

Round the Bays & Family Works

The Family Works Angels team are running in the 2020 Round the Bays fun run on Sunday, 8th March in Auckland, to raise awareness of our services and encourage people to support our work. Email Chloe Skeggs chloe.skeggs@psn.org.nz for information about inviting friends and family to join in and support the team.

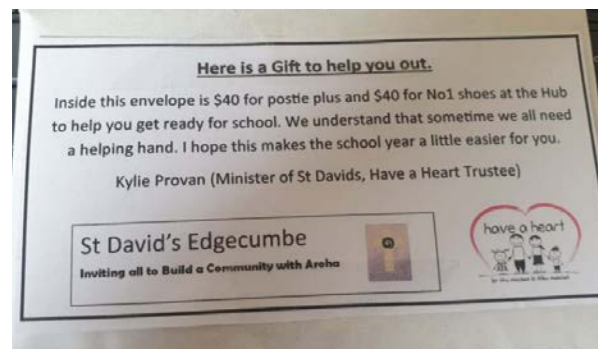


Child Rich Communities

All children have the same core needs – love, kindness and understanding.

Presbyterian Support Northern is partnering with Inspiring Communities to co-host a community led development hui on Thursday 17th March 5th 2020. The focus is on working together to enable children to flourish. It will be a half day of sharing, learning and networking. **Email me for further details.**

Something to think about



Best idea!

Auckland Christmas Shoebox Initiative

This year's Auckland Christmas Shoebox initiative leapt to another level, with not only Hardcase Containers delivering a brand new container for us to store thousands of gifts in, but we also welcomed The Bed People who offered their Auckland stores as drop off points for gifts. They loaded up their trucks and made regular deliveries to the container at the Presbyterian Support Northern office.



Children connected with Family Works, The Breakfast Club, The Heart Strings project in Taneatua, He Iwi Kotahi Tatou and Early Childhood Centres, and kindergartens in Kawerau were incredibly blessed by the generosity of Aucklanders.

Pamper packs were delivered to mums and grandmothers, and tears flowed with many of the women sharing that they had never received such beautiful gifts before. Next year we want to deliver packs to solo dads and granddads, who often miss out on receiving something special at Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this amazing initiative. You are so awesome. And thank you to Hannah, pictured below, who project managed the whole drive. A great achievement!



Community CONNECTIONS

Summer 2020

Maka ki runga ki a Ihowa tau pīkaunga, a, māna koe e whakaūake.

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

Christmas Action

Churches and Church Schools demonstrating love in action blessing hundreds of children and their families.



Saint Kentigern College Year 7 students preparing to fill and wrap 250 Christmas Food Buckets for our Family Works families and 150 Christmas bags for street people. Next year they want to bless 700 families. Such superb work ethic by the students, leading by example! Two of our Foodbank volunteers stepped up and ran the event and everyone had a wonderful time!

Thank you to all the other churches who graciously provided gifts for young people mentored by our Youth Workers in Schools, and donated chickens and food to the Foodbank. In particular, the residents from Saint Andrew's Village, Glendowie who donated a large number of chickens.

I haven't listed all those who contributed to making Christmas a special time for many, many children and their families, but you know who you are and we are eternally grateful.

Mairangi & Castor Bay Church enjoying fellowship while wrapping and filling Christmas food hampers for Family Works North Shore families.



Greenlane Presbyterian Youth Group sorting and wrapping gifts donated by St Cuthbert's Junior & Middle School students. For seven years this youth group has come together to organise these gifts for our out of Auckland Family Works teams and the children they work with.



Creative display of cans and other items at St Martin's Presbyterian Church destined for the Foodbank for Christmas food parcels.

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.

Saturday 29 February

Kawerau Heart to Heart Children's Day

10am – 2pm

Circus Paddock, Kawerau

Children's Day 2020 - Te Rā O Ngā Tamariki - We can all help tamariki thrive.



Saturday 7 March

Botany Heart to Heart Children's Day

3.30 – 7.30pm

St Columba Presbyterian Church,
480 Ti Rakau Drive, Botany

Check out events in your area
<http://www.childrensday.org.nz/>
for help and resources.



8 - 14 March

Shine's Light it Orange Week



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. 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.

27 March - 5 April

Neighbours Day Aotearoa

It's a great chance to connect with your neighbours, or to celebrate the amazing things you've been doing in your neighbourhood.

<http://neighboursday.org.nz/>



'Hope inspires the good to reveal itself' - Author unknown



I'm sure most of us would admit to feeling a sense of hopelessness from time to time. I know I have! Usually we find a way through the darker moments using prayer or sharing our thoughts and pain with friends and family around us, or perhaps talking with a counsellor or using a helpline like Lifeline.

My struggle involved the adoption of our daughter Lidia when we were living in Brazil. We spent four years and thousands of dollars to achieve the adoption. I prayed a lot, believing that if God had sent this little baby to us at 7 days old, then He had a plan to ensure that the adoption process would be successful.

It was hard but I learnt to focus on the good things that I had and not on what I didn't have.

I made a conscious decision to do something about the situation and I learnt to be grateful, and with that came greater understanding and patience.

But what of those who struggle to rise out of the darkness, or feel shame and don't have someone to confide in? The question is what can we do to help our friends and colleagues and neighbours shift their focus and understand that hope is the belief that tomorrow can be better.

I believe that hope is the key to connecting to people with positive emotions like joy, humor, compassion and empathy. It can be a small step moving from fear to hope, but often we perceive that step as a mountain.

Finding creative ways to promote tolerance, kindness and humanity helps us to move from seeing things as a problem to discovering solutions and possibilities.

Helpline information 0800 LIFELINE
Shine helpline: 0508 744 633
Shine website: 2shine.org.nz
Family Works website: familyworks.org.nz
Police: Dial 111

The seeds of a better tomorrow are often all around us, we need to start seeing and believing this. I call these 'everyday miracles'.

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.


Anne Overton
Community Relationship Manager

