

Cycles of Hope

Newsletter for the Christchurch Methodist Mission

A time to give hope and joy to those in need

The Christchurch Methodist Mission is making a difference in the lives of children, families and older people who need the most help this Christmas.

Christmas remains a special time. For one day of the year our busy lives seem to slow down enough to unplug from the world and enjoy time with family and friends.

It is also a time of great distress for many people in our community; families in poverty who are struggling to afford rent each week - let alone being able to celebrate Christmas; older people who are socially isolated; children in the middle of a relationship breakdown who are feeling angry, unloved and unable to understand why.

The issues faced throughout the year by our most vulnerable do not simply disappear as the year draws to a close. It is at this time in which they need our help the most.

We are able to make a difference to these people because of you.

Your support at this time of the year enables food hampers and gifts to be provided to families and older people so they can enjoy Christmas without worrying about how they can afford to do so. Your generosity empowers and equips our social and community workers as they work to ensure that families' basic needs for shelter, food and warmth are met. Your partnership with us means that homeless families in our community will have a warm, secure and affordable home to live in this Christmas.



Thank you to all the donors, funders, volunteers and colleagues that have partnered with us this year to make a difference in our community. The Christchurch Methodist Mission will be able to provide hope and joy to those who need it most this Christmas because of this support.

*Jill Hawkey,
Executive Director*

2016 Public Celebration

On the 3rd November, the Christchurch Methodist Mission (CMM) held its inaugural Public Celebration at the Christchurch North Methodist Parish. It was a fantastic opportunity to share highlights from the 2015/16 year with supporters.

CMM Board Member and kuia Roz Wilkie opened the evening with karakia which was followed by Deputy Chair Martin Hadlee welcoming everyone on behalf of the Board. CMM Executive Director Jill Hawkey then spoke about the many new developments that took place over the year. She noted that people share in CMM's work because they have the co-belief that a better world is possible - a world where people are cared for and the most vulnerable in our society have every opportunity to flourish.

Guest speaker Paul Dalziel, Professor of Economics at Lincoln University, then gave a thought-provoking talk about Social Services and Economic Policy for the Wellbeing of Children in New Zealand. Professor Dalziel

spoke about some of the economic reasons behind child poverty today being much higher than in 1984 and why so many NZ parents can't access enough economic resources to raise their children well.

A big thank you to all who attended and made this evening a great success. CMM's 2016 Annual Report and audited financial statements are now available online at www.mmsi.org.nz/about-us/key-documents or can be posted to you by contacting us on 03 375 1470.



Executive Director Jill Hawkey taking questions from the audience at this year's Public Celebration.

Linwood Housing Development now open

The Linwood Housing Development was officially opened by Hon Paula Bennett, Minister of Social Housing, at a ceremony on the 13th October. Thank you to everyone who made this project possible.



*Please support our work with families and older people this Christmas. Your generosity will make a difference! Go to www.mmsi.org.nz/donate to give online or send a cheque along with your contact details to:
Freepost 2143, CMM Fundraising, PO Box 5416, Christchurch 8542*



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