

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for 2009.

Inside you will find an article about the incredible role foster carers play in nurturing the potential of vulnerable children as well as one describing the great progress being made to end homelessness.

At LIFEWISE I am surrounded by people with a passion for community. Whatever the issue, they are always looking for positive solutions; for children & families, for older people as well as those who are marginalised by society. By focusing on solutions to various social issues, I am proud to say LIFEWISE is indeed delivering on its promise of turning lives around.

I'd encourage you to sign up to also receive occasional emails from LIFEWISE. Email is an easy (and efficient) way to keep everyone up to date with the latest news, events and other activities happening at LIFEWISE. Information about how to register for emails can be found on page two.

I hope that you enjoy reading this edition.

John Murray



101 WAYS TO LIVE WISELY

SMALL ACTIONS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

A great leader has the ability to inspire people to take action. Having a vision is everything. Mahatma Ghandi knew this when he said "We must become the change we want to see".

Living out our ideals is something LIFEWISE advocates; after all finding solutions to social issues and injustices is what we are working towards everyday. Strengthening community resilience, which is perhaps of even greater importance at present, is not all about big projects and Government schemes. Small actions can make a big difference, if enough people get behind them. We call this Living Wisely.

But where do we start? Well perhaps that doesn't matter. What counts is the starting. With that in mind we put together a list of 101 ideas or actions as 'food for thought'. Actions we can take to make our families and our communities stronger and our world better. It could be having a coffee with a neighbour (tip#1) or eating more meals together as a family (tip#12) and car pooling to work (tip#51).

You can probably already tick a few off the list. If you have other suggestions we would love to hear from you.



You can download a 101 WAYS TO LIVE WISELY poster from www.lifewise.org.nz or call (09) 302 5390 to receive one by post.

TURNING LIVES AROUND IN AUCKLAND

The LIFEWISE Centre is excitedly approaching the first anniversary of its new initiative to turn the lives of homeless Auckland people around. We're excited because we can look back on 12 months of hard work, where relationships within the wider sector have been strengthened, and consider our future positively - the numerous achievements we've made (and oodles of obstacles we've conquered!) have made us even more earnest to take a lead and end homelessness in this country.

Our inner city community centre for homeless people transitioned from the traditional charitable model in April last year, to a new way of working. The new model engages with the homeless in a different way and offers important social services so they can turn their lives around.

We're thrilled to share with you some key successes we've achieved over the last year as a dedicated team:

- Employed key staff members who have brought great insight, vision and experience to our team
- Introduced important collaborative service providers on site such as mental health, alcohol and drug support services; Housing New Zealand; Work and Income; the Probation Service – these services allow us to identify and address issues on an individual basis and resource our homeless clients with positive solutions
- Built strong relationships with our clients and set positive goals with them for their future
- Corie Haddock, Centre Manager, has become heavily involved in the National Coalition to End Homelessness
- Produced a comprehensive, collaborative framework plan for the Committee for Auckland which has been presented to government department officials – this means that ultimately the whole sector can implement our proven collaborative framework
- Partnered with the Waitakere Methodist Parish's Outreach Service who deliver food parcels directly into homes



Our LIFEWISE Centre team - turning lives around

- Advocated for better solutions to homelessness when the Auckland City Council mooted a new 'moving-homeless-people-on' by-law
- Partnered with Street Football Aotearoa to enable five Aucklanders to participate in the 2008 Homeless World Cup soccer tournament in Melbourne (the first-ever New Zealand team to take part!)
- HWC team member Marcel (see his story next page) played on Ruben Wiki's team in the inaugural Vodafone Foundation Cup touch rugby game
- Established clearer needs of the homeless in our community – this will enable us to enhance and strengthen our framework and counsel other agencies like ours throughout the country

And most significantly we've successfully supported 10 clients into housing since July 2008!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank partner agencies who have helped our clients achieve their personal successes, as well as those of you who have contributed to LIFEWISE and enabled us to continue to operate The LIFEWISE Centre. Without the donations and grants we receive from our community, our service would simply not exist. Funding is a constant challenge for our Centre, so please spread the word and help us to blaze a trail with our work!

PLEASE
EMAIL

We'd love to keep you up to date with the latest news from LIFEWISE and emails are a cost-efficient way to do this. But to email you we need your address and your permission. We know that email communication doesn't suit everyone and so we'll continue to send out newsletters too. We'll keep all your details safe and private and don't worry, if you change your mind, our emails will always include an option to unsubscribe. To sign up to emails from LIFEWISE, simply send us an email on info@lifewise.org.nz including your name and street address too. Not sure if we have your correct email address? Just email us to find out.

