



GIVING BACK 15 YEARS LATER

When I was about 14, I pretty much stopped going to school. It was no fault of the school's, I just didn't like the classroom environment and my home life was unsettled too. I was living between Mum and Dad's, and I remember us relying on Mission food parcels at times when our cupboards were bare. My parents always wanted the best for me, and knew I needed an education, so Mum enrolled me in Mission for Youth (MFY).

15 years later I have so many good memories of MFY. At first I liked coming in for the recreational activities like the gym, sports, and camping trips. Soon it became my home away from home. Every morning we'd all sit in a circle to talk about how we were feeling, and why. I knew I could always

speak honestly with the youth workers as well. Opening up like that helped us become like a family. I think you can only really start to excel when you're comfortable in your environment. Over time, the teaching became easier for me to process and I began achieving my first NCEA Credits. The whole programme just matured all of us students as people.


I finished my year at MFY after achieving NCEA Level 1 – which was something I never thought I'd get. Back then I wanted to be a chef, so they helped me get into a hospitality course. But I drifted a bit for the next few years trying to find something I was truly passionate about. When I had my first daughter I really sharpened up. I got into security, which is what I'm still doing a

decade later. I've been working in a civilian role for the NZ Defence Force for three years now, and loving it!

I've always wanted to give back, especially at Christmas, because I think everyone deserves to feel part of Christmas in some way. I remember my mum receiving a Mission Christmas food parcel once – without it we would've had nothing. Ever since I've been in a better position, I've donated food. Last year I wanted to take that further, so I decided to do a special Christmas fundraiser for The Mission. I started out aiming to raise \$300, and ended up with \$1,200! I was overwhelmed by the response, and so grateful for everyone who got on board. Still, there are always people out there who are genuinely in need of help, so I want to figure out a way to raise even more this Christmas. There really is no better feeling than helping someone else.

If it wasn't for The Mission, I know I could have headed down a negative route.

If it wasn't for The Mission, I know I could have headed down a negative route. I wouldn't have had any formal education on my CV, and I don't think I would be in the great place I'm in today. I have beautiful daughters, an amazing partner, and a career I love. I know what it's like to grow up struggling so now I'm doing everything I can to provide the best for my family, and teach my kids the importance of helping others.



THANK YOU!

wellington citymission

Thanks for being someone's star and making a difference.

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

THANKS TO YOUR HELP...

CHRISTMAS 2018 KEY STATISTICS

3,500

WE PROVIDED CHRISTMAS FOOD PARCELS TO FEED OVER 3,500 PEOPLE

2,100

OVER 2,100 CHILDREN RECEIVED NEW CHRISTMAS GIFTS

44

CHRISTMAS FOOD AND/OR GIFTS WERE SUPPLIED TO 44 OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE WELLINGTON REGION

WHAT IT MEANS...



Tava
**Teacher Aid/
Youth Worker**
Mission for Youth

One of the most important things we can do as youth workers is to build relationship and trust with our rangatahi (young people). When they start feeling a sense of belonging, it really shows in their self-belief, work ethic, and academic results. It's so rewarding for me personally when rangatahi begin feeling excited about the future. Then there's no telling what they might do! We spoke to a past student recently who had just achieved her university degree! I can't wait to see what our students will achieve this year.

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.



Tom
**Community Services
Advocate**
Mission for Independence

When people come to The Mission for help they're often dealing with enormous challenges. Many are feeling frustrated and disheartened, so our first step is to be a listening ear and show kindness. When we're able to make a difference in someone's life – whether that's helping them find a home, or something as simple as providing a new pair of shoes – I always take a moment to reflect on how many people contributed to this. From our donors, to our volunteers, to the other agencies we partner with, it's when we come together that we make the greatest impact.

Mission for Independence works on guiding, supporting, mentoring and connecting with vulnerable members of the community, enabling them to achieve an improved quality of life.

The last few years have been really hard. After losing custody of my daughter, my life became a mess. I wasn't coping, made some mistakes and wound up going to prison for a year and a half.

