



BE
SOMEONE'S
STAR



OUR FAMILY FOUND HOPE

I don't know what we would have done without our Mission social worker, Trudy. I'd be in a really dark place, or not here at all. A couple of years ago, my children and I left our home and my abusive ex-husband. Finding a new house we could afford was impossible. We became homeless, and lived in hotels for months while on the housing waiting list. It was a really dark time.

When I was first introduced to The Mission, I felt embarrassed that I needed help but it was also a huge relief that we finally had someone who was going to be there for us. While we were struggling financially and emotionally, Trudy started helping out every week – checking in to see how we

were doing and if we needed anything. She gave us food when our cupboards were bare, warm clothes and bedding when we were cold, and books and toys when my kids had none.

Aside from the day-to-day help, she made sure we were heading in the right direction. I started doing budgeting with The Mission, so I could learn to best manage the money we did have. Trudy also helped us make our way through Oranga Tamariki, the courts, Work & Income, and Housing NZ. She was always beside me during important meetings. She helped my kids by making sure they got the counselling and school support they needed as well. It enabled them to settle in and stay on track. Her

personal guidance was so encouraging. Whenever I felt anxious she'd reassure me that everything was going to be OK, and that The Mission would always be here for us.

“**Seeing my children happy made me feel hopeful for the future.**”

Christmases were tough. You're meant to look forward to celebrating as a family, but I was so stressed trying to provide for my children. But last year, The Mission brought the excitement back. On Christmas Eve we were given incredible boxes of food and gifts. Seeing my children happy made me feel hopeful for the future.

We've made a lot of progress, and now we're in a much better place. We're in an awesome Housing NZ house, and we're being discharged from the court system and Oranga Tamariki. We're a lot stronger as a family now, and although there are still day-to-day challenges, we're always moving forward with Trudy's support. I'm more confident heading into this Christmas too.

Everyone deserves to feel happy at Christmas time and with The Mission's help, I've come to realise that if there is a brighter day out there for me, there are brighter days for others too.



**BE
SOMEONE'S
STAR**

wellington
citymission

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 wellingtoncitymission.org.nz

THANKS TO YOUR HELP...

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2019 KEY STATISTICS

SEE BACK PAGE FOR MORE FROM OUR PROGRAMMES

778 FOOD PARCELS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE ADVOCATES HAD

7,120 MEALS WERE PROVIDED IN OUR DROP-IN CENTRE

118

FACE-TO-FACE CONTACTS WITH PEOPLE, HELPING ADVOCATE ON THEIR BEHALF

KEMP PROVIDED **5,817** BED NIGHTS OF ACCOMMODATION FOR 69 PEOPLE

★ WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SOMEONE'S STAR! ★



Trudy
Social Worker
Mission for Families

Christmas is a time of giving. But when parents have nothing, they feel overwhelming disappointment. Children don't understand why they always miss out, and parents feel like they're letting their kids down. So now, we're busy taking away the hard edge of that stress. We'll continue planning with parents, and encouraging them forward on their journeys. We'll deliver special gifts for their children, and food to share on Christmas Day. Personally, as a social worker, mother, and grandmother, it's really special seeing families realise that their lives are improving. Having the opportunity to enjoy Christmas together lets them feel a sense of belonging, and it can be incredibly uplifting as they head towards their bigger goals.



Sue
Community Services Advocate
Mission for Independence

For most of us, seeing the Christmas decorations go up is really exciting. Sadly, it makes so many in our communities feel worse. Over the Christmas season, people will come to The Mission in pain. They'll feel disenfranchised and lonely. But for me, meeting with people who are at the lowest point in their lives and getting to offer my skills and empathy is so rewarding. And everyone who gives to The Mission becomes part of their journey too. Whether through donations of food, gifts, or financial support, we're showing that there is someone out there who cares about them. It's amazing how something simple we can offer provides that extra boost a person needs, as they move upwards in their lives.



SHONA HELPING TO GIVE KIDS THE BEST START IN LIFE

Shona Munro is one of The Mission's generous donors for the new fundraising initiative; Spend My Super.

Spend My Super is a scheme that encourages New Zealanders to donate all or part of their superannuation to support New Zealand charities, including The Wellington City Mission.

Like all New Zealanders over 65, Shona is eligible for her government superannuation. She has however made

the conscious decision to donate part of her super to those who have not had the best start in life. Shona speaks about her own childhood with affection and gratitude. She grew up in a small rural New Zealand town where life for most kids was simple and safe. She believes that every child deserves the safety and security that she felt.

