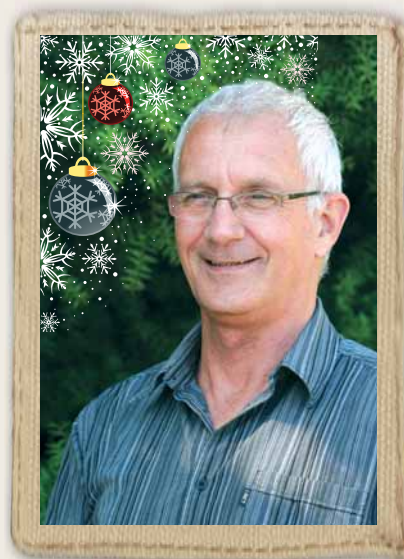


2009 has been another busy year for LIFEWISE with considerable efforts and significant developments in virtually all aspects of our work. In fact if you want to find out more I would recommend reading our recently published annual report.

Here I've picked out a few initiatives to tell you about in a little more detail. The common thread to all of these is YOU. All these projects have been made possible through community support; through grants and also donations and bequests from individuals. I believe that it is our responsibility to you to highlight just how such support is making an impact on people's lives, through the great team we have at LIFEWISE. I hope that you enjoy reading about these particular aspects of our work.

I'm very proud to be able to tell you that on December 3rd the incredible work the LIFEWISE Centre is doing in successfully housing homeless people was recognised by the Australasian Housing Institute at an awards ceremony in Auckland, with the team winning the award for Leading Innovation.

From everyone at LIFEWISE, thank you for your support throughout 2009. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a refreshing summer break..



John Murray
Executive Director

FULLY MOB!LE

Helping people to sit their driving test might seem like an unusual undertaking for a community organisation such as LIFEWISE but when you consider the positive impact being able to drive can have for someone, and also for those around them, then it really starts to make sense.

A few months ago, LIFEWISE Homecare set up a scheme to assist their Support Workers obtain full driving licences. About 15% of the service's 250 Support Workers had only restricted licences; a fact that was causing some rostering challenges given that a full licence is required when taking clients out shopping or to other social activities.

Andrea McLeod who manages LIFEWISE Homecare came up with the simple solution of creating a small fund to assist Support Workers financially when committing to obtaining a full licence. "We knew from talking to our Support Workers, that it was the cost of the test that was the issue. With other pressing financial responsibilities, a full licence was just not their first priority".

On achieving their full licence, each Support Worker can have the cost of their test reimbursed, thanks to a bequest made many years ago to create a staff training fund (in memory of Everill Orr a former Superintendent of the Methodist Mission).

"The scheme really is a win-win for everyone. For our clients, it removes any barriers to finding the most appropriate Support Worker for their needs or location.

The Service benefits as well - it removes a significant administrative issue when working to provide a top quality service. With more Support Workers holding a full licence, Case Managers will be able to draw on a larger pool of potential Support Workers for new clients."

"And finally, the scheme is great for our employees – having that piece of paper that says they have the driving qualification is something that will stay with them forever. It helps them and their families. I really see this project as a sign of our commitment to our employees. That's one of the things that I think makes LIFEWISE Homecare Services so special."

The scheme hasn't been running for very long and already nine of the 41 Support Workers offered the opportunity are now the proud holders of a full driving licence.



Ketut Serining



Evangeline Manga

If we were to take all the individuals who now have a permanent home thanks to LIFEWISE's work in the last year and add up the total number of years they've lived on the streets, it would reach in excess of 120 years (and that's perhaps a conservative estimate). Breaking the cycle of homelessness is not easy but the success to date of LIFEWISE's new approach has shown it is possible to permanently house people straight from the street. Providing wrap-around case management services is critical to ensuring that people retain that housing.



TURNING LIVES AROUND AT THE LIFEWISE CENTRE

Over the last few years, LIFEWISE has invested significant time and energy re-shaping how we support homeless people; ensuring that we're assisting people to access and retain permanent housing, rather than simply supporting them to stay on the streets of Auckland.

"It's really encouraging to see that the changes we've made are starting to have an impact on homelessness in this city" notes Corie Haddock, Centre Manager. Since setting up the new collaborative programme eighteen months ago, LIFEWISE has housed 46 individuals, the majority in permanent accommodation. Sport has proved to be a great way to engage homeless clients in the programme with training and competitions building self-confidence and self-esteem. "We've celebrated many one-year housing anniversaries and it's particularly heart-warming to know that many of these clients are about to celebrate their first Christmas for many years in secure housing thanks to the work of the team at The LIFEWISE Centre, the collaborating agencies involved in this work and all those who have made it possible through their generous donations and grants."

Building on the success of last year's team at the Homeless World Cup in Melbourne, Support Worker Steve McLuckie has continued to organise weekly training, with volunteer coach Steve Fletcher always on hand to run the sessions. A recent highlight was a one-day national street soccer event in Wellington organised by Street Football Aotearoa which coincided with the big All Whites win. The team from Wellington took out the four-team comp on the day but the Auckland team showed strong commitment right up to the whistle in the final, making the two Steves very proud of them.



Pura Jackson who joined LIFEWISE as a Support Worker earlier this year is working with a group of Centre clients to create a community garden on Avondale Parish land on Rosebank Road. At present the group is busy building frames and creating the beds but as summer progresses the project will be providing nutritious vegetables as well as nurturing gardening and work skills. part of a larger collaboration between LIFEWISE, Rev Vai Ngahe and the Parish.



Griff Richard's - Parent Educator

A PARENTING LEGEND

Griff Richard's commitment to positive parenting is legendary around LIFEWISE; for the past few years Griff's been responsible for the community parenting courses run by LIFEWISE Family Services. Set up originally to address a lack of parenting education in West Auckland, the courses have gone from strength to strength over the years. This work, which is a partnership with Parents Inc. who developed the Toolbox programme, has only been possible thanks to generous grants from **The J M McLachlan Fund** (administered by Guardian Trust).



Former Warriors player, turned policeman Tony Tatupu has led the introduction of homeless touch into the weekly activities. Games against the police and various corporate teams (by establishing an annual Auckland Community Cup) continue to build team skills, individual motivation, an awareness of healthier lifestyles and a pathway to change. