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Northern NOTES SPRING 2014

A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE

Esmeralda Smith is grateful for a second chance to make something of her life. A former prisoner with a long history of offending, the 44-year-old Tauranga mother of eight was on home detention when she got the chance to attend an intensive rehabilitation course for female offenders.

After eight weeks on the course, Esmeralda is a changed woman, determined to remain offence-free and make something of her life, with support from her very own mentor.

"The past is the past and I have to accept it. I'm more interested now in where I'm heading and I'm excited about the future. With courage and determination, and constant support, I know I won't slip back," she said.

Esmeralda aims to become a presenter for the Building Awesome Whanau parenting toolbox which was part of the course. She also plans to volunteer

at the Bay Community Law Centre and write her own story in order to give back to other women what she's learnt herself.

The course was run by Presbyterian Support Northern for the Corrections Department and was co-facilitated by our Family Violence Prevention Advocate, Jude Simpson.

Bequests and other philanthropic gifts helped support the course. At the graduation ceremony, each woman was presented with a bracelet that represents their attendance at the course and the goals they have achieved so far. They now have a personal mentor to encourage them to meet their goals over the next six months to a year.

A bequest to Presbyterian Support Northern will have a positive impact on generations to come.
Contact Suzanne Ward, Bequest Co-ordinator, ph. 09 5208628, today for more information.



HELPING BABIES FLOURISH

A Plunket Family Worker will soon be available in Huntly, thanks to a 12-month pilot that follows the success of the partnership in South and East Auckland. Huntly is a high needs community where vulnerable young families face multiple challenges. The partnership means Plunket nurses can focus on health care while the family worker addresses underlying issues. Bequest funds will support this project which helps families flourish through early intervention.



DEE'S GROUPS



Dee's Groups run weekly at Presbyterian churches in Mairangi Bay and Takapuna, with support from a loyal and dedicated group of about 35 volunteers, some of whom are as old as those who attend. Each four-hour session provides friendship and stimulation for members, and a welcome break for their families. One woman, whose 90-year-old mother enjoys attending both groups, said, "They make an incredible difference to the lives of the members and their families."

ROTORUA'S ENLIVENING GROUPS

A second Enliven day club is brightening the lives of older people in central Rotorua. The group was set up in partnership with St John's Presbyterian Church but operates from St Andrew's on Thursdays, attracting about eight people for a morning of games, exercises, music and conversation. St David's in East Rotorua has been hosting a day club for the last three years. A special outing to the local garden centre recently was enjoyed by members of both 'Enlivening Groups'.

Service Coordinator Lynne Luke is enthusiastic about the groups' potential. "There's huge room for growth. I'm thrilled with the partnership with the church. It's wonderful to be able to meet the needs of older people in the community in this way," she said.



A GOOD NEWS STORY FROM THE FOODBANK...

One of our Money Management clients was very unwell and, at the start, very dependent. The Foodbank organised a food parcel to keep him going until his benefit came through. He appreciated the excellent quality of the food he received so much that he said he would help out to repay the kindness. He volunteered at the Foodbank and brought in fresh vegetables he had grown. One of the other volunteers was very supportive and, over time, encouraged him to get further training that would help him back into the workforce. He has now been working fulltime for a year and has had two promotions.



HELP US KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

According to recent research and reports, in 2013*:

- 10 children and young people were killed by a family member
- Police began a new investigation into family violence every 6 minutes – about 260 every day.

Family Works is committed to working with children and families to overcome the devastating effects of family violence. You can help us keep children safe in their own homes by becoming a Guardian Angel. Simply phone us on 09 520 8608 to sign up today.

*Data Summaries: Snapshot June 2014 NZ Family Violence Clearinghouse

To donate, please use your personalised response slip,
or send your gift to Presbyterian Support Northern, PO Box 99890, Newmarket, Auckland 1149.
Alternatively visit www.psn.org.nz to donate online by credit card