



**MEDIA RELEASE: AUCKLAND CITY MISSION**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 23rd December 2014**

## **AUCKLAND CITY MISSION TO HOST 2500 AUCKLANDERS AT ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

- **The Auckland City Mission's annual community Christmas lunch takes place on Thursday, 25 December 2014, at the Viaduct Events Centre on the Waterfront**
- **Doors open at 11.30am and the Mission expects about 2500 guests**
- **On the menu 300kg of ham, 240kg of chicken, and 240kg of potatoes**

The Auckland City Mission is gearing up to host 2500 Aucklanders at the annual lunch on Christmas Day at the Viaduct Events Centre. This community celebration is the culmination of several months of intense planning by the City Mission, and hundreds of hours of work contributed by dedicated volunteers.

"At the Mission, we believe no one should have to eat alone on Christmas Day. It is not about poverty; it is about the spirit of Christmas, and about celebrating with each other," said Diane Robertson, Auckland City Missioner.

This year, the Christmas lunch menu includes the preparation of 240kg chicken and 300kg of ham, as well as the cooking of an assortment of vegetables (700kg). For dessert, there will be bucket-loads of jelly to be made to go with the mountains of ice-cream and other festive fare. Stephen Coffey, volunteer head chef, one assistant chef and about 20 volunteer helpers will start preparations for the meal on Christmas Eve, adding the final touches on Christmas Day.

At the Christmas Day lunch, an estimated 700 volunteers will contribute about four hours each to decorate the venue, prepare and cook the lunch, serve meals, and clean up afterwards – 2800 hours of volunteer time in total.

Since the beginning of December, the City Mission has been distributing emergency food parcels to hundreds of families in desperate need. At least 7000 gifts has been distributed to these families, so every child has a present to open on Christmas Day. The Mission has also provided gifts to other Auckland community groups to distribute to the families they work with.

"Christmas is the Mission's busiest time of year. We are always overwhelmed by the level of need we see at this time of the year. However with the support of the community, through donations and volunteering we are able to meet this need. This year has been incredibly tough but the community has come behind us. I would like to thank each and every volunteer for their help and all the people who have donated to make Christmas special for everyone in our community," said Ms Robertson.

The doors to the Christmas lunch open at 11.30am on Christmas Day. Entertainment will be provided until lunch is served at 12.30pm. Every guest will also receive a gift before heading home.

### **ENDS**

#### **Note to editors:**

Diane Robertson, Auckland City Mission CEO, is available for further comments

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## THE AUCKLAND CITY MISSION CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

### Key sponsors 2014

- Jetstar
- Waterfront Auckland

### Event run sheet

#### Wednesady, 24 December 2014

<b>7am</b>	<b>Viaduct Events Centre</b>
8am	Dessert kitchen volunteers arrive
	Meat/vegetables kitchen volunteers arrive
10am	Extra kitchen/clean-up volunteers arrive
10:30am	Preparation of all food completed and finalised by 12 noon

#### Thursday, 25 December 2014

<b>6am – 2.30pm</b>	<b>Viaduct Events Centre</b>
6am	Cooking begins
7am	Tables and venue decorated by volunteers and members of the Mission team
10:30am	Remaining volunteers arrive – approx. 550 on site
11.30am	Doors open
11.30 – 12.30pm	Entertainment
12.30pm	Welcome by Diane Robertson, Auckland City Missioner
	Grace by Bishop Jim White of the Anglican Diocese of Auckland
	Christmas lunch served
1-1:15pm	First course completed
1-1:15pm	Dessert served
1.30pm	Santa Claus arrives
	Presents distributed
	Cake handed out

### CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

#### Main course

Chicken with gravy:	240kg
Ham:	300kg
Gourmet potatoes:	240kg
Roast kumara:	240kg
Beans:	60kg
Carrots:	60kg

#### Dessert

Ice-cream:	400 litres
Fruit:	100 litres
Jelly:	150 litres
Christmas cake	2500 slices

#### Decorations

Table cloths:	210
Balloons:	1000
Christmas crackers:	2500
Presents on the day:	2500

#### Extras

Lollies:	3000 bags
Chocolate:	3000 bars
Drinks:	6000 bottles
Cookies:	2500 Christmas tree cookies
Cakes:	1000

## **VOLUNTEERS**

City Mission volunteers, who return year after year, arrive at the Mission in the run-up to Christmas Day to plan and train in preparation for the big day. About 200 volunteers will spend about 600 hours of volunteer time over two weeks to wrap the gifts for Christmas Day. At the Christmas Day lunch, an estimated 700 volunteers put in around four hours each – that's 2800 hours of volunteer time in total, decorating the venue, cooking dinner, serving meals, and cleaning up afterwards.

## **KEY VOLUNTEERS**

The City Mission has a number of key volunteers who are available for interviews. To interview any of these volunteers, please call Diane Robertson on 027 481 9989.