



ON A MISSION

Your Generosity Changing Lives



A Message from Murray July 2023

Mahatma Gandhi is quoted as saying:

"The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members".

This is a particularly pertinent sentiment as we reflect on the tragedy of the Loafers Lodge fire in Wellington on 16 May 2023. This was an event that caused significant suffering and loss, and also exposed some sad realities of how we as a community are caring for those who are the more vulnerable amongst us.

I have been quoted publicly since the fire as saying we are all collectively culpable for the tragedy. Not for the fire itself, but for knowingly allowing some members of our community to live in conditions and circumstances that most of us wouldn't consider acceptable for ourselves.

As time passes, we need to ensure that the lessons of Loafers Lodge are not forgotten and that we continue to work and advocate to ensure we do better for those that need our support and assistance.

I remain hopeful that we, as the community of Wellington and that we, as the nation of Aotearoa will demonstrate the compassion and generosity to do better than this in the future.

I am confident in our collective ability to make the necessary changes in our community, because the Wellington City Mission experienced some of that compassion and generosity in the weeks following the fire as the community supported the Loafers Lodge Mayoral Relief Fund. Nearly \$400,000 was raised to support those who had lost so much. For that

generosity, compassion and your aroha, we say thank you!

As we think about those who are most vulnerable in our community, we must include our elderly, many of whom are struggling financially, with getting the support they need, and with isolation and loneliness.

In this edition of "On A Mission" we get a chance to meet some of the wonderful older people we have the privilege to walk alongside. For these and so many others; having someone to journey with them and assist them along the way in their later years is so significant. We also give you a glimpse of our Financial Mentoring team who do a remarkable job helping those who are vulnerable because they struggle with managing their money and resources.

Enjoy reading these stories, knowing with certainty that you are helping those who are the most vulnerable in our community, and also knowing that we can only do what we do, because of the generosity of your support.

Thank You!

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2



Murray

Murray Edridge
Wellington City Missioner

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS AT KEMP

Kemp Home & Hospital in Titahi Bay has been owned and operated by The Mission since 1963, and is the biggest employer in Titahi Bay.



Raymond is at home in his room at Kemp
One of Raymond's many pictures as a champion ballroom dancer

Over its 60 years, Kemp has been a safe and live-giving home for thousands of our kaumātua (elders). Many of those residents have health and disability issues, and may not have had the financial or whānau support that all of us would hope for.

We provide care to meet rest home and hospital-level standards, and all of our staff are very skilled at what they do, as they work with challenging health and disability issues. Residents also have opportunities to have their social and spiritual needs met, often for the first time in a long while.

Most of those who live with us are over 65, but we do have some younger residents who have found there is nowhere else available for them. We have a dedicated wing for people experiencing homelessness as well, which sits within our Te Pūnaha Pā Supported Transitional Housing model.

Kemp has strong connections with the wider community, including churches, schools, and other community groups. Many of our residents are local to the area, and have had some sort of involvement with Kemp in their lives, from knowing a staff member through to some who helped to build it! This diversity and history has created a real richness in the Kemp community.

Glad to Be Getting On with Life

A big part of my life was always ballroom dancing. I was a champion dancer in New Zealand and Australia, mainly competing in four dances: Tango, Waltz, Quickstep and my favourite, Foxtrot. I retired from working in the mid-2000s, and I was looking after myself pretty well while living alone in my home in Ranui. That's when I discovered a passion for spending time on the computer, because it really opened up the world for me. Over time, I started getting ulcers on my feet. I just got on with it as usual, but painful spots were popping up all over, and they'd take a long time to heal.

I ended up going into hospital and staying there for over 100 days, which was all very rough. We did rounds of angiograms and operations, but blood clots kept causing issues, and I felt that I wasn't getting the personal care I needed to make progress. Then on Boxing Day last year, a doctor told me they would have to amputate my leg.

They were able to save the knee, so after the operation I was happy as Larry. The next thing I knew, I was being told I had five days to find somewhere else to go. I wanted to get back home, but it became clear that I would now need assistance all the time, and I had to accept the fact that my life would never look the same.

