



ON A MISSION

Your Wellington City Mission Magazine

Issue 2 2021

A Place to Start Again

For the last three years I was a sole-dad to my two kids, an eight-year-old and a six-year-old. I was struggling financially and I felt isolated, and I didn't have people or family around to support me when I needed it. I've had problems with drugs and alcohol since I was young, and that started creeping in more and more. I was devastated when my kids were taken away from me at the end of last year. I couldn't handle the frustration and hurt of missing my kids. I went into a downward spiral, and I became homeless.

Being offered a place at Te Pā Manawa has given me the opportunity to become the man I need to be for my kids. Having a home and being part of this group makes all the difference. Kris and the team have given me the support and opportunities to find a new direction. I'm committed to facing up to my mistakes, improving on my issues, and overcoming my addictions so that I can create a stable home and become a full-time father again. There have been hard times when I've let the pain overwhelm me, and I've gone off course for a while, but here I have reliable people around me who genuinely care, and a community that I feel a part of. That's something I've always been missing in my past.

One way I'm getting mentally healthy is through my passion for woodworking. We came up with the idea of recycling unwanted wooden pallets into furniture and giving them to people at Te Pā Manawa. It's actually turned into a busy operation, we've got lots of orders and guys are even building their own furniture for when they move into their own homes. It's a really rewarding process for me. I get to turn a rough old pallet into a piece of furniture that someone is going to appreciate.



"I have reliable people around me who genuinely care, and a community that I feel a part of."

It's also a way for me to get the other guys here involved and connect with them, because everyone here has had difficult experiences and have thoughts and feelings that need attention. I know how much it sucks to have no hope and feel isolated, and that's when your negative thoughts can start taking over. It's a bit easier to open up when you're doing something as well. It's so important to know there are people around you who you can talk to, and who can help you take your mind off things.

For me, my kids are my everything, so even though being without them is hard every day, it feels good to be contributing to the group and being a productive person again. Everything's falling into place now, and I'm doing everything I need to do to get my kids back. I've been sober for over a month, I've learnt to deal with my emotions a lot better, and I'm doing parenting courses and counselling. We're making plans, and even backup plans for my next steps, and I'm focussing on creating a stable lifestyle for my family.

I think a lot of people tend to come down on you when you fail, but seeing the success of the people in this place proves that being understanding and supportive is what helps the most. When you're at your lowest, all it can take is someone believing in you to find hope again.



Murray's Message, Wellington City Missioner

Over the last couple of weeks I have attended two tangi – one for a member of my extended family and one for someone who was part of the wider Wellington City Mission whānau. I am also aware of a number of other people who have recently lost close connections or family members.

We attend funerals to offer our condolences and to support families in their time of loss, to share with each other as we grieve individually and collectively, and to

celebrate the life, contribution and legacy of the individual.

These occasions have caused me to reflect on how we measure the success and the value of one's own life and I am convinced it has something to do with how we have loved those around us, and the impact we have had on others; the lives we have added value to or encouraged and supported in any number of ways.

All of us have made a difference for others and it is helpful to consider ; have we made the best and most difference we could?

This newsletter contains wonderful stories of lives transformed, of people who, with the support of the Mission team, are making positive changes in their lives and as a consequence we are seeing people made whole, families re-united and mana restored.

I am sure I echo the sentiments of all the team at The Wellington City Mission when I say it is a privilege to do the work we do

and to every day witness the change and transformation we see in the lives of those we serve. We have this privilege because of the ongoing support and encouragement of our whānau of supporters. If you are one of those supporters, we thank you and express our deep gratitude for the encouragement and enabling you provide to us.

Together we are impacting the lives of others. Thank you for joining with us in this most important of endeavours.

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."
1 Peter 4:10*

Blessings,

Murray Edridge
Email: murray@wgtncitymission.org.nz



Mission Bequester, Mo

The Mission relies on a variety of people and organisations to be able to make a difference in people's lives, and together we are creating a better place to live. Including a gift to The Mission in your Will is one way you can have a lasting legacy in our community. Making a bequest (whether through a part of your estate, a percentage, or specific item) ensures The Mission can support more people in Wellington to create a better future for themselves.

