



THE POWER OF LOVE

I believe all children deserve to have a childhood like I remember – growing up in a safe home that has a pantry full of kai, and is filled with love. There is a real struggle out there for some parents, and last year our mokopuna (grandchildren) were highly at risk. They were headed into state care. There was no way my husband and I could let that happen, so we took them in while their parents made the changes necessary for them to be in a better space.

I'm glad to say that over the past ten months we've seen amazing changes in

the lives of our mokopuna, and not just because they're cheekier than ever!

“**Together we're giving our next generation the right start in life.**”

We didn't get here alone. Our Mission for Families social worker, Trudy, has been a real blessing for our whānau. She's been there for us all along the way – at our family group conferences and hui, and

through the transition to our home and an awesome new school.

We'll never forget our first Christmas together too. Our mokopuna had gotten used to always missing out, and seeing them so happy when The Mission surprised us with heaps of food and toys was really overwhelming.

Trudy's weekly visits mean so much to me personally as well. She understands us, what we're going through, and where we want to be. She's a sounding board for us, and connects us with lots of great opportunities. Even though we're always looking forward, it's so important for us to instil a sense of belonging in our mokopuna. Filling Trudy's 'Hope Box' with special memories has really got them excited about who they are. You can see how realising where they fit into a bigger picture is giving them a strong base, and shaping their own identities.

It's been a journey, but we still have a great deal of work ahead. When their parents have everything in place for their children to thrive, the kids will return home. Until then, it is such a beautiful feeling knowing that The Mission will always be there for all of us.

Together we're giving our next generation the right start in life. Now our mokopuna have a better opportunity to grow into good people, and one day share a happy home with their children too.

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 2019 KEY STATISTICS

5,688

MEAL SERVINGS WERE PROVIDED IN THE DROP-IN CENTRE

STUDENTS TOOK PART IN

36

EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM SESSIONS & LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

582

FOOD PARCELS WERE GIVEN OUT TO FAMILIES & INDIVIDUALS

67

FAMILIES WERE SUPPORTED BY OUR MISSION FOR FAMILIES SOCIAL WORKERS

WHAT IT MEANS...



Sharon
Philanthropy Manager
Marketing &
Fundraising Team

A supporter once told me "The Mission is like Wellington's second mum." That's really stuck with me because I think what we do comes down to always being there for people, and making sure no one feels alone in their time of immense struggle. It's heart-warming seeing so many caring people out there who want to be part of a solution, but just don't know how to go about it. I love connecting anyone who is passionate about helping others with specific projects or services that they can get excited about. They get to feel included on a journey, and see the transformation they're helping bring into other people's lives. If you want to learn more, or even just have a coffee, please do contact me on 04 245 0866.



Ray
Community
Development Manager
Community Services

Every day I get to do what I'm passionate about - reaching those in our communities who have fallen through the gaps. We see so many people who are living on the poverty line, and are backed into a corner. For them, just the cost of a bus fare is enough to push vital services out of reach. It's incredible how bringing little things like a hot soup when it's bitterly cold, arranging a haircut when someone's feeling down, or supplying sports gear a family can't afford can make a huge difference. It's a real buzz for me to be part of an organisation that's on a mission to empower our communities!

A few years ago, I was severely depressed. I was homeless, was thousands of dollars in debt, and I was an alcoholic. My kids didn't want me around their young families either. I couldn't see a way forward, and I tried to kill myself. After the ambulance found me, I was placed in the mental health ward. There I started unravelling all the issues from my upbringing that were still affecting me. I realised that years of family abuse had left me a shell of a person.

As I made baby steps in getting my life back on track, I eventually moved into my City Council flat. From there, Work & Income then referred me to a Financial Mentor at The Mission; Monique, because my debt was out of control.

I don't think Monique truly realises how much she's helped me - not just in budgeting but in helping me to live everyday life.

Looking back, I underestimated how much her support would change my life. She took over my money management and made sure I was left with an allowance after we paid living costs, cut down my debts, and made savings.

It was tough at first, but The Mission's weekly food parcels really helped me get by. As Monique taught me more and showed me all of the little wins we were having, my money anxiety began lifting away. I can't describe the relief I felt for the first time in my life, and my whole outlook improved.



THE POWER OF MENTORSHIP

My new direction helped me wipe away all the negative stuff from my past. I quit drinking and turned my life around. I'm so happy to say that my kids want me in their lives now, so my big focus is them and my three grandchildren. A massive moment for me was the first Christmas we had together again as a family. I had money to spend on my grandkids, and being in such a loving home was unbelievable.

After three years with The Mission, I'm finally free of the life I knew, and it's just getting better and better. We've paid off all my old debts, I'm making savings, and I don't need regular food parcels. All of my bills still go through The Mission which

helps me to continue learning, to keep growing my budgeting skills and most importantly, my confidence and self-esteem.

I don't think Monique truly realises how much she's helped me - not just in budgeting but in helping me to live everyday life.

She pulled me out of the darkness. She showed me that I could have a better life, and gave me the support I needed to get there. Being a part of my kids' lives means the world to me. I'm so proud to see how they're great parents who are raising their children in a safe and happy home.



THE POWER OF THE BROWN PAPER BAG

For the 13th year running, we were excited to launch our iconic Brown Paper Bag Collection on Thursday 27 June, when Wellingtonians received a brown paper bag and envelope in their Dominion Post.

This is our main appeal where we ask for donations of food items to fill up our Foodbank, as we head into the winter months.

An increase in demand for food parcels in the first half of the year, along with fewer food donations since Christmas has meant that our Foodbank was virtually empty.

Once again we teamed up with Z Energy Stations across Wellington to act as our main collection points for donations.

This year we also teamed up with Kāpura, formerly the Wellington Hospitality Group, who across 23 bars and restaurants, gave customers a discount meal voucher for donations of goods made at one of their venues. Kāpura believe they have a responsibility to give back to our communities and we're delighted they teamed up with us to do this.

This year we aimed to collect 2,500 filled brown paper bags to help people in need (or \$125,000 worth of groceries) and \$60,000 in donations to support ongoing delivery of our food service.

From the bottom of our hearts here at The Mission, thank you to our family of supporters and donors who got behind

our Brown Paper Bag Collection this year. We want to make special mention in particular of Z Energy, The Breeze, Precinct Properties New Zealand, The Dominion Post, KJ & LM Burns Ltd, Kaha Trading Ltd and Pelorus Trust, as well as the large number of groups who signed up to hold collections at their schools, workplaces and churches.

Your support, along with every donation has meant so much and will help us continue to deliver food parcels this winter and in the coming months.

Thanks Wellington!



Aon staff members with 76 filled brown paper bags from their Wellington office collection



Wellington City Mayor Justin Lester with his brown paper bag



Overflowing collection bin at Z Energy Station in Miramar



ORI'Z SMOKIN BBQ

Check this out! We've helped set up and are supporting a local business in Porirua called Ori'z Food Cart. If you are in or around Porirua, be sure to pop over and grab yourself a yummy bite to eat. They're based at Cobham Court, and have everything from BBQ Pulled Pork and Brisket to a delicious Seafood Chowder. We're really pleased to be able to help grow this unique local business. To learn more please visit facebook.com/orizsmokinbbq.

OUT & ABOUT

COMMUNITY DAY

Together with St Vincent De Paul's Wellington Op Shop, we recently held a Community Day in both Strathmore and Berhampore serving hot soup, bread, apples and toiletries to people in need in our local community. Vinnies Op Shops Wellington supplied winter clothing for both adults and children and there was also some delicious homemade baking as well. We will do more of these Community Days throughout winter to help support those most in need in our local community.



City Missioner Murray and Olivia our Community Programmes Manager, serving breakfast



Ray our Community Development Manager & Fay our Mission for Youth Manager, cooking breakfast



Annette from Mission for Seniors & Mary from of The Mission's Board, preparing breakfast

HONOURING OUR VOLUNTEERS

We were proud to honour many of our regular volunteers recently at a special 'National Volunteer Week Breakfast'! Our Mission staff prepared & cooked breakfast to say a massive thanks to our regular volunteers and show how much we appreciate them. Our Foodbank and Drop-in Centre services are powered almost entirely by volunteers who donate an average of 427 hours of volunteer time to us every month!

Of course along with our regular volunteers, many other amazing individuals, workplaces and groups come in and volunteer for us throughout the year as well. To everyone who has given their time to help The Mission – thank you! We simply couldn't do what we do without you.

If you're interested in volunteering, please get in touch with our Foodbank and Volunteer Coordinator, Susan Penetito at susan@wgtncitymission.org.nz.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Special thanks to this awesome group from Wellington Girls' College. At school they have recently been learning about big social issues like homelessness in New Zealand and wanted to help! So, they decided to host a food and goods drive outside a New World Supermarket. They collected two boxes of food from shoppers and raised \$90 worth of donations for us. Thanks so much for your support, you have helped make a difference in your community!



LOOKING FORWARD

SPEND MY SUPER!

Spend My Super is helping generous Kiwis to make a difference for children and families in need across our country. Through Spend My Super you can donate part or all of your Superannuation to selected charities, including The Wellington City Mission, so that together we can help more of our children have a fair chance to succeed and thrive.

If you're interested in donating part or all of your Superannuation to The Mission, then we encourage you to visit spendmysuper.org.nz to make a donation. If you're in the position to do so, you may also be

interested in donating your Winter Energy Payment.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with our team by emailing enquiries@wgtncitymission.org.nz or by calling Vivienne on **04 245 0845**.



BRITANNIA HOUSE

We've now opened the doors to Britannia House, a new transitional housing facility in Petone. This initiative comes from the growing and immediate need for us to work together in responding to homelessness in the local community.

Britannia House will not only be a home for those who need shelter, but they will be able to access all of The Mission's services so they can transform their circumstances.

We're also really excited to have appointed Henare Parker, as our Transitional Housing Manager. We will profile him in our next On a Mission Magazine.