Fortunately I knew about Kemp, having lived and worked in Porirua for years. It always had a good reputation, and although it's a bit older than some other places, it's well maintained, and has a high level of staff support. I was quite pleased to move in, and since then, I've been able to make life look pretty much the same as it did when I was at home. I've got my computer so I can read about what's happening in the world and play games. My pictures and trophies are around me, and I've even got my blue cheese and bottle of wine in the fridge! There are a few other residents I talk with, we'll often meet out at the rose garden and have lunch together.

The most important thing is that I'm getting the care and attention I need. Day to day, being unable to do the basics for myself can cause a lot of frustration, so you need someone who is willing to help you out. The staff here are just so nice. I have my one nurse who knows all about me, and I get specialists actually following up. But even the way they call you by your name and come around to ask if you'd like a cup of tea means a lot. I admire them really, because the people who choose to work here have got to have such a caring nature.

Now I look at all that's happened and think heck, despite it all, I'm feeling alright for 83. I don't have to worry about making meals, taking care of the house, or getting caught out needing help, and I realise just how much I need to rely on the Kemp staff for that. I know, that they rely on donations and support from people in the community to keep the place running too. So I'd say keep up the good work, because it is appreciated, and you're helping someone like me feel very content!



Finding Dignity and Joy at Kemp

Maria Millin,
General Manager, Residential Services

The essence of everything we do at Kemp, and The Mission, is about manaakitanga – showing kindness and being here to lift someone up when they need some support. That's crucial because there are kaumātua out there who are feeling very lonely and isolated, as they face the challenges that ageing can present to all of us.

Some of our residents, like Raymond, come to Kemp because they need a high level of healthcare support and are local to the area. At the same time, many others also aren't coping on a fixed income, and don't have any savings or own their own home. They are having to choose between going without heating, nutritious food, or medical support, and their options for rest homes are very limited. So coming to a warm and safe place like Kemp really lets them put their energy into enjoying life again.

The medical care is such an important part of our mahi (work), but equally, we invest in all of the other areas of life by providing spiritual and social wellbeing opportunities. Having a chapel is really special for our residents, and so is being able to get outside to enjoy the rose garden, take part in group activities, and create friendships with other residents who have shared similar life experiences. It may take time, but belonging to a community where you can share your stories and care for each other is actually really significant.

As much as possible, each resident makes their life what they want it to be. For some that might actually mean choosing to live a quiet life, but always knowing that they're an equally important part of our community. It's about giving someone back their dignity of choice, which is so empowering. People can stop thinking "How will I get through today?", and start thinking "How shall I spend my day?". Often our residents are surprised to find they have gained a completely new life outlook.

I think the way we treat our kaumātua reflects our society's values as a whole, and in the coming years we are going to have more and more older people needing support from our community. New Zealand's current strategy of 'ageing in place' also means that people are living in their homes frailer and with more complex needs. So it's up to all of us to keep an eye out for kaumātua who may be struggling in any area of their life. If we each just do our little bit, we can all be there for people at a time when they need us most.

FINANCIAL MENTORING

- Always Here When Someone Needs It



Merlene with her Financial Mentor Ruth, Tā Te Manawa behind

The Mission Feels Like A Warm Embrace

Last June I suddenly became homeless, and that really knocked me. You feel very isolated, especially in times like winter when it's raining and cold and you have nowhere to go. You become so dependent on other people to get by.

Thankfully, a friend offered for me to stay at her house for a bit. While I was there, I realised that I had been part of a community of people who were slipping through the cracks, and there was a toxic mindset that came along with that. I wanted to break that lifestyle and get engaged with activities, so I started coming to Tā Te Manawa, The Mission's community lounge, for lunch.

It really hit me how busy with life it was, and there were such great services on offer. I'd found it at just the right time in my life, and I jumped at every opportunity available. When I heard about the Money Mates course I thought, "Why not join? It will help me improve my finances for the first time!" It turned out to be my fresh start. Everyone in our group realised that we weren't struggling alone, and we actually all wanted each other to achieve positive outcomes.

