



# Community Connections

Summer 2022

## END OF AN ERA WITH NEW BEGINNINGS

At the end of 2021, Presbyterian Support Northern closed its Foodbank behind St David's Church in Grafton, the origins of which can be traced back to 1908. The closure will make way for a new model of food support called 'Communities Feeding Communities' that is designed to promote food security and food sovereignty in Auckland communities.

## WORKING TOWARDS A SHARED VISION

*By Anne Overton, Community Relations Manager, Presbyterian Support Northern*

It all started during the first Level 4 lockdown in 2020 when the demand for food parcels was overwhelming. The hardest part was answering the phone and hearing the despair in the voices and the shame of having to ask for help. There had to be a better way where people could access food with dignity from their local communities.

Phase one began with Saint Kentigern Girls' School Somervell and Mt Albert Presbyterian churches coming together with May Road Primary School, Mt Roskill. Together we set up and stocked a pātaka kai (a food pantry/storehouse). Other churches, such as Mt Roskill Baptist Church, have come on board as well as members of the local community.

Phase two was finding a site for the community to grow the food they wanted to eat. Over 10,000 houses will be built in the coming years in the Mt Roskill area which will leave little green space for backyard and community gardens.

The Northern Presbytery, through Timothy Rose and Rod Watts, became interested in the idea. When the decision to dissolve the congregation at St Giles on Dominion Road was made, it felt that this site was where God wanted us to develop a new form of mission - a joint Presbyterian Support Northern and Northern Presbytery initiative.

The vision for the site (1207 Dominion Road, Mt Roskill) is to create a community hub, establish a community garden and create a pātaka kai that is well stocked,

accessible to all and filled with nutritious food. It will in essence be a new Foodbank model.

We hope that together with our new community minister, Fa'amanu Akeripa, and PSN community hub coordinators, we will be there for people when they need us most. Think of Dr Mason Durie's Te Whare Tapu Whā model where there are the four rooms in the whare: mental and emotional well-being, social well-being, physical well-being, and spiritual well-being.

Until then, I would like to thank all those who have been part of PSN's Foodbank journey. You have contributed in significant ways to feeding thousands of families over the years. We are very grateful.

If you would like to download the end of an era booklet to learn more about the journey of the PSN foodbank and the future vision, email [Cindy.Jang-Barlow@psn.org.nz](mailto:Cindy.Jang-Barlow@psn.org.nz)



Denise Cosgrove (CEO) shares a few words at the closing gathering.

# WHAT'S ON

6<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## Children's Day Te rā o ngā tamariki

The Have a Heart Trust puts on an annual 'Heart to Heart' event for families and agencies to share resources and information as well as create a safe fun space for families to gather and celebrate.

The expo has displays about what each agency does and how they can help the community.

What about your church hosting a Heart to Heart family expo on Children's Day, like the one in Whakatane?

Read more about this event in the link below:

[www.haveaheart.org.nz/heart-to-heart-expo-family-festival/](http://www.haveaheart.org.nz/heart-to-heart-expo-family-festival/)



[www.haveaheart.org.nz](http://www.haveaheart.org.nz)

18<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March

## Neighbour's Day Aotearoa

This year, the theme is all about kai connections, by celebrating community and sharing food. You can host a community lunch or share a favourite recipe.

[www.neighboursday.org.nz](http://www.neighboursday.org.nz)



## Auckland Christmas Shoebox initiative a success, despite Lockdown.



Despite the circumstances of Auckland being in lockdown, we were fortunate to be able to give over 2000 gifts to the children our social workers, counsellors and family workers support.

We want to give a big shout out to the team who made this possible. We've worked together every year for the past five years, so a special shout out to St Vinnies, The Breakfast Club, Shore Junction and the Facebook community, and Sam the coordinator!



Please sign up to our MailChimp online newsletter!

# SUPPORTING PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

– a focus on Individualised Funding and people on the spectrum.

At Presbyterian Support Northern we help people with diverse medical conditions and disabilities. We strive to help families to have choice and make their own decisions when it comes to care.

Our Individualised Funding service empowers our clients to choose the type of support they most need. This means that they can manage their own support and decide where their money is spent – whether it be personal care and household management, or outdoor activities such as exercise or learning a new skill.

