



**Media Release**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**27 June 2011**

**Reliance on food parcels becoming a way of life**

'For 91 years, Auckland City Mission has provided food to people in extreme need,' says City Missioner, Diane Robertson, 'but now reliance on food parcels is becoming an everyday part of life for many people. Where once we catered to people in crisis, now we're seeing more and more people facing chronic poverty and demand for Mission services continues to increase every year.'

In the past 12 months, the Mission provided 9,000 emergency food parcels and distributed another \$2 million worth food through Foodlink (the Mission's service supplying non-perishable food to 60 community foodbanks).

'We provide food to people who have exhausted every other avenue,' says Ms Robertson. 'We have a robust screening and assessment process and check applicants very thoroughly. There are limits as to how many parcels people can apply for and they do need to be able to demonstrate a real need.'

'We are becoming increasingly concerned however, that foodbanks are being used as a means to address chronic social issues,' she continued. 'It's simply not right that anyone should need to rely on emergency food parcels to make ends meet.'

'Auckland City Mission is committed to finding better solutions,' Ms Robertson says, 'and over the next twelve months we will be undertaking research to specifically explore the issues faced by those living in poverty.'

'In the meantime, though, the demand for food relief continues to grow every year. Our food stocks are critically low and we are exploring ways to fund additional staff to help cope with demand,' she said. 'While we are thankful that this winter is at least a little milder than previous years, the situation for us is quite desperate. We need both food and financial donations to help thousands of Aucklanders get through the next few months. All donations will be gratefully accepted.'

**In the past 12 months Auckland City Mission has:**

- Provided 9,000 Emergency Food Parcels
- Distributed \$2 million dollars worth of donated food via food parcels and the Foodlink programme - supporting 60 community food-banks between Thames and Kaitaia.
- Served 195,000 hot drinks in Drop In
- Supported and cared for those who are homeless.
- Provided thousands of Aucklanders with low cost health care, social services and assistance in dealing with the effects of alcohol and drug use and abuse.

**The Auckland City Mission Annual Winter Appeal is on now.**

**To donate please go to [www.aucklandcitymission.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcitymission.org.nz)**

**or phone 0900 42825 to make an automatic \$25 donation**

**ENDS**

**For further information, interviews or comment please contact:**

Carole French

Fundraising Team/Communications Leader

Auckland City Mission

DDI: 09 303 9780

Mobile: 027 294 0050

Email: [carole.f@aucklandcitymission.org.nz](mailto:carole.f@aucklandcitymission.org.nz)