I also signed up for Budgeting Advice, and started working one-on-one with Ruth. It was great to be able to share what I was going through, and to build a proper structure to plan my money. My big goal was to start saving money so that I could buy a house van to live in, and that had always seemed out of reach. We started by cutting out impulse spending like buying coffee from cafes, and putting away \$10 a week. Ruth

also introduced me to the Social Supermarket to help with my budgeting. Getting into the rhythm of choosing my groceries and then going home to cook meals helped me raise the bar in my life. I got a job cleaning at a motel, but on my income I still couldn't find a private rental I could afford, so I kept working hard to save for my house van.

In June this year, I was able to qualify for a loan with Newtown Ethical Lending Trust, and I purchased my van – now called 'Pearl'. That was so exhilarating! It's all set up with a bed, a cooker, and wifi, and I'm officially living in it. I've realised how powerful having an attitude of gratitude is, and being thankful for all the little things has completely changed my life.

It's such a relief to feel independent, and I'm using all of the budgeting skills I've learnt. I don't need to do regular Budgeting Advice with Ruth anymore, but we keep in touch and I know if things change she's always there to help. I still love coming into The Mission for the meals and warm atmosphere. It feels like a big embrace when you walk in. You really get the sense of the whakataukī: "He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata!", which means, "What is the most important thing in the world? The people, the people, the people!" I think The Mission puts that expression into action, and I'm just so thankful for everything that goes on here.

Our Financial Mentoring programme offers a few different opportunities, depending on a person or family's specific needs. These include Budgeting Advice, Total Money Management (TMM), and Money Mates.

Budgeting Advice

This service assists clients to manage their own budgets. First, we understand someone's financial situation and goals, then write a budget and support them on that journey. We work with some people for a very short time (because they just need to overcome an immediate challenge like sudden unemployment), and others who have long-term challenges like bad debt.

Total Money Management (TMM)

TMM is for people who have extremely high debt levels or aren't able to manage their budget well, which could be due to added stressors like mental health, disability, or addiction issues. We manage the client's total income, so their income is paid into a Mission account – whether that comes from their employment or benefit, and any other supplementary sources. From there, we deal with their fixed costs like rent, utilities, and debt, and work with the client to create a weekly cash allowance for each week. Along the way, we educate and support them to have more confidence in their financial situation.

Money Mates

Money Mates is a six-week course that we run for groups of up to 12 people. It was developed by MSD, and is run by our Financial Mentors. It's an interactive and supportive course that helps people build their ability to best manage their money.

Watch Our Money Mates Video Resources!



Financial Mentor, Elizabeth, presenting one of our Money Mates videos

We've created a set of Money Mates videos for everyone to learn from. If you want to find out more about what we teach, know someone who is looking for some budgeting help, or you're keen to pick up some tips for yourself as the costs of living rise, please check them out!

You can find them on our website, by going to the 'What We Do' tab and then choosing 'Financial Mentoring'.

A Typical Budget

Many of our Financial Mentoring clients are struggling just to meet their essential bills. Often that creates a cycle of debt that they simply can't get out of without some support. This challenge intensifies in times like winter when the costs of living rise, because of increasing power and medical bills, and household needs like warm clothing and bedding.

Here are some examples of real weekly budgets:

	Total Income: (e.g. wages, tax credits, supplementary support)	Regular Expenses (e.g. food, power, internet & phone, transport, school, medical, clothing, accommodation)	Debts (e.g. in-store cards, high-interest loans, personal loans)	Cash for the Week
Single adult, on benefit	+\$491.64	-\$513.63	\$0	-\$21.99
Sole parent, working, with three children	+\$1,289	-\$1,052.42	-\$274.39	-\$37.81
Sole parent, working, with one child and pregnant	+\$999.72	-\$984.42	-\$159.70	-\$144.40

YOU CAN WARM UP WINTER

The cold and wet weather is making it very clear that winter is well and truly here.



For those who are struggling, the challenges of staying warm, the significant increases in day-to-day costs for food, transport and rent (let's face it, everything is going up!) means that life is really tough. In fact, for many, rent accounts for more than 70% of their income.

