

...you don't need to be an expert

and anyone can get involved.

Community Connections

Autumn 2021

"Tuhia ki te rangi, Tuhia ki te whenua, Tuhia ki te ngākau, Ko te mea nui, Ko te aroha."
— Tihei Mauri Ora

*"Write in the sky. Write on the land. Write it on your hearts.
The greatest thing, It is love. Behold there is life"*

SOWING SEEDS OF LOVE

Christine, a member of the Tirau Community Church, shares with us what is happening in her community and her desire to support families who are living in temporary accommodation.

It takes small steps of courage, to reach out and offer a caring hand of support to people that you do not know. Christine's story is a testament of a community that cares about others. Starting from a small group gathering together to engage with others in their local area.

"My journey towards taking action started with the awareness of the impact of Aotearoa's history on families today. I read Jay Ruka's book 'Huia Come Home' and a PSN booklet called 'Justice in Action', and then facilitated the PCANZ Child Protection & Safety training in our church last year. All these gave me a new perspective and the courage to reach out.

Through the ups and downs of life as a mother, God has opened my eyes and heart to see beyond my own challenges to the needs of tamariki and whānau in my community of Tirau.

Tirau Community Church's Christmas and Easter food box initiatives came out of understanding God's desire to see all people thriving in His creation. In November 2020 I asked our church family to join me in putting together food boxes, I also reached out to the local school principal and the day-care centre to ask if there were other whānau who needed support. Our youth group leader organised a food collection donated by the wider community - a total team effort.

I felt God was prompting me to be a friendly neighbour to the families in the temporary accommodation so I turned up once a week with some baking and vegetables from my garden. Putting myself out there and trying to see how I could partner with God in blessing these women and their children.

Over the past few months, I have had great conversations with people in the community about life and faith and made a new friend in one of the mums living in the temporary accommodation.



Together we recently organised an Easter food box delivery. The two of us distributed to the Māori Women's Welfare League's fortnightly Kai Evolution food deliveries. The next step was taking the opportunity to invite the women to a kōrero at the church hall to share ideas of how we can support each other and bless our community, especially our tamariki.

Already some ladies have put forward ideas such as a small group focusing on encouraging one another towards personal growth, setting up a pātaka kai and a kids clothing bank. God is bringing our church and community together to see positive change and I am excited to see where He takes us!"

As you can see from Christine's story taking action has led to incredible connections, relationships and conversations.

What are the small steps your community can take to turn justice into action?

What breaks your heart and how can we move towards supporting each other?

Please send us your stories of how people are working together to create community connections and healthy safe spaces for all.

WHAT'S ON

6th - 12th June

Light it Orange for Shine

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 June.

Sign up to Light it Orange to help families get safe and stay safe.

www.lightitorange.org.nz



20th - 26th June

National Volunteer Week Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu

We have amazing volunteers at the PSN Foodbank, at our Enliven day programmes and many others who support us through donations or in-kind gifts.

There are so many awesome opportunities to volunteer and give back to the community!

Let's celebrate our volunteers that give their time and energy to do good in your local area.

www.nationalvolunteerweek.nz



25th - 29th June

Matariki Celebration

Matariki will be a public holiday in 2022!

Learn to weave harakeke, kite flying, sharing a meal with each other or learning more about Maori culture.

How are you going to celebrate Matariki with your surrounding neighbours and community?

www.twinkl.co.nz/event/matariki-2021



Credit to Jalah Davis - Pinterest

Please sign up to our MailChimp online newsletter!

<http://eepurl.com/gpSDKL>

COLLABORATION

THE BUZZ WORD FOR 2021

Adaptability

Together

Good listening

Open-mindedness

We are called to work together, but what does that really mean?

Denise Bijoux who runs Catalyse, a social change agency, explains what collaboration means to her.

“Together means we can get more done, more effectively and with more innovation when we work respectfully together towards collective goals.”

A recent service trip to Tāneatua by a group of students, parents and teachers from Saint Kentigern’s Boys & Girls, highlights how collaboration can work to achieve amazing results.

St Kentigern’s chaplain Rev Reuben Hardie was looking for a school or a community within 1 – 2 hours of Auckland that would welcome a service trip. I suggested getting in touch with the rural school Tāneatua Primary School and the Hughes Place Garden, as PSN is supporting a community development project led by Rev Tamiana and Honey Thrupp.

While the trip was delayed a couple of times due to Covid-19, early in April the students from both schools met to work together on two projects to replace their old playgrounds with new equipment and build more garden boxes and outdoor furniture.

It was exhausting work so moments of respite were organised with games of rugby and basketball. After a hard day’s work, everyone went to the local swimming hole where they jumped off rocks into the cold refreshing water.



The newly installed playground at The Hughes Place garden.

Reflections from the St Kents students:



“It was really challenging to dig 7x 600cm holes, but with the help of Tāneatua students we got through it together.”

“If everyone pulls their weight or chips in a little bit, we can get a lot more done than if one person does it themselves.”

“Service is showing people that you care. And most importantly service is making good, bright, positive changes in people’s lives.”



The first day started with a passionate Pōwhiri by the Tāneatua students before both schools’ students were divided into project teams. To create an outdoor classroom they cleared the grass for the area. Then bark was removed from the old playgrounds; holes were dug for the supporting foundations and areas smoothed out for soft mats to be laid around the new playgrounds.

Working together starts with finding opportunities. How do you support people with good ideas? How do you find ways to create opportunities to work together?

Who are the people and the organisations you could collaborate with? Who outside of your usual network could you work with?

We’re happy to help you consider possibilities so please get in touch.

FOODBANK

Our YWISS team (Youth Workers in Secondary Schools) asked if we could provide food parcels during the school holidays to support the young people and their families. Miles and our volunteers put together 40 small food parcels for them.

We're currently working with Love Food Hate Waste to create recipes to put into the food parcels. If you'd like to find out more, please let us know!

If you would like to donate food, these items are what we need right now!

PSN FOODBANK

Shopping List

- ✓ Cooking oil
- ✓ Tinned soup
- ✓ Milo
- ✓ Toiletries
- ✓ Fresh vegetables
- ✓ Pasta / Rice / Bread
- ✓ Long life milk



EASTER TREATS

Every year we receive an incredible number of Easter Eggs from St Cuthbert's Junior School students. Our Social Workers in Schools, Youth Workers and Financial Mentors love handing out the eggs to the children and the young people they work with. We really appreciate the generosity from the staff, students and their families!



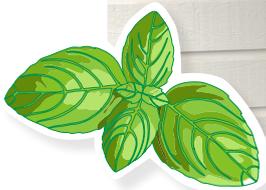
NEIGHBOURS DAY AOTEAROA THE GREAT PLANT SWAP

Kings Plant Barn donated 1000 basil plants to us!

The families and communities we work with and our staff from various sites (Lifeline, Family Works, Enliven, Shine) were able to take a plant and gift them to their neighbours.

In addition, Bunnings donated 2000 seed packets to give to the various church communities and families we support.

We loved the Great Plant Swap idea, send us what your church or community did for Neighbours Day!



KNITWITS GROUP

A gorgeous group of women get together every Thursday at St Luke's Community Church, Remuera between 1-3pm. They would like to invite other knitters or those who would like to learn to knit to join them.

Pamela Day is the contact and any enquires can go to Pamela at pamela@stlukes.org.nz



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