

A LITTLE BIT OF SWEET KINDNESS

from St Cuthbert's College students for the children we work with. While you may not see the look of delight on hundreds of children's faces you know how special they will feel.



PSN LECTURE SERIES II

Visit the PSN website for more details www.psn.org.nz

Once again we are bringing out some excellent international speakers:



Dr. Sharon Hoover
27th – 31st May

Sharon is a leading figure in advancing school mental health (SMH) training and practice at national, state, and local levels. See: <http://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/profiles/Hoover-Sharon>

Lyn Greenberg Ph.D. 19th – 23rd August

Lyn practices forensic and clinical psychology in Los Angeles, California. Dr. Greenberg specializes in services to court-involved children and families, addressing the complex and the individual needs of children and parents in distressed families, including those exposed to abuse, intimate partner violence, or disrupted parent-child relationships. See: www.lyngreenbergphd.com

KITCHEN CHALLENGE

Leadership Programme — equality and social impact

A first for PSN! 7 PSN staff from across our different services of Lifeline, Shine, Family Works, and Enliven came together with young people from Youth Horizons to participate in an innovative leadership programme being piloted by PSN. Kitchen Challenge is the brain child of founder Rob Rees who has successfully run the programme in the UK, Australia and now New Zealand. www.kitchenchallenge.com.au



Ceviche of salmon with macadamia cream and mango with mint dressing

With a vision of a society where inequalities have no gradient of difference, the participants courageously stepped outside their comfort zones and accepted a number of challenges.

At the beginning, none of us would have ever have imagined that we would be capable of preparing a lunch for 35 people and producing such dishes as the ceviche or a tonka bean parfait with caramel raspberry sauce, hokey pokey and ginger biscuit. We all agreed that it was an amazing leadership experience.



Young people stepping up to help with the Heart to Heart Children's Day Expo on Saturday 2 March

Community CONNECTIONS

Autumn 2019

HEART TO HEART CHILDREN'S DAY — KAWERAU

Free food, fun activities, entertainment and getting to know who is in your community.

A dream come true! Having experienced the social impact that the Heart to Heart Community Expo had on the Whakatane community, being able to run a Heart to Heart Children's Day in Kawerau for over 400 children and their caregivers was indeed, a dream come true for our Family Works team.

It was a locally lead team from different agencies who formed the committee to promote 'Local Service Providers' to and for whanau of Kawerau. Rachel Rangikotua, our Family Violence Response Coordinator put her hand up to coordinate the committee. With limited funds, lots of creativity and combined talent the committee pulled off a very successful event.

While having fun was key, the focus was for children and their caregivers to get to know who the social service agencies are in Kawerau. To help achieve this aim, a passport was given out to each child over the age of 5, their caregiver and all the young people who turned up. By visiting each of the 15 agencies and answering a question or participating in an activity, their passport was stamped. All completed passports

went into a draw to win a bicycle, a scooter, food hampers, clothes, food and petrol vouchers and more.

How did we measure success? Children from one of the Early Childhood Centres arrived on Monday morning buzzing, chatting excitedly about the fun event they had been to on Saturday!

A huge thank you to all the agencies that participated, and to the amazing Heart to Heart committee who did such an incredible job.



Neighbours Day Aotearoa 22 – 31 March

Thank you to all the churches who participated in Neighbours Day activities. I hope you connected in unexpected ways with different neighbours in your communities.



Contact details:

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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.

23 - 29 June 2019

Praying for Children @ Risk

In the 'Covenant for our Nation's Children' it states that "we will protect children from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect". It also says "we will support the emotional, social, physical and mental wellbeing of every child". Such powerful statements! Imagine if through prayer and action each parish could become the agent of change for its neighbourhood and local community.

Resources will be sent out late May. If you want to display a large billboard outside your church please email me at **E: anne.overton@psn.org.nz P: 09 520 8624**



Closes 9 August 2019

Love Reaches Out Art & Writing Competition

The Theme: 'MAKE A DIFFERENCE... I can, you can, we can' (Mahi rereke...Ka taea e au, ka taea e koe, ka taea e tatou)

Think about running a fun art and writing afternoon at church for the children in the local neighbourhood so they can participate in the competition.

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



Tuesday 30 July

International Day of Friendship

"Our world faces many challenges, crises and forces of division — such as poverty, violence, and human rights abuses. To confront those crises and challenges, their root causes must be addressed by promoting and defending a shared spirit of human solidarity that takes many forms – the simplest of which is friendship.

We need to be united for the greater good. You can find out more on the Friendship day website: <https://www.un.org/en/events/friendshipday>



"WE GROW IN KINDNESS WHEN OUR KINDNESS IS TESTED."

DESMOND TUTU



Last month I found myself at the Auckland South Correction Facility, Serco men's prison at Wiri. I was there with Shelith Hansbro, an experienced warden from the Decatur Correctional Centre, part of the Illinois Department of Corrections in the USA. PSN had invited Shelith to NZ as part of the PSN Lecture Series for 2019.

What did I learn and see?

The large flourishing vegetable garden where men gain skills and qualifications, also contributes to the meals the men prepare in the facility's kitchen.

Boxes of vegetables are given out to the families who visit and also to community groups.

Visiting the laundry showed that it was highly organised and well run. On the surface all appeared to be functioning well but when the Chief Ombudsman Peter Boshier heard about the bonus that Serco the private prison operator had earned for keeping inmates out of jail, he released a damning report criticising aspects of how the facility is run.

A particular interest of Shelith's was the Mothers & Babies unit at Wiri Women's prison where a team from Family Works work with the mums and babies to give them tools and the confidence to be the best mothers possible. We know that babies in prison stop women reoffending.

I know that we can do better and need to do better. More volunteers are required to visit men and women in prison, and more innovative programmes are required. Spending time listening to their stories will transform you and give you a deeper understanding of the journey that has led them to prison.

Families need to stay as connected as possible with access to regular phone calls, video links and quality time together during prison visits.

Think of the children who have a parent in prison and how hard it must be for them. Those children are serving an 'invisible sentence'.

If you are interested in volunteering contact John Sinclair, the National Manager of Prison Programmes for the Howard League, www.nzhowardleague.org.nz. Also, speak with the Prison Chaplains and ask how you can support them. pcsanz.org


Anne Overton
Community Relationship Manager