Your help remains critical and is mightily appreciated. You help us provide meals, additional clothing and most importantly, a place of warmth and care for our Manuhiri (guests). If you'd like to donate towards helping us help others this winter, please visit our website. The warm glow around your heart will definitely warm up winter for those in need – Thank you.

What has happened:



Family2Family – from Success2Success

Another successful campaign this year. The New World team joined with their generous customers to deliver Wellington City Mission with 3,316 bags of donated food and over \$11,000 from donated Flybuys points. Congratulations to New World Thorndon who led the country in donations. Go Wellington and thank you, your generosity continues to ensure our Social Supermarket helps those most in need.



National Volunteering Week

We celebrated National Volunteer Week from 18th June – 24th June to acknowledge and thank all of the amazing volunteers that work here at The Wellington City Mission for “being you and being here, supporting our community and keeping some of our most valued services alive for those that need it”. Staff and manuhiri wanted to give our volunteers a big shout out, so we made a Thank You video for all of our volunteers.

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/x5xuzTUEWE>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thewellingtoncitymission/videos/634914545241270>

During this week we also attended the Mahi Aroha Awards run by Volunteer Wellington, where we nominated a ‘volunteer of the year’ and ‘employee volunteer team’ for awards. Our employee team, The Department of Corrections, even came runner up in their category for the amazing mahi they do for us over the Christmas period.



Glynny with her social worker Izzy at the Mission

83 and Free – Glynny

Glynny is one of life's real characters. At 83, she's had a full and pretty challenging life – not least of which, raising four children as a solo mum, while holding down a full-time job and living in a caravan. She had hoped to be a Kindy teacher or a nurse but getting married at 18 meant other duties took precedence and later, jobs were more about paying the bills than building a career. When you talk to her, there is no disappointment, Glynny is a bundle of joy and has a vital and positive outlook on life, always looking forward. Then you ask her "what's next?" and she'll tell you "I'm looking forward to my next adventure".

Glynny's loves her relationship with The Mission. She visits the Tā Te Manawa lounge, likes to hear the piano and stops

in for the occasional lunch. Her biggest love, not surprisingly, is her social worker, Izzy. Izzy and the team at the Mission help Glynny maintain her independence - getting to appointments, helping with care arrangements and dealing with practical issues. Glynny works very hard to stick to a budget. Her superannuation does not go far and when any extras come up, like birthdays, it means something else must go. The occasional trip to the Social Supermarket helps her keep her head above water. But talking to her, you'd never know life had its challenges – she keeps smiling and stays positive. She loves her cell phone, watches YouTube and, always learning, is currently teaching herself Latin and Arabic.

You Make a Difference.

In the last three months, with your help, we:



Supported

1,208

people through our Social Supermarket



Provided

19,201

meals for manuhiri living in our supported Transitional Housing and through Tā te Manawa, our community lounge



Welcomed

4,170

manuhiri into Tā te Manawa, our community lounge, where we served home cooked meals and great barista coffee



Supported

351

whanau and individuals with one-on-one social work support

Whakamaru Update

We're pleased to report that significant progress is occurring onsite with the installation of the Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) floors and stairs – very strong and versatile. This installation has been outstanding and has far exceeded expectations around speed and ease and the fit has been perfect. These sheets are seriously big as they span the steel framing and are 130mm thick (that's over 5 inches old school)! They are lifted into place by the tower crane direct from the back of the delivery trucks.

For you technical types... Remaining cross bracing steel has been installed on level three and timber wall framing is progressing well on levels one and two. Vertical steel is now in place up to roof height for the whole building. For the first time we can now see the scale of Whakamaru and this is clearly visible from the road... exciting!



Gifts in Wills

Leave a Legacy of Hope

Gifts in Wills are a vital source of funding for us. They offer important long-term financial stability and allow us to expand our impact, ensuring we can continue to grow and meet the needs of our community for generations to come. Your gift no matter how large or small, becomes a legacy of your compassion, generosity and commitment to making Wellington a better place.

Together we can create a community where no one is left behind.

If you have any questions regarding leaving a gift in your Will, you can simply contact Dave Candy on (04) 245 0882 or dave@wcm.org.nz



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