

From the Missioner

Recently I received an email from a concerned mother in Australia who is worried about her son in Auckland. Her son was laid off a few months ago and has only \$1.74 left in his bank account. She said she and his father could only give him a small amount of money as they lived on very limited means. Her request was simple: Would the Mission be able to help him with food and assist him to get an unemployment benefit?

Everyday the Mission receives requests for help from thousands of Aucklanders who are struggling. We are able to provide food, household goods and health services to people because of you, our donors. This year will be a difficult one for many Aucklanders but with your support we can assist people in times of crisis.

Sincerely,



Diane Robertson
Auckland City Missioner



No Cap on Charitable Giving Rebate

As of April 2008, the tax rebate limit on charitable donations was lifted. The new tax rule means that, as an individual, you can claim a tax rebate of 33 per cent up to a maximum claim equal to your total annual income.

For example: Mary donates \$3,000 each year to the Mission, her local church and a hospital charity. Mary's taxable income for the year is \$45,000. Under the new rules, Mary can claim a rebate of \$1,000 (33.33% of \$3,000). Under the old rules, she could only claim a rebate of \$630 (33.33% of a maximum \$1,890), so the new rules give her a gain of \$370.

For companies, the limit of 5 per cent of a company's income was removed and they can now claim a tax deduction on donations up to their total net income.

To claim a rebate for your donations you need to complete an IR526, attach your receipts, and post it to the Inland Revenue Department. An IR526 is available to download from www.ird.govt.nz or call 0800 257 773 and the form will be posted to you.

**Contact Us: Auckland City Mission, PO Box 5352, Wellesley Street, Auckland 1141.
Phone 09 379 2395 or visit www.aucklandcitymission.org.nz**





Emergency Assistance

Feeding Families

Increasing food costs, high debt levels, family emergencies and low incomes are contributing reasons for families coming to the City Mission for food. During the recent Christmas period over 2,000 food parcels were given to families who were struggling financially.

While food parcels are not a long term solution, they provide immediate relief for families and essential food for children. Every food parcel contains nutritional food, cereals, flour, rice, meat and vegetables to last a family for a week. Thanks to the generosity of Goodman Fielder we are able to provide families with fresh bread for breakfast and school lunch.

Housing, Furniture and Clothing

Escaping from domestic violence, a woman and her three children (aged 14, 3, and a newborn) came to the Mission on a Saturday morning with no one else to turn to. They had left their home with only the clothes they had on and nothing else. With the assistance of Mission social workers, the family was found accommodation, the children were provided with sets of clothing and the baby was given formula and nappies. Furniture, bedding and household goods were provided to assist the family to restart their lives in a safe environment.

Medical Assistance - The Calder Centre

Two doctors, a practice nurse and a nurse practitioner provide services at Hobson Street on a regular basis. Fees are based on people's ability to pay. For those with no money, a visit to the doctor or nurse is free.

Long term, the Mission works to assist families to reduce debt, access their available benefits, improve their health and budget the monies they receive.

To make a food or goods donation to the Mission, you can drop it off at 140 Hobson Street, Auckland or at any of our New Beginnings Shops. Larger donations can be collected by calling 377 4322. Visit the Mission website at www.aucklandcitymission.org.nz or call 379 2395 for more information on shop locations or to make a monetary donation.

Aucklanders helping Aucklanders

Volunteers from across Auckland came together in December to help bring Christmas to Aucklanders in need. They gave their time to do everything from wrap presents and sing Christmas carols, to collect during Street Appeal and serve Christmas Dinner. Many people came as individuals, while some were given a day of volunteer leave by their employer.

The Mission would like to thank everyone who volunteered and helped make Christmas happen for every Auckland child.

Beca Volunteers for Christmas

Forty employees from engineering and related consultancy services group Beca, made volunteering at the Mission part of their Christmas celebrations. They sorted and wrapped Christmas presents and helped prepare Christmas Day supplies. Beca has been supporting the Mission for over 15 years.



Young Musicians Lend Their Talents

The Northcote College Combo, which consists of Adam Fuhr, Matt Innes, Chris Tan and Miller Christensen-Yule, used their musical abilities to help Aucklanders in need. The young performers played for the third year in a row during the Franklin Road Christmas Lights festivities, collecting donations for the Christmas Appeal. In just two nights, they raised \$2,500. The group was one of twelve choral and musical groups to give their time to support the Mission's Christmas Appeal.



If you would like to volunteer with the Mission throughout the year, visit the volunteer section of our website and download the information pack.

Team Kiwi London Marathon

Running a marathon for your own personal fitness is a wonderful accomplishment. Doing it on the other side of the world for charity is truly honourable. That's just what Paul Clark and the rest of Team Kiwi will be doing this April 26th. Paul and nine other runners are running the London Marathon to raise money for their respective preferred charity.

The Auckland City Mission is extremely grateful to Paul for choosing to support the Auckland City Mission. You can support Paul Clark and the Auckland City Mission by visiting <http://www.teamkiwi.org.nz/> and making a donation.