



Catholic Social Services

Te Kupenga o te Atawhaitanga

Providing:

- *Counselling and Social Work*
- *Community Educational Programmes*
- *Prison Chaplaincy,*

Newsletter August 2016



The Pope's visit to St Partick's Church in Washington, USA where he spoke on homelessness. Here is some passages of his address.

"Joseph had to face some difficult situations in his life. One of them was the time when Mary was about to give birth, to have Jesus. The Bible tells us that, "while they were [in Bethlehem], the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and

wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Lk2:6-7).

The Bible is very clear about this: there was no room for them. I can imagine Joseph, with his wife about to have a child, with no shelter, no home and no place to stay. The Son of God came into this world as a homeless person. The Son of God knew what it was to start life without a roof over his head.

We know that Jesus wanted to show solidarity with every person. He wanted everyone to experience his companionship, his help, and his love. He identified with all those who suffer, who weep, who suffer any kind of injustice. He tells us this clearly: "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt 25:35).

Dear friends, one of the most effective ways we have to help is that of prayer. Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters. It opens our hearts and reminds us of a beautiful truth which we sometimes forget. In prayer, we all learn to say "Father", "Dad". We learn to see one another as brothers and sisters, there is no first or second class; there is brotherhood. It is in prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity."

CSS Working to eradicate homelessness

This agency is challenged to find people who are vulnerable with decent shelter. The evidence is reflected in our statistics with increasing housing need and decreasing housing and accommodation availability. It is difficult to try and give people what is a basic right and not always being able to do so.

Chart 1: Housing Issues

Date (6 monthly)	Number with Housing Issues	Number Housed	Success Rate
1 Jan – 30 Jun 2015	16	13	81%
1 Jul – 31 Dec 2015	25	12	48%
1 Jan – 30 Jun 2016 (current)	32	7	21%

The problem is increasing and urgent. People come to us because they are moving from one temporary accommodation to another and are in unsafe and insecure accommodation such as garages, garden sheds, cars and caravan parks and those living on the street. Currently we are mostly able to put them into night shelters, emergency housing, and refuges. Many of the homeless are young people and include women and their children fleeing domestic violence.

This year our strategic plan identified housing as one of our key priorities.

- Work with Parishes who are able to access emergency housing for families
- Support the development of emergency housing in Otara.

John Metherell, CSS Director has been working behind the scenes, talking to housing providers and parish councils to highlight the problem and seek strategic and sustainable solutions.

Pacific Living Without Violence

The trainers' workshop was held in the Onehunga Parish Hall on the 10th and 11th June. Thirty five people attended the 2-day workshop representing a variety of Pacific church groups. The objective of the workshop is to promote the message that families can be free of violence. From the workshop, the participants are supported in delivering the violence free message to their assemblies and their communities. The next 2-day workshop is in September.

Become a "Friend of Catholic Social Service"

CSS is calling on supporters that can be a "Friend" of this agency. Being a "Friend" would mean receiving regular newsletters and other notifications of events or news items of interest. But most importantly it is being involved and supporting our vision; having "Christ's compassion in our communities". We look forward to you becoming a "Friend" of Catholic Social Services.

Become a Donor for our Christmas Fund

We will be sending out our final newsletter for the year in November and would be asking for donations to support our work with children and families around Christmas, a time of sharing and caring. We would appreciate your support.

Warmest Regards

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I would like to be a: (tick box) ☐ "Friend" ☐ Volunteer

Name_____

Address_____

Contact Phone_____ Email:_____

Please send your form in the postage paid envelope provided to:

Catholic Social Services, PO Box 47118, Ponsonby, Auckland 114

Or call us on: 09 378 9650 or visit our website: www.cssauckland.org.nz