



Presbyterian
Support
South Canterbury

SUPPORT REPORT

March 2023

Our Stories - How We Make a Difference



Welcome from the CEO

Nau mai haere mai

What a wonderful summer we have had down here in the South. We have been basking in sunshine and hoping for some rain to help the garden. Unlike those in the North who have been hit time and time again with storms and floods over the past months. It certainly makes

us appreciate where we live.

What a fantastic day we had in December with **Christmas on the Bay**. It was a splendid event, great weather, great crowd and a wonderful team of volunteers who made it all happen under the command of Kirsty Burnett our Marketing & Fundraising Co-ordinator. Planning is already underway for the next concert which will be held on Saturday 9th of December, pencil that in now so you

don't miss it.

We live in a very generous caring community which was made evident by the number of **Christmas Angel** Families that were supported last Christmas – 179 families in total. That along with the Christmas Tree appeal and the donations of food and other items meant that we were able to help a significant number of families throughout South Canterbury.

Thanks to the fabulous staff and volunteers throughout the organisation who put so much into what they do. You are all very much appreciated.

I do have to mention Covid, it is still lurking, and I know that some people have been hit for the second time. Look after yourself, stay home if you are sick and let us know if there is anything that we can do to help.

I thought this quote from Winnie the Pooh was a good one for us all to reflect on over the coming months: *“A little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference.”*

Ngā mihi nui

CEO Carolyn Cooper

PSSC Mission Statement and Values

After considerable thought and discussion, the Mission Statement and Values for PSSC have undergone some changes.

The graphic features the PSSC logo at the top left. Below it, the text reads "Supporting PEOPLE through quality care". To the right, the words "MISSION Statement" are written in a stylized font. Below this, the "Core Values" are listed: Christian Love, Caring, Respect, Empowerment, Equity, and Enduring Stewardship. At the bottom left, there is an icon of a hand holding a family. The footer contains the address: 12 Park Lane, Timaru, 7910 | Postal Address: PO Box 278, Timaru, 7940, and contact information: 03 687 7945 | pssc.org.nz | admin@psscc.co.nz.

The updated Mission Statement is *“Supporting people through quality care”*.

Six core values underpin our work and service to the people of South Canterbury.

You will start to see the updated mission statement in use on our website and promotional materials.

Easter Message

Wow!! Here we are about to enter March, remember the Season of Lent and look ahead to Easter!!

The journey through Lent is a time of reflection as we remember Jesus' journey to the Cross and the price he paid.

We also remember the extraordinary depth of God's love for us.

What a shocking start to the year it has been with horrific devastation in a huge part of the North Island.

Amidst the tragedy, loss and suffering, with so many challenges to be faced, along with many questions and deep uncertainty, it is good to turn to the Bible and hear these everlasting words:- 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.'



May you know the presence, love, friendship and support of the Good Shepherd, as well as the hope and certainty he offers us all, today and every day.

The Reverend Alan Cummins, Chaplain

Presbyterian Support South Canterbury

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Enliven



Careerforce Apprenticeship is a training program that leads to staff gaining their New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing Level 4.

The program is directed towards experienced staff, building on the technical skills they already have, to develop their critical thinking, reflective practice and expanding their toolkit.

Careerforce delivers this apprenticeship that has been developed by the sector, for the sector.

At PSSC we have 28 staff studying towards this Certificate, two at Wallingford, 18 at Community Services, three at Margaret Wilson and five at the Croft.

The apprenticeship commenced in November 2021 and this month we celebrated the apprentices successful completion of the Stage 1, Level 3 component of their certificate. Well done to you all, we are very proud of the hard work you have invested into your study.



Pictured (Front left): Olivia Adams, Keilly Smith, Portia Kroon, Monique Russon, Maria Kennemeyer. Middle: Katherine Davis, Tracey Payne, Christina Butler, Elsabe Van Niekerk, Kim Price, Michaela McKay. Back: Jess Golding, Christine Jones, Sheryl Knight, Nicola Trussler, Christine Sole.

Wallingford Rest Home...

Enliven residents, volunteers and staff are enjoying being out and about again after covid restrictions were lifted, and in mid-January some Wallingford Home residents took a trip to Caroline Bay.

their individual parcels of fish and chips, although the day was overcast it was very warm. After lunch they wandered over to the skate park where a group of children put on a scooter display for them. The residents really enjoyed this outing.



This is an example of The Eden Alternative® Philosophy that our aged care services follow, giving our Enliven services a welcome and caring point of difference in the aged care sector.

After settling everyone into the van, they stopped by the fish and chip shop at Washdyke and picked up



Changes within Management

Refugee Settlement Services Manager



Tracey Miron

Welcome to **Tracey Miron**. Born in Shropshire England, raised in Mid Wales until aged 10, shifted to Hereford. Married to Mike and has a daughter studying at Otago, came to Timaru for three months and nearly 33 years on is still here. Tracey previously worked at Multicultural Aoraki as a Community Connector. Her dog Fudge occasionally comes into work.

