

KEEPING CHILDREN WARM THIS WINTER

These beautiful sweaters are knitted by the creative team from Mairangi/Castor Bay Presbyterian Church. The children we work with will be warm and feel so loved. Thank you.



Busy Fingers from Takapuna Presbyterian Church have also been lovingly knitting baby clothes, blankets and other woollen items for our Family Start families. We are very grateful for the support.

PSN LECTURE SERIES



Presbyterian Support Northern

Improving Child Wellbeing. PSN is hosting a series of lectures with a number of highly respected, thought-provoking international and national experts discussing ways to tackle child poverty and improve the wellbeing of our tamariki. Check out the list of speakers on our website www.psn.org.nz

Care Packs for Those Leaving Prison

Thank you for the great response to putting together care packages for the women we work with who are leaving prison, 'hopefully for good'. Let me know when the packs are ready and we can come and pick them up.



OUR FOODBANK



In late March, Saint Kentigern College students donated over 37,000 items to fill the shelves of our very bare Foodbank. A huge thank you Saint Kentigern College, a brilliant effort! Normally we distribute around 6,000 items to families each month, but like other foodbanks we have noticed a large spike in the number of requests. Each food parcel contains a minimum of 34 items. We are now heading into May and the colder months, and we know that the demand will increase. Thank you to all the churches and schools and individuals who make this service possible to families and individuals.



The shelves 6 weeks later.



Family Works Social Workers in Schools (SWiS) Kristen Hodginson and Jay Tanoi with the Year 8 Students

Community CONNECTIONS
Autumn 2018

THE GIFT OF AWARENESS

32 Y8 students from the three Saint Kentigern campuses and St Cuthbert's College came together at the Ruapotaka Marae in Glen Innes to learn and think more deeply about 'Child Poverty in NZ through the lens of 'Shalom' with its vision of peace, wellbeing and wholeness'. Students were encouraged to read the chapter on 'Child Poverty' from the Justice & Action booklet prior to the gathering.

The day was organised by Rev Sharon Ross Ensor, the Director of the Presbyterian Church Schools Resource Office, and Anne Overton, the Community Relationship Manager for Presbyterian Support Northern (PSN).

Daniel Hauraki, the GM of Māori for PSN was on hand to guide the students through the pōwhiri, a first for a number of students. The day started with a reflection on 'Shalom' by Rev Roxy Gahegan, and was followed by the 'People in Poverty' game. This has been developed by the Office of the Children's Commissioner to provide students with a better understanding of some of the root causes of child poverty.

The highlight of the day according to the students feedback was the session with Kristen and Jay, two SWiS from Family Works (PSN). Kristen & Jay shared stories about their work, and facilitated the students in role play looking at some of the day-to-day challenges faced by families in poverty.

Peter Cassie, the principal of Saint Kentigern Boys School said **"I would like to reiterate how successful the day was for the students and the staff. Our parents were extremely complimentary of the opportunity provided for their child"**.



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Or visit www.psn.org.nz for more information or to download more copies.



WHAT'S ON

Here are some upcoming events to inspire you to get involved in your community.

24 - 30 June 2018

Praying for Children @ Risk

We know that children in NZ are missing out. Prayer and action are ways that together we can change this situation. In early June flyers, a short video and a copy of the Covenant for our Nation's children will be arriving at your church. If you would like someone from Family Works (PSN) to share about the work we are doing please contact Anne Overton.

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Closes 27 July 2018

Love Reaches Out Art & Writing Competition

The Theme: Caring for our World (Te tiaki i tō tātou Tai Ao) Entries are open for the 2018 Love Reaches Out Art & Writing competition. Paint, draw or write about 'Caring for our World' and send in your entry! This year instead of raising money for art packs, think about running an art/writing afternoon or an after-school activity, inviting the neighbourhood children, the local schools and the children who attend classes at your church hall.

Check out the Kids Friendly website for ideas on how to run such a session. www.kidsfriendly.org.nz



17 - 23 June 2018

National Volunteer Week 2018

So often volunteers fly under the radar! This is the week to recognise and celebrate them. Honour the valuable contribution that volunteers make inside and outside of your church. It might be by leaving a thoughtful note, a surprise chocolate treat or putting on morning tea to celebrate together.



IMAGINE... A FAIRER START FOR EVERYONE

Poverty and prisoners seem to be creating awareness waves across NZ at the moment. We all need to be listening, thinking deeply about the issues and taking action. In Max Harris' book 'The New Zealand Project' he offers some good insights about our justice system and poverty. What resonated profoundly with me were the three key values he felt should underpin our NZ society: care, creativity and community. This led me to think about the different ways we as citizens can take action.

For many of us, the **Charity Model** which responds to the immediate needs and offers practical support is the easiest way for us to help. Help in the form of food, clothing, stationery and household items are excellent ways to assist families, but is there another way that will benefit the children and their families over the long term? This is where the Justice Model comes in.



The **Justice Model** brings about social change and responds to long term needs, focusing on the root causes of social problems.

Speaking with one of the team leaders for our Social Workers in Schools (SWiS) 'aspirational poverty' for school-aged children was highlighted as one of the greatest issue. We all need role models, we all need someone who believes in us and we all need people that we look up to. While research offers a number of view points, I believe we need to offer sound career options to all children and to start them on that journey earlier so that they take the subjects that will help them achieve their vision for their future.

In the meantime, we need to ensure that all children have adequate nutritious food, a warm dry house to live in, suitable clothes and shoes, and good opportunities to participate in society. The lecture series on 'Leaving Prison for Good', run by the Community of St Lukes in Remuera is a fine example of raising awareness and bringing greater understanding of the alternatives available to our current prison system.

What values underpin the mission of your church? What values are important to each of us?

"Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice. Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings."

NELSON MANDELA

Anne Overton
Community Relationship Manager

