

WISH LIST

Food topped the 'wish list' for our family workers and social workers in schools (SWiS) at Family Works, Tauranga. Access to foodbanks can be restrictive and they are often closed in the afternoon. Sometimes families need two or three food parcels in a row to give them some relief from struggling to make ends meet.

Rev Dr Jack Reyneke, the minister at St Paul's Co-operating Church in Papamoa asked his congregation to help out by donating food. Boxes of quality items were delivered to Family Works where one of our SWiS was able to help out a mum in need that same afternoon.



SIMPLE GIFTS THAT HELP



The Kaurihohore/Kamo Co-operating Parish near Whangarei is building a good rapport with the local school by donating tissues to help with the winter ills. They also sent invitations to rural residents for their latest community event, a free Sunday dinner. Fifty-eight people turned up to enjoy an evening of good food and entertainment.



Community
CONNECTIONS
Spring 2016

EXPRESSING LOVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Everyone at St Austell's Uniting Parish in New Lynn is involved in reaching out to the local community. Regular street clean-ups, weekly carwashes, window cleaning, and engaging with neighbours have become standard practice for all ages, from the Sunday School to men's and women's groups.

Initially, the thought of picking up rubbish around the local streets didn't really appeal to young participants. Now they look forward to it. Every month the men's group joins the Sunday School mission crew, all dressed in their high-vis vests and carrying black plastic rubbish bags. One young boy acts as the advance guard and rides on ahead to spot the rubbish. The streets are looking cleaner and more cared-for and the local community is taking notice.

The youth group offers homemade scones along with carwashes. What a treat! The young people use funds they've raised to pay for the renovation of the church hall floor and for their camps. On Mother's Day and Father's Day the car wash is free for local mums and dads.

Neighbours Day Aotearoa is celebrated with neighbours and passersby are invited to eat cake at the tables and chairs set up outside the church. Some great conversations have been initiated.

Feeding the homeless is on the hearts of the young adults group, the Sayans (Saints Ninja Squad). Collecting food donations and making up food parcels have been on their agenda.

Other initiatives include Christmas 'Carols in the Street', a Father's Day breakfast, gifts for residents of the local rest home, renovating the flats at the back of the church, water blasting, or helping with breakfast at the local school. The list continues to grow with more community connections planned for 2017. Thank you St Austell's for stepping out into your neighbourhood and being Jesus' hands and feet.



THANK YOU! 😊

We're grateful to Saint Kentigern College, St Cuthbert's College and Saint Kentigern Boys' and Girls' Schools for your continual support of our Foodbank.

With your help, we have supplied 2338 food parcels in the last year helping 745 single people and 1593 families.

If you'd like to receive updates about what's going on at Presbyterian Support Northern, please let us know by emailing communications@psn.org.nz

Contact details:

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E: anne.overton@psn.org.nz P: 09 520 8624 M: 027 520 8653.

Or visit www.psn.org.nz for more information or to download more copies.

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LOVE REACHES OUT

We reached our goal of 100 Love in Action art entry packs. Thank you to all the individuals and churches who gave so graciously to make this initiative a success. We have received more entries than ever from children who are supported by our Family Works staff.



WHITE RIBBON DAY 25 NOVEMBER

Family violence is preventable if we all play a part. White Ribbon Day is a chance to raise awareness that family violence is not okay. The better informed we are and the more conversations we can initiate with our neighbours and in our local community, the greater the chance of keeping children and homes safe.

The theme for this year's White Ribbon billboard is the 'Road to Hope: Creating safer homes and families'. This is in line with the incoming moderator, Rev Richard Dawson's vision for GA 16 – 'Hope for the World'. This year you have a choice of three billboards to display on your church property along with white ribbon stakes to plant creatively underneath. To order your White Ribbon resources, please complete the enclosed order form and return it to me before **6 October**. The order form is also available online at www.psn.org.nz/download/white-ribbon-order-form16.

The resources will be couriered to your church by the end of October, along with useful facts and information on ways to engage with your local community.



YOUNG PEOPLE SPEAK OUT AGAINST VIOLENCE



Year 11 students at Tamaki College held a lunchtime event to spread the message that domestic abuse is not okay. The students organised a sausage sizzle and music, a number of speakers, and a touch rugby game with the police. Ten community organisations attended and supported the event and anti-violence champion Vic Tamati spoke at assembly. The students also put together this video clip www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ld2mH_Z-wSo&feature=youtu.be.

School champions at One Tree Hill College have continued to raise awareness within their school community after contributing to last year's White Ribbon Day.

Shine in School educators Emma Barker-Clarke and Shelley Hirst work with these schools to train the champions, show them how to break the cycle of violence and give them skills to help prevent violence happening to others. They can use these skills in everyday life after they leave school.

Heather Beddie, who is part of the Family Works Tauranga team, has been working tirelessly in smaller communities such as Te Puke and Papamoa organising It's Not OK marches and training people as go-to champions.

What you can do to help prevent family violence in your community

What you can do to help prevent family violence in your community

- ✓ Be part of White Ribbon Day on Friday 25 November 2016.
- ✓ Put up a large billboard outside your church and invite your local community to plant white ribbon stakes and talk about how we can all work together to keep our homes and communities safe from violence.
- ✓ Become a Guardian Angel and work with Family Works to create safe warm homes for children. Visit www.angel.org.nz or phone **0800 20 50 80**.
- ✓ Celebrate Orange Friday on 10 March 2017 by organising an event for your church, workplace, school or club. Find out more at www.orangefriday.org.nz.