Food Services Manager

We also welcome **Leigh McDonald**, our newly appointed Food Services Manager. Leigh comes to us with years of experience in the Hospitality industry and has worked in restaurants in NZ and abroad, also as Food Services Manager in an aged care facility in Timaru.



Leigh McDonald

Leigh is married with two young children and recently returned to his hometown of Timaru to be nearer to family. We're also very happy to welcome Leigh onto our PSSC team.

Volunteering...

After all the uncertainty and changes to our 'normal' rhythms of life in the last three years, it is with relief and joy to many that we are open and welcoming volunteers and visitors. We are so grateful to those who are continuing to visit Enliven Homes, assist at Te Pokapū (The Hub), and in other PSSC service areas in our community.

We are always looking to welcome new volunteers and would love the opportunity to chat with anyone further about this. We have a variety of volunteer roles available to suit everyone. For some it works best to have a set day and role and for others who enjoy more flexibility, we have one off events or seasons when we are so thankful for volunteers being involved. There are opportunities for all.

A heart-warming example of a one-off volunteering experience; in December 2022, one of our volunteer van drivers took some of the Margaret Wilson cottage residents to see the penguins. He and his wife took a PSSC van down to Caroline Bay where they saw and heard about the penguins with one of the community volunteers from Penguins First Timaru. They then took the residents for a drive through the main street to see the



Christmas lights and some of the decorated houses around Timaru before returning them home safely at 11.00pm. What an awesome outing for these cottage residents for whom this would not be possible without the kindness of volunteers.

The ability and willingness to give time and talents in the busyness of life is often a characteristic found in volunteers and these gifts spent with residents, clients and the wider community are greatly appreciated.

If you have time and talents, no matter how small you think they are, we would love to hear from you.

For further information please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Sue Shewan on:
03 687 7945 or sue.shewan@pssc.co.nz



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Family Works Update



Whatever happened to the last three months, I know that December and January seem to have just flown past so quickly and here we are in February already. December was certainly a very busy month at Family Works in the lead up to Christmas.

I wanted to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone in our community that supports our Foodbank. We have experienced unprecedented demand for food support over the past 3 months and without your ongoing support we would not be able to meet this need in our community. We provided 120 families with Christmas food hampers; this was in addition to the 135 food parcels that were distributed in December.

A special thank you to *Timaru Suburban Lions Club* for their annual "Toot for Tucker" appeal – this year was exceptional in what was collected and distributed to foodbanks.

The *Timaru Herald Christmas Tree* appeal again this year was invaluable in supporting many families in our community and once again due to the generosity of our community we were able to support 100 families.

We are recipients of the 2023 *Central South Island Charity Bike Ride*, we have been supporting the practice rides for the past three months with the official three day event running from the 16 to 18 February. This is a fantastic event to be a part of. We will be using the funds received from this event to support the co-ordination of our foodbank.

We are extremely fortunate to be supported by so many community groups/organisations/service clubs and individuals. Together we do make a difference every day.

He taonga rongonui te aroha ki te tangata - Goodwill towards others is a precious treasure.

Liz Nolan, Family Works General Manager



Christmas Angel Project 2022

Really making a difference in our Community.

Christmas 2022 saw this project support the largest number of families since the project began. The total number of families supported was 179, an increase of 49 from the previous year. The total number of sponsors was 144, with quite a number of these sponsoring more than one family. Many of these were first time sponsors and this was also our largest number of sponsors since the project began.

In the current economic climate, it was very apparent that there was a great need for families to be supported at what is obviously a stressful time of year for many. This year family referrals were accepted from Plunket, Multicultural Aoraki, Arowhenua Whanua Services, Refugee Settlement Services as well as Family Works.

With some extra effort and some special support from wonderful sponsors we managed to go the extra mile for some families this year. In one case, the 6 year old great grandson, being raised by his great grandmother, wanted to go to Scouts. The great grandmother has limited mobility and uses a walking frame. Because of this it was difficult for her to transport him anywhere and she could not afford the fees. We were able to facilitate this, and it really meant the world to this family.

This is an amazing project to be involved with. The efforts made by the families to improve their lives and those of their families is so inspiring and the generosity and enthusiasm of our Christmas Angel sponsors is unbelievable.

A huge thank you to Aoraki Foundation for their continued support, this allows us to keep the Christmas Angel Project going for vulnerable families in our community.

With the generosity of the Christmas Angels last year nearly 180 local families were supported and were able to enjoy the miracle of Christmas. This year you can help a local family in need.

Together we really do make a difference.



Refugee Settlement Services... Helping families to thrive.

Since our Annual Report in October the Refugee Settlement Service has been busier than ever, with our new Manager, Tracey Miron and new staff case worker, Ari Jan, the former refugee families are really getting the best possible support.

Prior to November 2022 we had three families, at time of print we will have six with another five arriving in the next two months. This will mean 27 adults and 34 children.