We asked Mo, one of The Mission's generous Bequestors, to share her thoughts with us.

When my partner and I were planning to go overseas, it was the perfect opportunity to take The Mission up on their Will service. While we do have a niece and nephew in Australia, we don't have kids so we bequested one-third of our estate to The Mission.

We wanted to leave a bit of an imprint on the community when we're gone, and we chose The Mission because of the wide-reaching effect it has on so many people. Often, it provides people with basic necessities that are easily taken for granted. Many people are in such tough circumstances that they have lost the ability to even make choices in their life. Initiatives like the Social Supermarket are

giving people the chance to feel part of the community, because they get to take part in activities that are just part of 'normal' life.

Being a Wellingtonian, I really like supporting a local charity as well. Now more than ever we need to look after the community we live in, because it will only ever lead to all of us being better off. That's particularly obvious for me as a community health nurse, because I see so many people living with conditions that are caused by an unhealthy living environment and lack of basic nutrition.

For me, it also recognises that even though there are always hardships and stresses in my own life, I am very fortunate to be in my position. I have the ability to work, and have the security of a home and food in the cupboard, while others can't seem to get ahead. It's clear that the need is great out there, so even if someone doesn't know what you've done for them, it's nice to know that you've helped make their life better.

I would say to anyone who can leave something that they should just do it. And at the end of the day bequesting actually doesn't require you to change anything in your own lifestyle, but you will leave something behind that will continue to give and grow.

If you would like to have a confidential discussion about leaving a bequest to The Mission, please contact Gay Keast on (04) 245 0866 or email gay@wgtncitymission.org.nz.



otherwise be cut off. There's a mix of people from different backgrounds, all with their own challenges they might be struggling with. No matter who you are, this is a safe place where we all respect each other, and you can build friendships. That's all led by the staff and volunteers, who are very professional and are genuinely here to help you rather than judge you.

"No matter who you are, this is a safe place where we all respect each other, and you can build friendships."

This is Our Community

A decade ago, I developed some major health issues and I couldn't work. I became homeless, and lived in my car for years until I lost my license because of my disabilities. I was unable to cope, and it's times like that when you need to turn to people who can look after you. I started coming to the Drop-in Centre (now called Tā Te Manawa/Community Lounge) for a good meal, which helped me get by on my budget. And even though I found housing four years ago, I still come to Tā Te Manawa. I can't walk very far, and have trouble with public transport, so another guest picks me up and drops me off every day.

Right now, Tā Te Manawa is busier and better than ever. It's a place that makes everyone feel welcome to come in without intimidation, where you can have free coffee and good food. If you have a full stomach you feel a lot happier – especially for people with no money, addictions, or who are living on the street. This is a place that lifts your spirits. I think of it like a warm shower, because after you've been here you feel refreshed and find an extra spring in your step!

Food is often the first thing people come here for, but you get a lot more than that. Coming together to share food brings us together socially, and it becomes a meeting place more than anything. It has a way of finding people in the community who would

Being with The Mission also offers new opportunities, like budgeting help and social work support for people who need it. Staff have helped me personally with my application to get a mobility scooter, which would open up a whole new world for me. They've also taken a group of us to visit the zoo, and provided swim passes, which are things I'd never be able to do otherwise. Having the opportunity to try new things gives you a sense of achievement, and a bit of happiness.

I take my hat off to everyone who works and volunteers here, and all those who support behind the scenes. Every person you can save from prison, or a life on the street is a win for everyone in Wellington, and here lots of people are given the chance to rebuild their lives!



wash dishes, serve food and hot drinks to people, and generally make sure everyone is looked after. I get to have a bit of banter with manuhiri (guests) too, which makes sure people know that they are with friends. I like how the manuhiri have gotten to know me, and there's a bit of continuity because I'm here every week.

Why did you choose to volunteer here?