Being there really opened up my eyes. I reflected on the way I had handled my situation, and what I would do differently. I was looking forward to starting over, but after serving my sentence I had nowhere to go. I stayed with my mum for a bit, but I didn't want to burden her. Most rentals were too expensive and I was denied council housing because I had debt and bad credit. Being on probation made it even harder too. I was always at the bottom of the pile when it came to being a flatmate or finding my own flat – and there were often dozens of other people at showings. I started sleeping rough – either on the street or in abandoned buildings. Sometimes I was able to stay at temporary lodges or friends' houses, but never for long. I was desperate for a place to live, and it was such a horrible time for my well-being. I was depressed, and angry that I couldn't see a way out.

Around March last year, I started coming into The Mission for a hot shower, breakfast, and to talk with the other Drop-in Centre guests. The staff got to know me, and because I was sleeping rough, I was even given specially-made food parcels that didn't need cooking facilities. I never felt judged, and I started feeling accepted again.

A Mission financial mentor, Laurelle, began helping me get out of the hole I was in and turn everything around. We set plans to pay back my debts and find a house – all to get off the street and be a part of my daughter's life again. Her support and care from the beginning made the difference. After



I'M IN A BETTER PLACE

nearly a year of sleeping rough, at 2pm on Christmas Eve, the council called – they had a flat for me! In early January I moved into my home. I was over the moon.

It's like I've been out of sync for the last few years, and now I can finally see again.

I'm really proud of my little place, and I've paid back all of my debt. I still come and see Laurelle, it means a lot having her help

to plan my budget, and manage my bills. I'm in such a positive place now. I know I can always afford to pay my rent, and that I'm on the right track. I've been going to counselling and job interviews as well.

I'll always take my hat off to those who are still living on the street. It wears you down, and you really feel worthless. All I can do now is focus on the year ahead. I'm still working on reconnecting with my daughter, but I'm in a better place to do that. It's like I've been out of sync for the last few years, and now I can finally see again.



SUPPORTER PROFILE: BILLY GRAHAM, NAENAE BOXING ACADEMY

We're so grateful to have an incredible family of supporters from all across the Wellington region who give their time and resource to help people in need. One of our long-standing volunteers is Billy Graham from Naenae Boxing Academy. For a number of years now Billy has been helping us to deliver Christmas hampers into the community, so that struggling families can have a special Christmas Day. Last year was no different, with Billy giving his time on Christmas Eve to deliver hampers to those in need. We

asked him to share why he enjoys helping each Christmas, and what these deliveries mean to him.

When did you begin helping with The Mission's Christmas hamper deliveries, and why do you continue to help each year?

I started helping with the Christmas hamper deliveries about 5 years ago. I absolutely love it; it makes me feel like Father Christmas! It's an awesome feeling

to deliver these hampers to families that are doing it tough, knowing they'll get to have a Christmas celebration because of it. It also makes me realise how fortunate I am to be in the position to help.

What does it mean to the people receiving the hampers?

It's amazing to see the joy it brings the families when we drop off their Christmas hampers. You can tell the kids can't wait to dig into the hampers and see what treats are in there - just like any kid at Christmas. Honestly, the look on the kids' faces is enough. When I think back on my years of helping, that's what stands out the most.

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Why do you think it's important to support a local charity like The Mission?

Charities like The Mission give people hope. If you're in a place where you can contribute, then I think it's a great thing to do. It doesn't take much - a little bit of kindness goes a long way.

We're so thankful for Billy, and all our other amazing volunteers and supporters! If you're interested in volunteering, or you'd like to talk to someone about how your business or group can support The Mission at any time of the year, please get in touch with us by emailing enquiries@wgtncitymission.org.nz.

Living alone at home was tough. I didn't know where I was half the time - if I was coming or going. On top of that, my knee was very swollen and painful which made taking care of myself and getting out of the house difficult. I had a couple of friends who would visit me sometimes, but I don't have any family around. I had some past issues too so I didn't like to be around strangers, especially men. It could all get a little lonely. One of my friends saw that living at home wasn't doing me any favours, so she connected me with Kemp Home & Hospital. A lovely nurse, Vasa, soon visited to see how I was doing, and talked to me about moving to Kemp.

In March last year, my new life at Kemp began. I'm really enjoying it! I don't have to worry about anything, and the staff are fabulous. I have regular meals, personal care, and assistance whenever I need it. I love taking part in the morning exercises, movie nights, and group excursions - there's even a beautiful rose garden! My knee has



A NEW LIFE AT KEMP

got much better from regular physio, which makes getting around much easier. All my old feelings of distrusting people have gone, and I have enjoyed making so many new friends. My first Christmas at Kemp was wonderful as well - full of spirit and cheer.