Shona works for New Zealand Police, and while she's not a frontline worker, she's very aware of the challenges that disadvantaged communities face.

Shona has thought long and hard about how the cycle of poverty might be broken and concluded that an effective way to do that is to give children the best chance to reach their full potential. "There are many ways to do this – for example, through government policies. However I don't write policies, but what I can do is try and make a difference through Spend my Super."

"I know that my generation is caring and generous, and that Spend My Super gives us an amazing opportunity to demonstrate that. If we connect and act as a collective, we can make a big difference. Together, we can give families hope. Each of Spend My Super's charities provides hope in a different way. It's been set up so that all the money goes directly to the charities – every cent counts. I want to encourage and empower people to get behind this".

If we connect and act as a collective, we can make a big difference. Together, we can give families hope.

At this time of the year, not every child or young person gets to enjoy the festive season or get presents. Through the generosity of people like Shona, and initiatives like Spend My Super, we're able to continue supporting families, children and young people as we head into Christmas.



JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

I can't believe I'll have a job by Christmas! Up until just a few months ago, I was broken inside. For nine years I'd lived in Australia. I was homeless, and mixing with the wrong people. But I wanted to see my family and change my path, so I moved back to New Zealand. When I arrived, I didn't know how to even say hello or hug my mum, and we struggled to reconnect. For a while I spent most of my time hiding out in the car. I couldn't find my voice.

Over time, my mum and I began to pick up the pieces of our relationship. One day she took me into The Mission for a feed. I quickly figured out that not only could The Mission give me food, but they could also help me find the life I was searching for. That day I was introduced to the people

in The Drop-in Centre, and Mission social workers like Sue. She has made such a difference in my life. She's helped me stay focussed and continues to encourage me to learn as much as I can. She's supported me with lots of little things that have all added up, like opening a bank account, finding out my tax number, and renewing my driver license. The Mission has also provided food parcels, and connected me with WorkBridge to find a job.

Now I feel more confident in myself, because Sue and the people at The Mission have walked alongside me during times that were stressful to face alone. I have realised that if I don't give things a go, I'm never going to benefit myself.

“Now I feel more confident in myself, because Sue and the people at The Mission have walked alongside me during times that were stressful to face alone.”

I'm in a much happier place, and I have rebuilt relationships with some of my family. I can't wait to be at home with my mum, nana and wider family this Christmas. I'm also really looking forward to getting started at my new job. This year, I can enjoy a Christmas with no pressures, and start the year fresh!

Orange Sky is a mobile service offering free laundry, warm showers and genuine conversation to people experiencing homelessness.

With 29 vans already operating in Australia, Orange Sky launched in Auckland in 2018 the help and support of The Wellington City Mission in partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, they launched in our own front yard on Wednesday 2 October.

We're really humbled to be partnering up with Orange Sky because we know that having access to hot water and laundry services is something we often take for granted. Being able to take laundry and shower services to those who don't have access to hot water or a washing machine can help make a world of difference to so many people.



PROVIDING FREE LAUNDRY AND SHOWER SERVICES TO THE HOMELESS

“The Orange Sky shower van takes a lot of pressure off. It's great to take some pride in my appearance and have a chat with the volunteers. Makes you feel human again.”

Look out for Wellington's van 'Hudson' as you journey around Wellington.

OUT & ABOUT

WITH THANKS TO OUR FAMILY OF SUPPORTERS AND DONORS

On Friday 27 September, we hosted our Annual Supporter Breakfast, a chance to thank our family of supporters who continue to give generously and support our work. MP for Wellington Central and

Minister of Finance Hon Grant Robertson was our Guest Speaker. He spoke about the important role The Wellington City Mission plays in supporting the most vulnerable in Wellington, as well as the Government's Wellbeing Budget and how this relates to our work.

Our City Missioner Murray Edridge gave an overview of the work of The Mission in the last financial year, and encouraged us all to think about what 'community' looks like when there is no 'us' and 'them'.

He also spoke briefly about the future of The Mission and how we will continue to work to address the needs in our community.

The Supporter Breakfast is a significant event in our calendar and it recognises the unwavering support of people who help us to do what we do. Thank you to all who were able to join us.



Sandy Baigent & Justin Lester at the Supporter Breakfast



Supporter Breakfast attendees & WCM staff members



Annual Review 2018-19

CREATING CONNECTIONS TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS TO SPORT

So many children and young people across Wellington are unable to play sport because of the cost of subs and fees, not having equipment or because their parents can't afford to transport them. That is why The Wellington City Mission has led an initiative to unite all four City Councils,

other agencies and organisations to break down these barriers to sport and create Wellington's first 'Community Sports Bank.'

On Monday 23 September, we opened the first of 14 Community Sports Banks at Toitū Pōneke in Kilbirnie, where children and young people can be given free sports equipment or gear. The support and donations that our sports banks receive will go a long way to building children's self-esteem and making sure they feel included, active and empowered to participate in sport.

To donate sports gear, get in touch with ray@wgtncitymission.org.nz



Community Sports Bank logo

TWO WORLDS PAELLA

We've recently teamed up with Paul Barris of Paella Boys to produce and sell ready-to-eat Paella meals under the brand Two Worlds Paella. It will be available at local supermarkets and service stations across Wellington from December. The product is dairy-free, nut-free and gluten-free, and the product's packaging is biodegradable, with all proceeds going to The Mission to fund our work.

The first of these were rolled out at the beginning of September at New World Chaffers (City) on Wakefield Street. Each Paella meal is being produced and manufactured locally at a kitchen in Petone, and there are 5 flavours; Chicken, Beef, Vegetarian, Lamb and Seafood.

Giving never tasted so good!



LOOKING FORWARD

BE SOMEONE'S STAR THIS CHRISTMAS!

★ STREET DAY ★

Get involved in our annual Street Day Collection on Friday 6 December! We rely on hundreds of volunteers to help us collect across the Wellington region and we'd love to have you as part of the team.



★ WALK OF FAME ★

Get your name on our Christmas Walk of Fame! 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 on Wellington's waterfront during the month of December.



★ CHRISTMAS STAR BOXES ★

Please help make this Christmas special for families in need, through the gift of giving. Host a Christmas Star Box and help us collect our most needed food and gift items for those in need this Christmas. For more information email jill@wgtncitymission.org.nz or call 245 0827.



TE ARAROA FOR CHRISTMAS

For many people and families, the Christmas period is full of parties, family gatherings, plenty of food, reflection and happy times. However, not everyone in Wellington has a Christmas that looks or sounds like this.

While many will be preparing for the festive season, I've decided to give back to those in need by running and kayaking the Te Araroa Tail and raising funds for every kilometre I travel. This is a route from the

top of New Zealand's North Island to the bottom of the South Island, covering 3006 kilometres, including 120 kilometres of the Whanganui River.

My goal is to raise \$3 per kilometre of Te Araroa. $3 \times 3000 = \$9,000$. With your kind donation, each particularly tough kilometre, covered in mud and sweat, up mountains, down valleys, through dark nights, in the blazing sun and cold rain will be more enjoyable knowing that each kilometre is enabling The Mission to continue on with their important work.

If I think back to when I first floated the idea to run Te Araroa, I recall reading a quote by

the running great Emil Zatopek who said "every runner must run with dreams in his heart". This is when my dream to run Te Araroa for a charity started.

Support by donating to my Everyday Hero's page: everydayhero.com/nz/run-te-araroa.



MURRAY'S MESSAGE

WELLINGTON CITY MISSIONER



I had what I describe as a "privileged childhood". Growing up in the wonderful community of Wainuiomata, we didn't have a lot – and neither did most of our neighbours and friends! Despite the lack of money and things, I grew up in a home where I was nurtured and cared for, and I was taught some very important lessons; I was taught the value of hard work, I was taught that everybody has value and deserves my respect, I was taught that you treat other people as you would want to be treated, and above all, I knew with certainty that I was loved.

So many of the people that we serve at The Mission haven't had this privileged beginning and their life journey has been so much harder as a consequence. Many of the things I was taught as a child, others have had to learn along the way or have never had the opportunity for this education. Many have not enjoyed the unconditional love of a parent or a whānau.

I recently had the occasion to celebrate my Father's 85th birthday and as we acknowledged Dad, who he is and what he has done, I came across this quote from Clarence Budington Kelland:

"My father didn't tell me how to live, he lived and let me watch him do it".

The role models we have in our lives are so important. Each day at the City Mission we role model the love, compassion and care for others that comes from our faith and our belief in the goodness of all people and the hope that exists for life to be different

than it currently is.

As a supporter of the Wellington City Mission, you also actively demonstrate your love and compassion for others by assisting us with this work, through gifts of goods or money, or through the gift of time as you contribute as a volunteer. Thank you that we are able to do this together!

As we approach this Christmas time, I wish you the joy of the season and encourage you to think of those that don't have some of the privileges that we have and perhaps don't have the role models that have inspired our lives.