I've always believed in the principles of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and caring for the sick. But also, my driving force is to leave the world a better place than when I found it, and I think each of us has that social responsibility. It's always impressed me how The Mission staff really follow through on those principles, and are part of the solution. I also like how even though this is a spiritual place, there's no expectations – it's all about making someone's life better while they're here.

What do you like most about it?

It really does feel like a home away from home. Many of our manuhiri don't have a safe space to relax, and have no money to

spend. But here, they get to sit with their mate on a couch, share some good food and a barista coffee, and have a moment in their life that lets them feel like any other Kiwi. You can see they're really grateful to have that in their lives. Everyone who comes here is really positive, receptive and appreciative. When you talk to manuhiri about their backstories, the significance of Tā Te Manawa becomes really clear, and it feels great to be a part of that.

What would you say to others about volunteering at The Mission?

I would absolutely encourage people to try it. It can be hard because people who would otherwise be keen to volunteer are working more hours in a week, and are unable to find time. But this is work that needs to be done, for those who absolutely need our support. They might have experienced mental health issues, family breakups, or a tough upbringing, and this place is really supportive. Volunteering for a shift a week is a small commitment, but it helps keep this place operating which turns into something really big for someone who comes here!

Volunteer Profile Brendon

What's your role at The Mission?

I volunteer for two shifts in Tā Te Manawa/Community Lounge every Monday. I

OUT & ABOUT



Strengthening Our Impact in the Community

We recently held a two-day training (a Wānanga Noho) for around 50 staff and volunteers working in our Pā transitional housing facilities.

We believe it's so important to develop the strengths of our staff and volunteers, as it's through our collective interactions with manuhiri that they are empowered to create meaningful change.

During the training, staff and volunteers gained tools that will support manuhiri to realise their potential and experience quality of life. For example, because our work relies on making manuhiri feel included, we explored ways to ensure that everyone finds acceptance and belonging in our Pā community!

Passing It Forward to Kids in Need

Rebel Sports NZ, Silver Fern Sport, and the Tania Dalton Foundation recently donated a whopping 350 sports balls and 100 cricket sets to The Mission!

The donation comes as part of their 'Pass It Forward' campaign, which aims to enable more kids to get involved in sports. For every Pass It Forward item sold at Rebel Sports, the group then donates one on to young Kiwis in need. These items are perfect for our Community Sports Banks and our Play Days, so kids have awesome opportunities to participate in sports, learn new skills, and have fun being active!

If you want to get involved in The Mission's sports initiatives, please email communitydevelopment@wgtncitymission.org.nz



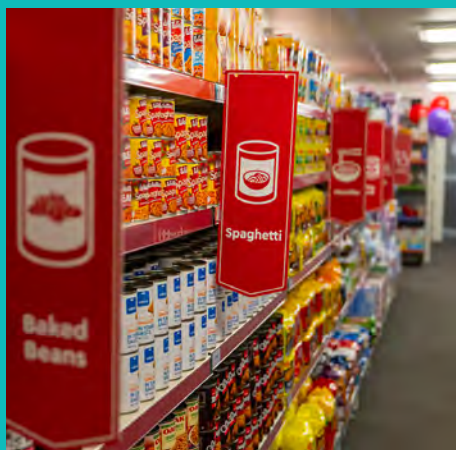
A Mission Round The Bays!

The Mission was delighted to be chosen as an official charity partner for Brendon Foot Supersite Round the Bays Wellington 2021!

On the day, 31 people ran or walked up to 21km to fundraise for The Mission's programmes. Our team included Mission supporters, staff, volunteers, and even some manuhiri from our Tā Te Manawa/Community Lounge.

In total, The Mission team raised over \$5,000! Thank you to everyone who took part, and all those who donated to their efforts!

GET INVOLVED



Help Stock our Social Supermarket

We're excited to launch our second year of Family2Family! This national campaign, in partnership with Foodstuffs, has replaced our Brown Paper Bag Appeal. Between 7-20 June, you can donate food and goods at your local New World supermarket. Everything donated in Wellington will help stock our Social Supermarket, and will support people and families to get through the challenges of winter.

Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for updates – including a list of our most needed items. Thank you!

See you at The Food Show

The Mission has again been chosen as the official charity partner of The Wellington Food Show. This year, it will take place at Sky Stadium, from 28-30 May.

We'd love you to pop by our stall and try our delicious Two Worlds Paella, which we'll be making there from scratch!

Spend My Super

If you are in a position to do so, have you thought about donating part of your Super? With winter approaching, you could donate your Winter Energy Payment to The Mission at spendmysuper.org.nz.

You can set up a monthly gift on our website donation page by choosing the monthly option, or by emailing vivienne@wgtncitymission.org.nz.

No More Cheques

With the major banks phasing out cheques, sadly The Mission is unable to continue processing cheques after May 31, 2021.

To discuss all matters regarding your donation to The Mission, please contact our Individual Giving Manager Vivienne, on (04) 245 0845 or vivienne@wgtncitymission.org.nz.

WHAT IT MEANS

Gay

**Major Gift Manager
Philanthropy Team**



What strikes me most in my role is the heart that our donors show. I've seen how so many of our supporters feel a responsibility to take care of everyone in our community through love and kindness. It's rewarding inviting major donors (some who have been giving for over 30 years) to get a feel for the services that they are making possible. Seeing someone's reaction to the Social Supermarket and hearing stories from our manuhiri (guests) in Tā te Manawa/Community Lounge is amazing! Personally, I think that we're all just one big family, and at any time we could need help, so the community is much stronger if we all take care of each other. Like many of the donors I care for, I've included The Mission in my Will, because I absolutely believe in this organisation!

Valelia

**Manager
Kemp Home & Hospital**



For me personally, what I've cherished the most in my years at Kemp are the friendships and relationships I've built with our kaumatua (elders) and whānau. We're not just a group of individuals living together, we are a community. When times are tough for our kaumatua, they know they can lean on the rest of us for tautoko (support). No matter their cultural or spiritual identity, manuhiri and whānau often tell us that they can feel the warmth, aroha (love), and wairua (spirit) here. That is such an important part of our care, because moving into a shared community is a massive life change. Having a sense of belonging at Kemp helps them feel safe, cared for, and loved. And it's amazing seeing the real impact that makes on someone's entire well-being, and in their quality of life!



A Word From Maria – General Manager, Residential Services

Building community is one of The Mission's core themes in everything we do. We think of community as having a sense of belonging and feeling connected to a group, and having that is one of the most basic human needs. We all want to feel like we have something to offer, and that we are valued, but also that we are able to give back and contribute to those around us. All of this helps us feel like our lives are worthwhile.

Lots of the people we work with at The Mission have never experienced feeling

valued, and often don't consider themselves as having anything to offer society. So we recognise that no matter where someone is on their journey, they do have strengths and talents. When someone buys into the relationship between receiving and giving back, it creates incredible value around them.

The Mission began offering transitional housing again just over two years ago, because we found that 80% of everyone who engaged with our services had some form of accommodation challenge. Many were unable to afford the rent, were living in unsafe conditions or overcrowding, or were experiencing homelessness. We recognised that housing was one of the most significant social issues we could respond to, to make the biggest difference.

In our Pā across the region, we're not just providing housing, we are providing a home, and making sure those who engage with us are better off for the long term. From the moment someone joins the Pā community they agree to take responsibility for their part in moving forward on their journey, by contributing to the Pā as well as receiving support. The ultimate goal is for our manuhiri to be self-regulating, and eventually take

that discipline and momentum to a stable home life out in the community.

As a result, we see a range of positive changes in our people, from improvements in their physical health and wairua (spirit) to a complete shift in their life outlook. A common thread with everyone is that they feel that their mana (life force) has begun to be restored. Many begin to take part in group activities and find meaningful work. Vitality, it will also give them the confidence to address the barriers that are keeping them from having their own home.

In reality, the demand for housing is so high in Wellington that not everyone is going to find their own flat. So we also prepare manuhiri to be able to live in a community setting, such as in a boarding house or with whānau. Living with others is also a great stepping stone to later venture out on their own when they're able to.

