

Angel news

helping children feel safe at home



Above: Children enjoyed a day of games and fun activities organised by Family Works Waikato.

Schools stand up to bullying

Hundreds of school children took a stand against bullying on Pink Shirt Day in May. Family Works Social Workers in Schools organised 'pink' events in 31 schools across the region, with balloons, stickers, wristbands, colouring contests, and t-shirt design competitions.

Two Te Puke Intermediate boys won iPods sponsored by Pink®Batts® for their colouring and t-shirt logo designs.

WINTER 2014 + For supporters, volunteers and staff of Family Works Northern

"It's cool that we were given the opportunity to be involved in supporting pink shirt day and stand against bullying, I'm glad I did cause I won cool prizes!"

"Wow, I've never won anything before and I'm glad I was active and stood up and gave this anti-bullying colouring in comp a go."

Special Pink Shirt Day ambassadors visited lucky children in the Waikato, South Auckland and Te Puke.

Pink Shirt Day celebrates diversity and promotes positive social relationships as a way to reduce bullying. One Family Works Social Workers in Schools said, **"It was really rewarding to carry out the anti-bullying campaign within our school and to hear the voices of the students themselves regarding an issue which is very real for so many of our communities."**

When there's no food on the table...

Poverty affects more than a quarter of New Zealand children, according to a recently published book by researchers Jonathan Boston and Simon Chapple.

Child Poverty in New Zealand discusses an issue which our family workers and social workers come across every day. Child poverty is not just about hungry kids. It's also about missing out on schooling because your family can't afford the rent and has to move...again. It creates the kind of family stress that can lead to violence and abuse. Children who grow up poor are more likely to suffer ill-health, be involved in crime, and become dependent on welfare as adults, thus perpetuating the cycle.

Since January this year, the Presbyterian Support Northern Foodbank has helped 640 families and 193 individuals who struggle to make ends meet. Hundreds more receive assistance from our Budgeting and Money Management services. Family Works helps more than 15,000 children and their families each year – that's more than 40 every day. Our frontline workers are aware that these figures just scratch the surface of child poverty in New Zealand, but our services can change the lives of individual families and children.

You can have a long-term impact on a child's wellbeing by becoming a Guardian Angel.
Find out more at www.angel.org.nz

Child now feels safe

One of our social workers was working with a young boy in a Tauranga school. He told her about a "nice lady" who came to his house and put in a "button thing". He was talking about the Shine Safe at Home Advocate who works alongside Family Works to help protect families from violence.

The boy talked about feeling safer at home – he knew about the alarm, the safe room and what to do if he felt scared. In fact, he knew more about the family's safety plan than his mother thought he did!

A Family Works family worker is supporting mum, the Social Workers in Schools is walking alongside the children, and safety devices have been installed in the home. As a result, the family feels stronger and is beginning to make plans for the future. It's a great example of how, by working with others, Family Works helps keep children and their families safe.



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