It really was a special time - Christmas meant a lot more than it did at home.

I truly wouldn't have my life any other way now. At 92 years old, I can honestly say I'm looking forward to each new day!

OUT & ABOUT

KICK IT KIWIANA STYLE

Thanks to our awesome supporters Yellow Fever, LFC Wellington, and the Wellington Phoenix we held another fantastic Phoenix game-day collection in November 2018. Despite crazy weather on the night, many Phoenix fans came out to Westpac Stadium to support their team and donate to our #KickItKiwianaStyle Collection.

The Kiwiana theme asked for people to bring along our Foodbank's most-needed Kiwi favourites such as Marmite, Weetbix and Watties soup. We were grateful to fill four large collection bins with food items and collect approximately \$1,200 in cash! Three lucky donors also won a family pass to another game thanks to the Wellington Phoenix.

Our thanks goes to everyone who donated on the night or dropped items off at Four Kings and The Backbencher.



Bridget from The Mission, Matt from Yellow Fever, and Andrew from LFC Wellington at the #KickItKiwianaStyle Collection.

A BETTER START WITH BREAKFAST

Breakfast cereals are consistently one of the most-needed items for our Foodbank and Drop-in Centre, so we were thrilled to begin a new partnership with Kellogg's at the end of 2018.

Kellogg's will give The Mission more than 11,500 serves of cereal over 12 months as part of their 'Breakfasts for Better Days' initiative. They also have similar partnerships with the Auckland and Christchurch City Missions. Here in Wellington the cereal is being used in our Drop-in Centre breakfast

service, and in our food parcels for people who are struggling to afford food for themselves or their family.

We were delighted to announce this new partnership in November last year at a breakfast event in our Drop-in Centre. It was fantastic to have the support of special guests Hon Peeni Henare (Associate Minister of Social Development), Ben O'Brien (Kellogg's General Manager NZ), Hon Louise Upston (National Party Spokesperson for Social Development), and Paul Eagle (MP for Rongotai).

Thanks Kellogg's for this awesome partnership!



L-R Hon Louise Upston, Paul Eagle, Ben O'Brien, City Missioner Murray Edridge, Hon Peeni Henare, and Mission Fundraising & Marketing Manager Bridget Child.

CELEBRATING OUR RANGATAHI

Every year our Mission for Youth (MFY) Graduation is a highlight in the calendar. It's a time when we acknowledge and celebrate everything our rangatahi have achieved throughout the year.

Our 2018 Graduation in December brought together parents, whānau and other supporters for a special celebration including speeches, awards and kai.

"Graduation is a time to reflect back on the year," says Fay, our MFY Programme Manager. "On behalf of the Mission for Youth team, we would like to congratulate our students for successfully completing the academic year. With a lot of positive support, our rangatahi overcame many challenges, and accomplished some amazing personal goals."

We're looking forward to seeing what 2019 will hold for our new and returning students on their journey with MFY!



Mission for Youth Graduation in December.

DINING OUT WITH DINEAID

Over November and December a number of amazing Wellington restaurants took part in the DineAid initiative to raise funds

for The Mission. This year the participating restaurants were Mr Go's, Ombra, Logan Brown, Grill Meats Beer, Field & Green, Shed 5, The Crab Shack, and Pravda.

Together they raised over \$8,000 to help those in need in our community! We're

so grateful for these awesome local restaurants, all the generous people who donated, and the team at DineAid for facilitating this initiative.

Thank you!

LOOKING FORWARD

MAKE THIS WINTER EASIER FOR THOSE IN NEED

Although we're still enjoying warm weather at the moment, we know that winter isn't too far away. As the days get colder, we'll soon begin embracing our coats and scarves again.

Unfortunately, as the cold weather sets in, it also becomes increasingly hard for those struggling in our communities to make ends meet. Extra costs like heating, warm clothes and healthcare can prove devastating for families who are living week-to-week. Many find themselves choosing between paying a large power bill or their rent. However, thanks to your support, The Mission will be there to help this winter.

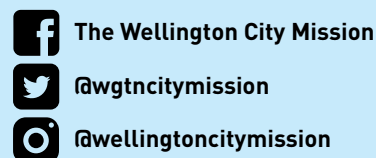
In June we will be kicking off our iconic Brown Paper Bag Appeal, which is all about collecting funds and food to assist people in need through this challenging season. Keep an eye out for more information about how you can get involved coming soon on our website, social media, and in the June issue of On a Mission Magazine.