The Syrian community is now starting to grow and feel settled in our community. There has been some fantastic progress with our families and some are already working within our community.



Gleniti School student council organised a donation of the bags.

Starting school is a big challenge for our families so a very big thank you to Timaru Girls High School, Timaru Boys High School, Waimataitai and Gleniti Schools, Rotary North JR McKenzie Trust Fund and other private donors for the assistance you have given us

so far with your donations and support.

There is always so much more for these families to learn and experience but with our team and the amazing community they are able to be supported in their journey to independence.

Volunteers were out and about over summertime doing all sorts of interesting and exciting things with families to help them feel welcome and settled in Timaru. From trips to Centennial Park for picnics and play, to Caroline Bay for carnival rides, swimming, and walks, even fishing on South Beach where there was lots of laughter and fishy tales, but not many actual fish caught!

Road Safety Day with New Zealand Police During the summer holidays the families and volunteers attended a Road Safety and picnic day at Caroline Bay with NZ Police where the children and parents learned about safety on the roads and bike safety in particular.

It was great fun and the children and adults all picked up vital safety tips for biking on Timaru roads. It was also a great day for everyone to mingle and practise English where possible and see our NZ police officers in a positive light as 'helping people'.



A big thank you to **Grantlea Downs** school for the use of your swimming pool where our wonderful volunteers have been taking the children for a few summer water safety lessons. This was a wonderful chance for the children to get used to getting into the water and experiencing a Kiwi swim lesson before school starts with school swimming requirements.



Summer holiday fun...



Donations of bikes and bike helmets (for adults and children), school supplies and uniforms have been greatly received and still required. These items are so vital for former refugee children to settle into school, and until adults are able to obtain drivers licenses, bicycles are an important mode of transport for the whole family.

A recent former refugee is now working part time at Murrays Barbers on Church St. He worked as a barber in his home country and is very grateful for being given the opportunity to work and continue his English studies.



A few of the men recently assisted PSSC maintenance team to shift dirt into the new raised flower beds at Enliven The Croft's Lorna Home garden.



Harcourts CHRISTMAS ON THE BAY



Fundraising on behalf of Family Works

Christmas on the Bay...

It's all about our Community

We were relieved when covid restrictions were dropped in 2022, this allowed us to run, for the first time, the popular Christmas on the Bay event. This community concert was enjoyed by around 4,500 people, there were over 120 performers and more than 40 volunteers. The weather played its part, giving us a wonderful sunny day with the only complaint being the heat.

For us, this event is about giving back to our community and raising awareness of our Family Works Service. We were very grateful to H & J Bruce for donating their surplus hats, drink bottles, keep cups and bags, these were give-aways at the event so no one walked away empty handed. It was wonderful to see the smiles and happy faces enjoying all that was on offer.

A huge thank you to Harcourts – our naming rights sponsor of the event who also took care of Santa and Santa's grotto.

A huge **thank you** to all of our sponsors involved in Christmas on the Bay – without our sponsors we would not be able to host this event.

Timaru Host Lions Club were fabulous helpers putting up and taking down signs and helping set up, and pack up on the day. Zonta Timaru helped collect gold coin donations and \$4500 was taken during the concert.

Also a huge **thank you** to the performers/entertainers, volunteers and staff that helped make this event a huge success. We look forward to organising and delivering this again in 2023 (save the date, Saturday 9th December from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm) More volunteers on the day would be very welcome.





Thank you

There are many wonderful organisations who help our communities by giving grants and donations during the year and we're tremendously grateful to all of them. Find them at pssc.org.nz.

As a charity we rely on this financial assistance to support vulnerable children, whanau/families and older people as we work towards safe compassionate and inclusive community in South Canterbury.

Donation Form

Together we make a difference
in our South Canterbury Community

Your generous contribution supports and sustains our important work—
every donation counts and is used locally.



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- \$10 \$30 \$50
 \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____
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 Six monthly donation Other:

or please charge my Credit Card/Debit Card:

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SR2023

Save the date...



**Saturday, 9th
December**

Caroline Bay
Sound Shell,

3 pm to 5 pm.

Mark it on your calendar! Watch this space to see who will be performing.

Ways you can support our work:

1. Credit Card

- Complete a donation form and post to Presbyterian Support SC
- Donate securely online at pssc.org.nz/donate
- Call 03 687 7945 and use a credit card over the phone (safely and securely).

2. Bank Transfer

Internet banking, telephone banking or popping into the bank to make a donation. Our bank account is 06-0889-0014481-10. (ANZ). So we know who made the donation these should be included:

- Donor's address
- Donor ID (if known)
- The service the gift is to benefit, e.g. Family Works

3. Automatic Payment

For automatic payment information and further assistance please call us on 03 687 7945.

Please contact me about:

- Setting up a regular donation
- Leaving a gift in my Will
- Donating to the Family Works Foodbank
- Becoming a Family Works Guardian Angel
- Becoming a Volunteer
- Other: _____

Making a difference together