An example of what the funding can be used for is respite care, this is important for both the carer and the person with the disability, so having activities that are paid for takes the pressure off the carer.

“The main benefit of the Individualised Funding service for me is being able to send my daughter to holiday programmes or attend therapy sessions that provide me with respite, and benefit her at the same time. Something I could not afford otherwise”.

Another family member said *“The Individualised Funding service has allowed us to have support that is tailored by us for our needs, not the providers. It has meant that we are able to get funding to set up things at home, for example, a climbing frame, to make our environment work in a variety of ways. The respite care is also appreciated.”*

An example of clients who utilise Individualised Funding are those who have autism spectrum disorder, which includes, autism and Asperger’s Syndrome.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a genetic condition that affects the development of the brain. People with Autism Spectrum Disorder/Differences (ASD) commonly experience difficulties with communication and social interactions. They may also have restricted or repetitive patterns of behaviour. This can affect other aspects of their life - like their language development, education, occupation, and relationships. Perceiving the condition as a ‘spectrum’ reflects how very different and unique all people with autism are from one another.

**ASD has one of the fastest growing prevalence rates among clinical conditions. In New Zealand, it affects approximately 1 in 58 people.**

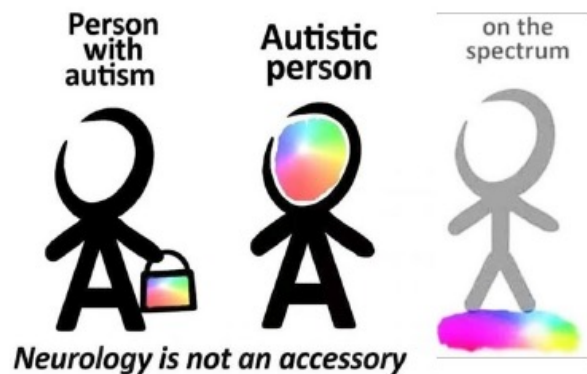
This includes people who were previously classified as having Asperger’s Syndrome. It is believed that autism affects boys four times more than girls, but there is increasing research showing that girls with autism are under-recognised because they have different behaviours and coping mechanisms.

Source: <https://soundskills.co.nz/autism-spectrum-disorder-and-apd/>

“If you have met one person with autism then you have met one person with autism.”

– Dr Stephen Shore

We want to grow the awareness amongst the community of people on the spectrum, especially in the churches. For example: terminology, as what we say matters. Respect for autistic people’s preferences and the diversity of people on the spectrum.



Source: [www.identityfirstautistic.org/make-the-change](http://www.identityfirstautistic.org/make-the-change)

**Being on the spectrum isn’t a scale of less autistic to more autistic, it’s much broader than this, as every person on the spectrum is different.**

We hope there can be more community spaces for people on the spectrum to feel safe and heard.

**For more information  
on Individualised Funding**

Please email Janette Third – Individualised Funding  
Regional Manager: [JanetteT@psn.org.nz](mailto:JanetteT@psn.org.nz)





# COMMUNITY SHOUT OUTS!

## Youth groups sharing aroha with the West Auckland community

We love seeing churches and youth groups supporting communities. Kelston Primary school is one of the many schools we have our Family Works Social workers in. They were very grateful for donations received from the St Austell's youth group, which will go towards new sports equipment.

Social workers are active in more than 130 Auckland schools. They often work actively in the community, so if there are other youth groups or churches interested in giving back to the wider communities, please let us know.

Here are some of their lovely thank you cards given to the St Austell's youth group!



## WE MADE A 2022 CALENDAR!

Presbyterian Support New Zealand, Presbyterian Children and Families and Presbyterian Youth Ministries have teamed up to create a printable wall calendar. You can print this on A3 or A4 and put it up on your wall for your planning needs.

Email [Cindy.Jang-Barlow@psn.org.nz](mailto:Cindy.Jang-Barlow@psn.org.nz) if you would like the calendar PDF emailed to you.



**Kei reira a PSN mō te whānau me ngā hapori ina hiahia rātou ki a mātou. Ka taea e tātou te panoni i ngā whakatupuranga.**

*PSN's Purpose: To be there for whānau and communities when they need us. Together, we can transform generations.*



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