LET'S GET SOCIAL

One of the best ways you can stay up-to-date with The Mission throughout the year is by following us on social media. We love connecting with our family of supporters through Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Follow us now for regular updates, photos and videos about what we're doing in the community and how you can get involved. If you have friends or whānau who are interested in The Mission, make sure you spread the word and invite them to follow us too!



CALLING ALL FOODIES

We're excited to be the official charity partner of The Food Show Wellington again this year! We always enjoy being at this event and meeting local foodies who want to make a difference in their community. This year The Food Show is taking place at Westpac Stadium from 24 - 26 May. If you're planning to attend, don't forget to visit us at our booth!

For more information and to buy tickets, head to www.foodshow.co.nz.

The Food Show

REMINDER: THE 2018 - 2019 TAX YEAR IS ENDING SOON!

The end of the tax year is fast approaching, so please keep in mind that any donations you make before 31 March 2019 can be immediately included in your tax rebate application. You can visit wellingtoncitymission.org.nz to make a donation at any time. Thanks for your support!

MURRAY'S MESSAGE

WELLINGTON CITY MISSIONER



It feels like we've just started a new year, and yet we're now in March and the first quarter of the year is nearing its conclusion. Where has 2019 gone so far?

As one gets older, the years seem to be increasing in their speed of passing and I've been wondering exactly why that is? I've always assumed that the reason for this perception of time is that each year is a smaller percentage of our total time on this earth, and therefore it seems shorter. However, I've discovered a theory that the real reason for these rapidly passing years is all about anticipation and retrospection.

Whatever the nature of our individual lives, we all anticipate things important to us. Then after they happen, we look back at them. When anticipated, each new significant event seems to be excruciatingly far away. However, after the event, we regularly look back and exclaim: "did it really happen that long ago?"

Our first love, our first heartbreak, driving a car, landing a job, marriage...the list goes on. When we look forward, all these milestones seem impossibly far in the future. However once achieved, how quickly they recede into the past. The older we get, the more milestones we have to look back on, and so the farther and faster they appear to recede. So if sometimes the clock may seem to have stopped, the calendar always continues racing ahead.

In this edition of On a Mission Magazine, we're looking back on many of the wonderful things that have happened in the life of The Mission. It's a timely reminder of how much we've been able to do with

the help of our family of supporters and donors.

It also reminds us of how much is still to be done. We look forward with anticipation to a new year that is full of exciting new things and more opportunities to make a difference in people's lives. Whatever 2019 holds and however fast it seems to pass, we know that with your help we can continue to achieve extraordinary outcomes.

I hope that for each one of you 2019 is a very special year, and I look forward to sharing the journey of The Mission with you throughout the coming months.

Our faith encourages us to have confidence about the future that lies ahead, as we read in Hebrews 11:1 - *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*

Murray Edridge
Email: murray@wgtncitymission.org.nz

A WORD FROM MARIA – GENERAL MANAGER, OPERATIONS



2018 was another really positive year for The Mission. Again, its family of staff, volunteers, donors, and partner organisations banded together to make a huge difference for vulnerable people across our region.

Going into last year, we really focussed on figuring out the biggest needs for people in Wellington's communities. That way our services could have the greatest impact both then and in the coming year – whether that meant adjusting, or continuing in the same direction.

Christmas truly embodied The Mission's tikanga (purpose). Through the amazing generosity of so many donors, we supported more families and individuals in the Wellington region than ever before. In partnership with the Salvation Army and Newtown Community Collective, we also helped put on a Christmas Day shared lunch where the community came together as a whānau. It's incredibly rewarding to be

part of activities that not only meet people's physical needs, but help those who are struggling and isolated to feel connected and cared for.

Now as we begin the new year, The Mission will continue listening to the community to identify areas where people are still falling through the cracks. Based on what we've learnt, we will use new strategies to continue meeting our region's greatest needs. It's plain to see that Wellington has a 'big community' feel and a uniquely caring culture. So from our experience, we know that strengthening collaborative and community-led initiatives will achieve the best outcomes for our most vulnerable.

