

day seven

home – a springboard for hope!

Children who are nurtured with love, patience, care and hope are more likely to grow up to respect themselves and others. By caring for children through prayer and action, we lay a firm foundation for future generations through stronger families and communities.

"Every house where love abides
And friendship is a guest,
Is surely home, and home sweet home
For there the heart can rest."

(Henry Van Dyke)



I love it when you smile at me



"Home is not where you live but where they understand you."

(Christian Morgenstern)

It takes hands to build a house, but only hearts can build a home.



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Kids Friendly aims to equip, encourage and resource churches to serve the needs of children and families in their churches and communities.



Family Works supports at-risk children and their families to help them address complex issues like violence and conflict.

what can we do?

More than 260,000 Kiwi children are living in poverty. Sixty-one children have died as a result of child abuse in the last ten years.

Many more are neglected by the people who should care for them the most. The long term consequences of poverty and family violence for children and young people are devastating.

Jesus listened to children and identified with those who have no home. As Christ's followers, what can we do for the children and young people whose homes are not safe and happy?

They need our prayers. They also need practical support. If we work together, even small acts of kindness can become significant blessings in the lives of others.



here are some ideas that can help turn a house into a home:

- ☆ Buy extra grocery items and drop them at your local foodbank
- ☆ Offer an interest-free loan to help a family cover bond and letting fees
- ☆ Welcome families and make church a comfortable place for them to be
- ☆ Support Family Works by becoming a Guardian Angel
- ☆ Break the silence. Talk about positive parenting, family violence, anger management and alcohol abuse
- ☆ Become a 'can do' church. Check out the Justice & Action booklet for more ideas on what you and your church can do to make a difference.

a child's wish list for a home

Essential ingredients:

day one

home – a place of shelter

"In winter I get cold and I cough a lot.
I wish I had my own snuggly bed."



About 16 percent or one in six Kiwi kids live in a crowded house, which might also be cold, damp or mouldy. Children need a warm, insulated home to stay healthy.

☆ Find out how you can provide cots, quilts or warm bedding.

day two

home – a place for caring

"Charity begins at home, and
justice begins next door."

(Charles Dickens)

☆ Think what you can do to be a good neighbour – get to know others and share resources with them.

The ache for home lives in all of us,
the safe place where we can go
as we are and not be questioned.

(Maya Angelou)

day three

home – a place to learn and grow

"I wish we had a big garden where
I could run around outside."

Poverty and family violence can have a lasting negative impact on children's emotional and social development.

Home should be where children learn about healthy relationships and from which they can safely explore the world.



day four

home – a safe place to belong

"I wish mummy and daddy would stop
fighting. It hurts me in my heart."

When home no longer feels safe and families break apart, it's painful for everyone. The impact of trauma on children and young people can last a lifetime.

☆ Become a Guardian Angel and help heal the hurt of family violence.
www.angel.org.nz



day five

home – a place of nurture and love

"I wish someone would give me a hug."

In order to thrive, children need a strong bond with someone who they can trust to protect them and provide for their needs.

☆ Ask Jesus, the friend of children, to surround a struggling family with love, and then see what you can do to answer that prayer.



day six

home – a place of hospitality and joy

"I wish my friends could
come and play at my house."

Families in poverty are often isolated and cut off from supportive social networks.

☆ Give thanks for all the things God has given you to enjoy and think of ways to share those blessings with others.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you
have received to serve others, as faithful
stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

(1 Peter 4:10)