

DELIVERING JOY THIS PAST CHRISTMAS



3,300 Christmas Shoe-box presents and pamper packs were bought, wrapped, dropped off, ferried around Auckland, and out to smaller outlying towns, before arriving at their final destination where they were opened with a joyful smile. While we don't get to enjoy those smiles, we know deep down how wonderful many children felt upon opening their beautiful gifts. As you can imagine, the logistics of even storing that number of presents can be daunting but thanks to the generosity of Hard Case Containers, a 20ft container was dropped off at the PSN office in Epsom and housed the gifts.

ENDLESS GENEROSITY FROM OUR PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY

We at PSN are eternally grateful to the Presbyterian churches and church schools who blessed so many of our young high school students with gifts, with the wrapping of gifts and of the donations of food to the Foodbank. A HUGE huge thank you.



Community CONNECTIONS

Summer 2019

WORKING TOGETHER

many hands make 250 Christmas food hampers

On 30 November, 140 Year 8 students spent the morning making up 250 Christmas Food Hampers for families connected with Family Works, together with 130 Christmas Bags for street people and PSN's Money Management clients. An amazing effort!

It was a hectic but fun morning, with the teachers pitching in to help the students and volunteers. By lunch time all hampers and bags had been loaded by the students into borrowed vans and PSN staff cars for delivery to the Family Works sites around Auckland before arriving at their final destination to bless families and street people.

Every year a group of volunteers associated with PSN's Foodbank and 'Start School's First Impressions' initiative gather to make up Christmas Food hampers. This year Saint Kentigern College was keen to be involved.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to make the day a great success. The good news is that Saint Kentigern College is keen to be involved again this Christmas.

A large proportion of the food had been donated by the Saint Kentigern College Foodbank drive earlier in Term 4. The rest came from St Cuthbert's and a faithful group of Presbyterian Churches in the Auckland region as well as funding from a number of other sources.



Check out these community websites too:



People powered change

actionstation.org.nz



Positive future for children of prisoners

pillars.org.nz



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.

2 & 3 March

Children's Day *Te Rā o Ngā Tamariki*

PSN are supporting the inaugural 'Heart to Heart' Children's Day expo on Saturday 2 March in Kawerau. A group of local community minded young people are taking the lead to run the event, coordinated by Rachel Rangikotua, our Family Violence Response Coordinator for the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Check out events in your area
childrensday.org.nz



3 - 9 March

Shine's Light It Orange Week

Light it Orange for Shine

For too many Kiwis, home is not a place of safety. It's a place of fear and shame, hidden behind closed doors. You can help change this by shining a light on domestic violence this March.

Together let's light New Zealand orange and show victims we really care.

Sign up to Light it Orange to help families get safe and stay safe.

lightitorange.co.nz



22 - 31 March

Neighbours Day Aotearoa

Whether you live in a suburb, an apartment or a rural property you have neighbours – and you know your neighbours matter. As a local church, what are the ways you connect with your neighbours who are part of your geographical parish?

By encouraging regular 'neighbourliness', the wellbeing of individuals, family/whanau and the wider community are significantly enhanced, helping to create a successful antidote for many social issues within Aotearoa.

neighboursday.org.nz



PSN IS WORKING TOWARDS BECOMING DEMENTIA FRIENDLY

“Dementia is becoming the world’s most significant health challenge.”

This bold headline highlights the serious impact dementia is having on our aging population with over 60,000 people in New Zealand being diagnosed in 2017. However, due to the lack of statistical information and the need for more research this figure may not be an accurate assessment of the situation.

People with dementia are often excluded from society. At PSN we are working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Organisation (DFO) to ensure that we help change people’s attitudes, and make sure we are being inclusive of all communities.

PSN is enrolled in the Alzheimers New Zealand DFO Recognition programme. This requires us to put measures and initiatives in place to support people living with dementia, including staff and their families, clients and visitors to our sites.

The Dees Group, started by the Mairangi/Castor Bay Presbyterian Church in 2010, is an excellent example of meeting a community need for people living at home with

dementia. This group is run by volunteers from the parish and involves an active programme of board games, Tai Chi, singing and other social activities. This weekly social group means that caregivers can have a few hours of respite. bayspresbyterian.org.nz/activities/

The Dementia Friendly Award is given to churches, businesses and organisations like PSN who put measures and initiatives in place that actively support people with dementia, including staff and their families, clients and visitors.



“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream”

C.S. Lewis