



*Aucklanders helping Aucklanders*

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For immediate release**

### **Donors generous but food stocks down**

Blankets and bedding have been flooding into the Auckland City Mission this winter, but food stocks are perilously low. The Mission is appealing to the public to donate cans of food at any ASB branch in the greater Auckland area as part of this winter's 'Can-it' campaign

"Food donations were down by 11% over the past 12 months," says Diane Robertson, City Missioner, "Even though we have increased our food purchases by 18% we still have a third less food on our shelves than we had this time last year."

"We really have our fingers crossed that the public will join with ASB in the 'Can-it' initiative," she says. 'Demand continues to grow and we just don't have enough food to keep giving it out at this rate.'

'Can-it' uses ASB branches all over the greater Auckland region, from Wellsford and Warkworth in the north to Pukekohe and Waiuku in the south, as collection points for food donations. Members of the public are encouraged to drop off a can of food, or any other non-perishable food item, in the boxes displayed in branch to help boost Mission stocks.

Donated food is used in the Mission's Emergency Food Parcels and distributed across the whole region through the Mission's Foodlink network – supplying food to 60 community foodbanks from Thames to Kaitia.

- Last year Auckland City Mission distributed more than \$2,200,000 worth of food
- 7,752 Emergency Food Parcels were issued by the Mission in the year to 31 June 2010, providing groceries, meat and vegetables to 52,650 Aucklanders.

**ENDS**

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## **Auckland City Mission – Background**

Established in 1920, the Auckland City Mission provides unique and specialised health and social services to marginalised Aucklanders, helping them to move forward. The Mission offers hope to families and individuals who may be experiencing a temporary set-back or a long-term problem that needs expert attention.

Whether it's a specific issue that has lead people to the Mission, the effects of the continuing poverty cycle, or a culmination of many problems, the Missions social workers are there to help guide people through the steps to change.

### **Auckland City Mission Services:**

#### **Distribution Services:**

- Auckland City Mission receives bulk food donations and distributes them to smaller community food-banks. Foodlink is the only programme of its kind in New Zealand.
- Collection and re-distribution of household items, bedding and clothing.
- New Beginnings Shops, providing quality low-cost second-hand goods to the public.
- Key corporate supporters of Foodlink include: Goodman Fielder, Unilever, Nestle, Fonterra, Sanitarium, Bell Tea, Bluebird, Sun Rice and Purity Foods.

#### **Crisis and Community Care:**

- Emergency food parcels, clothing, household items, bedding
- Assistance with housing and accessing benefits and governmental support
- Advocacy.
- Liaison with governmental and non-governmental agencies
- Support for elderly in the community, especially those diagnosed with Diogenes Syndrome.

#### **Medical Services:**

- Full low-cost General Practice with free health care to those under 18 years of age.
- Registered PHO.

#### **Addiction services:**

- 10 bed residential detoxification service
- Community addiction support pre- and post- detoxification

#### **Homeless Services:**

- Support and advocacy for rough sleepers.
- Drop-in service 365 days per year
- Socialisation and community integration activities
- Assistance with housing, and liaison with other agencies.
- Participation in Homeless Action Plan addressing long-term issues of homelessness