NEON NIGHT WALK/ RUN 4 GOOD

Enter the Neon Night Walk at Rangituhi Scenic Reserve, Porirua on Saturday 5 October and raise money for people in need across Wellington. Walk or run the 8 or 16km track under the stars, past waterfalls, nikau groves and glow worms. Enter as an individual or team, and dress to impress in neon!

Sign up today by contacting Sarah Thomas on sarah@wgtncitymission.org.nz or **04 245 0843**. To learn more about the Neon

Night Walk/Run 4 Good, visit our web page neonnightwalk.co.nz.



MURRAY'S MESSAGE

WELLINGTON CITY MISSIONER



We have recently had an overseas student join our household for the next twelve months. As we have gone through the process of welcoming her into our whānau and making the necessary adjustments to accommodate a new teenager, I have been thinking about how each of us welcomes others into our own worlds, invites them to our tables, and share of ourselves and the things that we have.

This seems to assume even greater significance as we move into the colder and more challenging part of the year. Once again, as we enter into the winter months, I'm reminded of how important The Mission's work is throughout the communities of the Wellington region. You

only need to spend time in our Drop-in-Centre, or visit our Foodbank to see first-hand, the adverse effects that the winter season has on people and their families. That is why The Wellington City Mission is committed to empowering individuals, families and communities to thrive.

As I completed my one year milestone as City Missioner in May, I have reflected again on the incredible steadfast, ongoing support that The Mission receives from our family of supporters and donors. The support we receive, whether it be in the form of money, food, other goods, or time; enables us to make a real and lasting difference in people's lives.

Through your generosity, we're able to provide a range of support to people which assists them to meet the short-term challenges they might be facing, and equips them to build capability, resilience and change into their lives for the future.

This support includes food parcels to help alleviate financial pressures, providing financial mentoring as a means of building

resilience, advocacy to Government or community agencies and a range of other support services.

As you continue to walk so faithfully with us as a donor, volunteer or supporter, we will continue to walk alongside our guests and clients and respond to the defining needs and issues we see around us.

I hope that in your support for The Mission you feel the blessing and encouragement that comes from helping others and sharing the things that you have. Our commitment to this work reflects our faith driven response to others. This is what Jesus asks of us and commends us for in Matthew 25:40:

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of these brothers of mine, you did for me".

Ngā manaakitanga
Murray Edridge
Email: murray@wgtncitymission.org.nz

A WORD FROM TOM – COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVOCATE



I'm constantly reminded of why the work we do here at The Wellington City Mission is really important, and how our tailored programmes provide for tailored opportunities for our guests to feel and be empowered.

At the very least, I hope to be a listening ear and to show our guests the kindness and respect they deserve. Many come to us somewhat disillusioned by society's structures through no fault of their own. Whether they're struggling to get into a home, having difficulties with their benefit, or even if they're feeling lonely – it is really important for me to build trust and make sure they are heard and feel valued.

With that said however, it is important to understand that I cannot be all things to all people, and that is the beauty of The Mission. I may be the go-to person when they first come in but sometimes when we dig deeper, there are other underlying issues. I can then support them into talking

to one of our financial mentors, take them to the Foodbank or walk alongside them in another direction depending on what their issues are. I am one piece of the amazing network and puzzle that works hard to empower our guests who come to us seeking support.

From our family of donors and supporters, to our staff and volunteers, we all believe in The Mission's vision and work. I also definitely believe that there is a shared trust that we are going to do good with what donors and supporters help us with and that they feel genuine fullness as we too, collectively help to create fullness of life for all our guests.

I'm really fortunate, along with my colleagues, to have community-wide support in helping create fullness of life. For me in my role, I have really strong links across the community with other agencies who become really useful given the diverse range of challenges our guests

face. The importance of these relationships and taking a collective approach I think is recognised more prominently now, and is reflected in the Housing First model. This model I think is great for the community and society where all types of organisations come together and recognise the important role they play in wrapping support around people in need.

Our guests can't walk a journey in isolation or alone, we ourselves can't work in isolation either.

We recognise the value of creating community, and maintaining healthy relationships. We're empowered to give back through the generosity of our family of donors and supporters, and volunteers.

APR – JUN 2019 KEY STATISTICS

MISSION FOR FAMILIES

36

Staff made 36 contacts with external organisations advocating for clients via phone or face-to-face

253

Staff provided 253 household resources and food parcels to families

MISSION FOR YOUTH

16

16 students attended Mission for Youth

424

Staff made 424 contacts (via face-to-face home visits, phone call and email) with parents and caregivers

MISSION FOR INDEPENDENCE

57

57 clients no longer require our food parcels due to our support

27

There were 27 new clients seeking budgeting assistance

MISSION FOR SENIORS

49

49 seniors were supported by Mission for Seniors caseworkers

63

Staff made 63 contacts with external organisations advocating for clients, via phone or face-to-face

KEMP HOME & HOSPITAL

5,863

Kemp provided 5,863 bed nights of accommodation for 76 people

54

Staff took 54 opportunities to improve their skills, through 20 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, volunteer hours or monetary donation, we are grateful for 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