and drug abuse, and family violence. On the whole, a family is in danger of heading down an even darker road in the New Year.

But our ambition is that no one will miss out this Christmas. Our social workers are already preparing families for the challenges ahead through financial mentoring, goal-setting, school holiday planning, and personal support. They're even planning the gifts each child will love most. One big thing we believe in, is giving parents unwrapped gifts. That way they have the opportunity to

wrap something themselves to give to their child. It lets the family feel like they are participating in a Kiwi Christmas.

I think this is so important because it gives our community's struggling families a sense of self-worth. Parents are reminded that they can provide for their kids, and they'll create priceless memories together. The Mission can only make this a special time for so many because of the incredible support we receive from generous people across the Wellington region. From gifts that will fulfil a child's wishlist, to food for a special meal and funds to provide the very best support, you make all the difference.

JUL - SEP 2018 KEY STATISTICS

MISSION FOR FAMILIES

326

Staff provided 326 household resources and food parcels to families

876

Staff made 876 contacts (face-to-face, phone, and email) with families

MISSION FOR YOUTH

31

Students took part in 31 Education Outside the Classroom sessions and life skills workshops

402

Staff made 402 contacts (face-to-face, home, phone, and email) with parents and caregivers

MISSION FOR INDEPENDENCE

79

79 clients no longer required food parcels

40

There were 40 new clients seeking budgeting assistance

MISSION FOR SENIORS

513

Staff made 513 contacts with external organisations advocating for clients, via phone or face-to-face

64

64 seniors left after they successfully completed the objectives in their personal plans, and no longer needed our support

KEMP HOME & HOSPITAL

5,610

Kemp provided 5,610 bed nights of accommodation for 72 people

300

Kemp residents participated in more than 300 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 to 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

wellingtoncitymission.org.nz



The Wellington City Mission



@wgtncitymission



@wellingtoncitymission



Be Someone's Star this Christmas and help people in need across Wellington

Christmas should be a time of celebration, but for thousands of people across the Wellington region it's filled with anxiety, uncertainty and loneliness.

That's why we're asking you to support our Christmas Star Appeal. By making a donation or getting involved in one of our appeal activities, you'll make a significant difference in the life of a Wellington family or individual who is struggling. You will be their star this Christmas, bringing them hope, joy, and courage by showing that people in their community care.

*"We'll always remember our daughter's first Christmas. We were together as a family in our beautiful new home, which was full of love and Christmas spirit. Our Mission social worker was a big part of that, because she'd given us an amazing surprise a couple of days before Christmas. She visited us with toys and a bag of Christmas food – which we would otherwise have gone without."
– A family that The Mission was able to support last Christmas.*

**So the question is: Whose star will you be?
Please make a donation or get involved in one of our activities today!**



Our Christmas Walk of Fame is an exciting art-installation displayed on Wellington's waterfront **during the month of December!** You can help make the Walk of Fame bigger and better than ever by getting your name or business logo on a Hollywood Walk of Fame-style star. Each star represents families being supported this Christmas and beyond.

Stars range in price, starting at **\$100** for an Individual/Group Star – the perfect star to purchase for your family, friends or team. Business Name Stars are available for **\$250** and Business Logo Stars for **\$500**. The Walk of Fame will also feature a limited number of exclusive Gold Stars.

Visit [ChristmasStar.co.nz/wof](https://christmasstar.co.nz/wof) to get yours, or email sarah@wgtncitymission.org.nz to find out more.



STREET DAY

You can be part of our annual Street Day Collection on **Friday 7 December**! We rely on hundreds of volunteers to help us collect across the Wellington region on Street Day, and we'd love to have you as part of the team. We can match you up with a time and location that suits you – there are collection sites around Wellington City, Porirua and the Hutt Valley. There's also the opportunity for businesses, groups or clubs to manage their own collection sites.

Head to ChristmasStar.co.nz/streetday or email ella@wgtncitymission.org.nz to find out more.



DONATE ONLINE

We're so grateful for the generous financial donations people make throughout the Christmas Star Appeal. Your donation will make a life-changing difference for a family or individual who's struggling. You can donate online at any time: ChristmasStar.co.nz/donate



PACK THE BUS

We can't wait to 'Pack the Bus' again this year, thanks to our partners The Breeze!

The iconic bus will be travelling around schools and supermarkets from **26 November – 7 December**, collecting food and gifts for The Mission and spreading Christmas joy.

Thanks to everyone who donates to Pack the Bus!



NZSO CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

This year we're excited to launch a brand new partnership with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra! Join us at one of the NZSO's Christmas concerts in December, and you can bring along donations of food or funds for the Christmas Star Appeal. Visit ChristmasStar.co.nz for more details.

✦ Last Christmas hundreds of people across the Wellington region were stars to those who are struggling. Because of this generous support we were able to feed approximately **3,000** people through our Christmas food parcels and provide **1,700** children with new gifts! We were also able to distribute donations to **38** other social service agencies across the region.

Now it's time to make a difference again!
Visit ChristmasStar.co.nz today