NZ HOMELESS WORLD SOCCER TEAM NAMED 'BEST NEWCOMER'

In December 2008 LIFEWISE was abuzz with soccer; homeless soccer that is. The reason for the excitement was the participation of the first-ever team from New Zealand in the Homeless World Cup Soccer Tournament – an innovative global initiative responsible for positively transforming up to 70 per cent of the 500+ players who take part annually.

The December tournament was held in Melbourne, and under the supreme coaching guidance of LIFEWISE client support worker Steve McLuckie, and Street Football Aotearoa's Katie Owen, our 'Street Whites' punted their way up to 40th placing – from a pool of 56 teams, achieving this spot was an incredible accomplishment at their first tournament. And to boot, the team was also named 'Best Newcomer' – and received a very fancy cup for their efforts.

All of the five LIFEWISE players have changed through the experience and recently one had a second taste of fame. Marcel, who was a key goal-scorer in Melbourne, participated in the inaugural Vodafone Foundation Cup touch tournament in Auckland at the end of February. League legend Ruben Wiki and his talented charity teammates went head-to-head with union man Frank Bunce's team in a no-holds-barred battle, played to highlight the Foundation's role in facilitating positive outcomes for youth.

Marcel played gallantly in all four quarters of the game on the winning Wiki team – and stood proudly for photos (pictured) after the victory. LIFEWISE's Steve McLuckie, who was involved with England's Homeless World Cup team prior to moving to New Zealand, says the benefits of sport for LIFEWISE clients is clearly evident.



The winning formula: soccer and league meet touch!

"The impact of being part of a team, being fit, eating healthily and having goals is huge. Marcel, who is off the streets and a positive part of his community, has showcased how LIFEWISE, sport and great resources can effectively turns live around."



Imagine giving hope to an isolated older person this Easter. Well you can. Select GIVE HOPE from LIFE GIVING GIFTS and your donation will provide much needed social work support. Visit www.lifewise.org.nz for information.

TAX REBATES

Don't forget that if you are a tax payer your charitable donations can now make an even bigger difference. From April 2008 law changes removed the \$1,890 threshold for personal financial donations.

MAKE A BEQUEST

Remembering LIFEWISE (Methodist Mission Northern) in your will is a very special way to assist people to have more positive futures. Bequests are an extremely valuable source of income for LIFEWISE and we are grateful to those individuals who have remembered LIFEWISE/the Methodist Mission in this way. If you are considering a bequest to our work and require any information please call us on (09) 302 5390. We will be happy to answer any questions you or your lawyer may have.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all the individuals, community groups and schools, businesses and funding organisations who have contributed to our work since our last newsletter including those who selected a Christmas gift from Life-Giving Gifts and gave people the chance to turn their lives around. We also thank the Auckland City Council for their grant towards the costs of the facility which houses The LIFEWISE Centre.

KIWI K!DS NEED YOUR HELP

FOSTER A CHILD

The need for foster caregivers in Auckland is increasing, and we are looking to complement our extraordinary caregiver team with people just like you – compassionate, community and family focused, and, importantly, big-hearted!

LIFEWISE Family Service's dedicated foster caregivers provide short, medium or long term care to children and young people aged from newborn to 16 years. We need to increase the size of our foster care team due to the escalation in requests for temporary care.

When the family unit breaks down or if the home environment is not safe or suitable for a child or children, our caregivers accept the temporary care role to provide security and care for as long as is required – this enables the family to regroup safely and positively when the time is right.

The children we place with foster parents come into our care through government agency Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS). Mostly, these precious children's lives have been turned upside down by chaos, neglect and trauma, and they have often been put at risk both physically and emotionally.

Consequently, LIFEWISE Family Services takes time and care to match the needs and cultural sensitivities of each child with the character and qualities of the foster caregiver.

You may have a special touch and love for babies; you might love the outdoors and be matched with an active, energetic child – one thing is for sure however, and that is the guidance, support and encouragement you can provide will help to turn the life around of a small but very special human being.

Anyone has the potential to become a foster parent whether they are single or married – the first step you can take is to contact Abo on 818 0211 or RomansA@lifewise.org.nz.



YES I'D LIKE TO HELP KIWI K!DS

- ☐ I wish to make a donation to assist kids & their families
☐ I wish to make a donation for the general work of LIFEWISE

Please send me further information on:

- ☐ Becoming a foster care giver
☐ Donating regularly direct from my bank account
☐ Making a bequest to LIFEWISE

Please find enclosed my donation of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other

I prefer to pay by: ☐ Cheque (enclosed) OR ☐ Credit Card
(please make cheques payable to Methodist Mission Northern)

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card Number

Name on Card

Expiry Date

Signature

☐ I am happy to receive email communication in addition to mailings.
My email address is

Thank you for your donation. A tax receipt will be sent to you.

Privacy: We respect your privacy and will ensure that your details are only used by authorised persons and will be kept confidential from third parties.

LIFEWISE is the community & social services division of Methodist Mission Northern