Have a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the most wonderful gift of our Father God, who loved us so much that he sent his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)

Murray Edridge
Email: murray@wgtncitymission.org.nz

A WORD FROM HENARE - TRANSITIONAL HOUSING MANAGER



Britannia House is a housing facility in Petone. The need in our region is proving to be great. Just two weeks after opening in August 2019, our 19-bed facility was full. There are four other facilities like ours in The Hutt, and all of them are full or fluctuating at capacity.

We know that ending homelessness is about more than just putting a roof over someone's head. It's about surrounding our kainoho (residents) with the right people and support. Our kaimahi (staff) are specialists in social and support work and we all get to know our kainoho on both a deep and personal level. After first arriving here either via referral from Work and Income or simply walking in, we have an assessment meeting with each kainoho to fully understand their needs and identify if there are any risk factors. Once they are accepted, they get their own room and can access all the facilities – from showers, kitchen, and laundry to recreational sports and TV. They are also connected with their own personal social worker who will always be there for them. Our talented staff also provide hearty kai (food) to really lift their wairua (spirits), and share meals in a way that fosters social connection.

We've recognised three markers that are vital to helping homeless people get back on their feet. The first marker is to be settled somewhere, the second is looking for work or study, and the third is connecting them with whānau and a community. Through our efforts we are providing all of those opportunities. We have great expectations for our men, as they do for themselves and each other, while always showing extraordinary respect. That is the challenge each of our kainoho take up from the moment they are welcomed in.

Critically, our service model draws on the principles of Tikanga Māori. This encompasses a set of values that I have seen enrich so many people's lives. Having the opportunity to learn about Te Ao Māori, and to see the world through a traditional Māori lens, truly translates across the myriad of cultures we have here. So we've brought the traditional Māori Pā concept into this modern setting. Our Pā is a place of belonging, sharing, protection, personal growth, and contribution. We build up our kainoho, as they join a community that instils a sense of belonging and identity.

Already we're seeing an amazing spectrum

of success stories. It can be as simple as guys feeling safe, and part of a community that acknowledges them for the first time. Some have even found employment or moved into their own homes. There is still a lot of mahi (work) to do, but we have already made a noticeable dent in homelessness in our region.

I think that in all of our efforts to end homelessness, it's important for us all to appreciate that people are the most important part of our communities. But when we each stay inside our own comfort zones, we limit ourselves and the opportunities available for those who are less fortunate. It is my hope that we break down the walls and boxes that are inherent in an 'us and them' mentality. We must see the inner potential, and nurture the divine spark within each other. I believe we are all stronger and enriched when we let go of our judgements and preconceptions, and just reach out.

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2019 KEY STATISTICS

MISSION FOR FAMILIES

249

Our Social Workers made 249 face-to-face contacts and advocacy visits

MISSION FOR YOUTH

39

Students participated in 39 Education Outside of the Classroom Sessions, Outdoor Activities & Life Skill Workshops

MISSION FOR INDEPENDENCE

878

The foodbank helped to nourish the stomachs of 878 children & young people.

KEMP HOME & HOSPITAL

297

Kemp residents participated in more than 297 planned recreational activities and community events/ outings.

DONATE NOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WAYS TO DONATE

Website:
wellingtoncitymission.org.nz

Online Banking:

To our Bank account 03 0547 0296036 17 (Ref: 4Mag)
Email donations@wgtncitymission.org.nz with details if you wish to receive a receipt.

Phone:

(04) 245 0845 to make a donation.

CONTACT US

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: welcomer@citymissionstore.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.

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



WALK OF FAME

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 wellingtoncitymission.org.nz 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 6 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 wellingtoncitymission.org.nz or email maurice@wgtncitymission.org.nz to find out more.



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 **25 November – 6 December**, collecting food and gifts for The Mission and spreading Christmas joy.

Thanks to everyone who donates to Pack the Bus!



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: wellingtoncitymission.org.nz.



NZSO MESSIAH

This year we're collecting donations at the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra's Messiah concert at the Michael Fowler Centre on **Saturday 7 December**. Join us to hear this famous oratorio by Handel and bring along donations of food, gifts or funds to help people in need.

Last Christmas, because of generous support from across our region, The Mission provided food parcels to feed over **3,500** people, and over **2,100** children received new gifts. We were also able to distribute food and gifts to **44** community service agencies throughout our region. Help us to make a significant difference again!

Visit wellingtoncitymission.org.nz today!