We now have dozens of examples of people who have successfully journeyed through our Pā and are now living as part of their community. Their stories prove the massive difference having a place to call home can make for someone, especially in their ability to experience quality of life.

THANKS TO YOUR HELP...

January – March 2021 Key Statistics



118

Our Pā provided 118 manuhiri (guests) with transitional housing



110

Each day, around 110 manuhiri visited our Community Lounge/Tā Te Manawa



383

Our social work team carried out 383 face-to-face sessions and home visits with people and families



12

12 Manuhiri from our Pā moved into permanent housing



131

Our financial mentors provided budgeting advice to 131 clients



59

Our social work team supported clients during 59 crucial advocacy visits

DONATE NOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WAYS TO DONATE

Website:
wellingtoncitymission.org.nz

Phone:
(04) 245 0845 to make a donation.

Internet Banking:
To our bank account 03 0547 0296036 17
Email donations@wgtncitymission.org.nz with your details if you wish to receive a receipt.

CONTACT US

Call in, or contact our Newtown office and Community Lounge:
19 Gordon Place, Newtown, Wellington
PO Box 7200, Newtown, Wellington 6242
T: (04) 245 0900 E: enquiries@wgtncitymission.org.nz

E-NEWSLETTER

To sign up to our quarterly e-newsletter, please email your details to enquiries@wgtncitymission.org.nz or call (04) 245 0845.



Introducing our Social Supermarket

As you might have seen in the news, The Mission has opened the Wellington region's first Social Supermarket!

In a shift from our traditional food parcel model, our Social Supermarket (located next to The Mission's Newtown address), has shopper experience and choice at its heart. Instead of collecting a pre-selected food parcel, customers who need food support are able to choose their own goods from a wide selection of food and essentials in a normal supermarket environment. Food entitlements differ according to the number of people in each customer's household.

Shoppers are hosted and supported to select an appropriate range of products to meet their needs and those of their whānau. They are also offered budgeting

support, with social workers available to assist, along with a full-time store manager.

The Social Supermarket is open and free to anyone across the Wellington region in need of some extra help. This includes those currently being supported by, or are new to The Mission – as well as those being supported or referred by other social service agencies. Mission staff will be on hand to have individual conversations as required, to ensure those requiring support do receive it.

Our sincere thanks go to the amazing team at New World who were lead supporters of the project, and have continuously provided valuable expertise, logistical support, and equipment.



"We can only imagine how hard it must be for someone to ask for food support. The concept of the Social Supermarket is about providing dignity, self-respect and encouragement to those who are vulnerable in our local community."

Murray Edridge
Wellington City Missioner



"I'm really excited to be helping our Social Supermarket shoppers with their weekly shop. It's a fresh and exciting idea, and you can see the shoppers really appreciate it!"

Selena Mills
Social Supermarket Floor Manager

We're off to an Amazing Start!

Since the Social Supermarket's official launch on Monday 15 March, support for the initiative has been tremendous – from both near and far!

People, organisations, and news media have been extremely enthusiastic, and many have been keen to get involved. We've also had back-to-back appointments from shoppers, who have offered incredible feedback about the new service!

Be a Vital Part of Our Social Supermarket!

Donations of food and household items are absolutely critical to ensure people and families in our region can receive food support when they need it most.

Please visit our website to find out about our most needed items, or to make a monetary donation so we can purchase in-demand stock. You can also drop food items at The Mission reception.

Thank you!

Contact Us

Opening hours (by appointment only):
Monday to Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm
Address: 15 Gordon Place, Newtown, Wellington 6242

If you are another social service agency, contact:
Sarah Meynell – Procurement & Key Relationships Manager
Ph: 027 220 0919
E: sarah.meynell@wgtncitymission.org.nz

Selena Mills – Social Supermarket Floor Manager
Ph: 027 212 2155
E: selena@wgtncitymission.org.nz

Huge thanks to the New World team for their incredible support!