With homelessness and its associated issues still rising, this year we're beginning a shared leadership opportunity in the Street Outreach programme where we'll be working closely with our partners at DCM (Downtown Community Ministry) to reach even more people. Some of The Mission's

existing services will grow as well, to focus on responding to homelessness, poverty, financial inequity, food insecurity, and social isolation. We value our partnerships with others and in order to be even more accessible, particularly in areas of The Hutt Valley, we will be using shared space at the Council's community hubs.

No matter how we do it, everything we do centres around strengthening community resilience, so that Wellington's most vulnerable people are empowered to influence their own circumstances in the long term. Always at the front of our minds too, is that it's our amazing donors who make sure The Mission can keep developing our services and innovate our practices, to best meet the needs of our communities. We're really excited to share more about how your support will make such a difference throughout the year!

OCT – DEC 2018 KEY STATISTICS

MISSION FOR FAMILIES

89

89 families were supported by our Mission for Families social workers

772

Staff made 772 contacts (face-to-face, phone, and email) with families

MISSION FOR YOUTH

53

Students were assisted to achieve 53 NCEA credits

29

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

MISSION FOR INDEPENDENCE

\$75,767

Financial mentoring clients reduced their combined accrued debt by \$75,767

2,266

Volunteers gave 2,266 hours of their time working in our Drop-in Centre and Foodbank

MISSION FOR SENIORS

374

Staff made 374 contacts with external organisations advocating for clients, via phone or face-to-face

23

23 seniors completed the objectives in their personal plans, and no longer needed our support

KEMP HOME & HOSPITAL

5,701

Kemp provided 5,701 bed nights of accommodation for 71 people

72

Staff took 72 opportunities to improve their skills, through 6 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 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.

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



Support us today by donating online at wellingtoncitymission.org.nz



THANKS FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE THIS CHRISTMAS!



Thank you to every individual, family, business, team and group that supported our 2018 Christmas Star Appeal. Whether you donated food or gifts, purchased a star on our Christmas Walk of Fame, took part in Pack the Bus, volunteered your time, donated financially, or helped in some other way, you were part of making Christmas special for thousands!



Pack the Bus packed full with food and gift donations



Starry and the Star Car in the Petone Twilight Christmas Parade



Collecting at the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra's three Christmas concerts



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



Our Christmas Walk of Fame on Wellington's Waterfront



Christmas hampers ready to be delivered to those in need in our community

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT AT CHRISTMAS:

3,500

We provided Christmas food parcels to feed over 3,500 people.

2,100

Over 2,100 children received new Christmas gifts.

44

Christmas food and/or gifts were supplied to 44 other community service agencies throughout the Wellington region, including Red Cross Refugee Services, Challenge 2000, and Birthright.

100

We delivered more than 100 special Christmas Day Hampers on Christmas Eve which included chicken donated by Tegel, sausages from The Mad Butcher, hams from Hellers, chocolate from Whittaker's, and sweet treats from Good Bitches Baking - plus other Christmas food and gifts donated by the community.

500

Over 500 workplace Christmas Star Boxes were sent out to businesses and organisations to fill with food and gifts.

360

A record number of stars were displayed on our Christmas Walk of Fame - over 360!

160

Almost 160 people from 18 organisations and groups volunteered to sort food and gifts and make up Christmas parcels, and hundreds collected on Street Day.

"We rely on the generosity of people, teams, groups and businesses all across the Wellington region in order to serve those in our communities who are doing it tough. We are very grateful to receive such wonderful support from so many. Whether you helped The Mission at Christmas by volunteering your time, donating goods-in-kind, or making a financial contribution, you have enabled us to be there for those most in need right across our region, so thank you."

Wellington City Missioner, Murray Edridge

OUR WALK OF FAME GOLD STAR SUPPORTERS:



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

- ★ ANZ
- ★ Datacom
- ★ Precinct Properties NZ
- ★ Chapman Tripp
- ★ EFTPOS NZ
- ★ The Breeze Wellington
- ★ Henshaw Signs
- ★ The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra
- ★ The Mad Butcher
- ★ Hellers
- ★ Tegel Chicken
- ★ Good Bitches Baking
- ★ Whittaker's Chocolate
- ★ Billy Graham, Naenae Boxing Academy
- ★ Ocular
- ★ MyFood Bag
- ★ DineAid
- ★ Toy World Wellington
- ★ Moana Rd

...and all our amazing business supporters!