

SHOWCASE FUNDRAISER

Last November, young people from Presbyterian churches around the region organised a showcase fundraiser evening called “The Stage is Yours” at the Onehunga Cooperating Parish.

All the funds raised were donated to Family Works in Mt Roskill, and were gratefully received by family worker Dotti McArthur on behalf of the Leslie Centre.

“Thank you to everyone who so generously contributed to us being able to buy paints, sand, clay, special toys, puppets, paper, books and many other things for our counselling work with children and adolescents.”



Lynette, Mel, Tracey, Shelly and Dotti from Family Works at the Leslie Centre.

SHARING THE LOVE AT EASTER

Generous St Cuthbert’s College students made sure struggling families received extra treats at Easter. Junior and middle school students up to Year 8 collected Easter eggs and chocolate bunnies to share with Family Works sites in Auckland. Some of the gifts had personal notes or drawings attached. On behalf of many delighted children and young people – thank you! We so appreciate the way you care for others by supporting Family Works.



MERGING WITH SHINE

shine*
making homes violence free



We sent a letter to all the churches in March announcing the merger of Shine with PSN in a process to be completed by 1 July 2016. Shine is the country’s largest crisis domestic abuse agency and will complement Family Works in reducing the devastating impact of family violence on thousands of children and families.



Community CONNECTIONS

Autumn 2016

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

Dirty windows? Overgrown garden? That’s no problem for the Niu Souls youth group from St Paul’s Presbyterian Church in Manurewa. They’ve been an answer to prayer for many older people who find these tasks overwhelming.

The group has organised regular clean-ups for Enliven clients who are living independently in their own homes but find major tasks like this too hard to manage by themselves. Anne Overton liaises with Enliven and Emma Page, youth coordinator for the Northern Presbytery, to get the work done.

Every few weeks, Emma asks Anne for more homes where Niu Souls can help out. Anne asks Eskaleen

Tooley, one of our Enliven service coordinators, for the names of Enliven clients who could so with some support. Eskaleen says it’s wonderful to know such help is available.

One older person said he and his wife thoroughly enjoyed the group’s visit. “They did an excellent job – a real credit to 21st century youth.”

Thank you Niu Souls for your willingness to step out into your local community and bless older people. We’re also grateful to all the Northern Presbytery youth groups who participate in Project Co-op throughout the year to support our clients and others in our neighbourhoods.

Contact details:

Anne Overton, Community Advocate

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



WHAT'S ON

Here are some upcoming events to inspire you to get involved in your community.

Pink Shirt Day – Friday 20 May

Speak up! Stand together! Stop bullying!

Join us on Friday 20 May 2016 to celebrate Pink Shirt Day and take action against bullying.

Celebrated annually around the globe, Pink Shirt Day began in Canada in 2007 when two students mobilised their whole school after a male student was bullied for wearing a pink shirt.

Pink Shirt Day aims to create schools, workplaces and communities where all people feel safe, valued and respected. Find out what you can do at www.pinkshirtday.org.nz.



Praying for Children @ Risk, 29 May – 4 June



Did you know that more than 260,000 Kiwi children are living in poverty? Others are at risk of family violence or neglect.

That's why the children of New Zealand need our prayers. They need us to advocate for them to ensure they have a warm, safe home to live in, enough food on the table, and a caring, loving environment where they have the best opportunity to learn and become healthy, contributing citizens.

This is the third year that Kids Friendly and Presbyterian Support Northern have joined forces to encourage congregations to set aside daily prayer time for the children and young people at risk in our nation. Will you join us?

Love Reaches Out Art & Writing Competition

Entries close Friday 26 August 2016



Each year we have many children enter our Love Reaches Out competition however there are still **MANY** children who can't - due to a lack of art supplies.

You can change that! **Please donate today.**

With your donation, you'll help deliver an entry pack to a child who wants to express their creativity.

If every church donated \$10 for one entry pack, we could ensure that no child misses out on their chance to show what **LOVE IN ACTION** means to them.

To donate, please contact Kids Friendly or transfer funds into Kids Friendly's bank account: 02 0840 0008603 00



WHAT'S ON YOUR WISH LIST?

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

The impact of poverty on New Zealand children is devastating. Children do not choose to live in poverty, but many go without things that most of us take for granted, such as their own bed, warm clothes and enough food. Deprived of the basics, they may fail to thrive, leading to long term consequences for themselves, their families and the nation as a whole.

This issue is explored more fully in our Justice & Action booklet. Reading through the section on child poverty, I wondered what I could do that would make a difference.

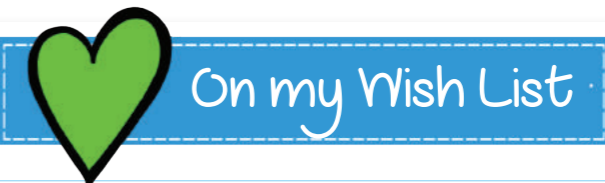
Over the past few months I've been visiting some of our Family Works sites and asking the family workers, "What is on your wish list for the children, young people and families you are working with?"

It has been an enlightening experience and made me realise that if we all work together, even small acts of kindness can become significant blessings in the lives of others.

Below is a list of items that our workers know would bless children and families in need. The list is long but very achievable, if we work together.

WHAT CAN I DO? WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER?

A small number of churches have already helped out with baking, bike helmets, cots, bedding and household items but it would be great to have more names on the list. If you want to be a 'can do' church who is willing to receive the occasional request for practical help like this, please email me on anne.overton@psn.org.nz.



- ✓ Woven flax baskets for newborns
- ✓ Care packages for mums and dads
- ✓ Stationery packs
- ✓ Gumboots for children
- ✓ Funds for educational assessment for children with learning and behavioural disabilities
- ✓ Cots and bedding
- ✓ Cough medicine, head lice removal treatments
- ✓ Drinks and prepacked dry foods for hungry children with no school lunch.

P.S. Check out the *Justice & Action* booklet for more ideas on what you and your church can do to make a difference for children living in poverty.

God bless.



Anne Overton
Community Advocate

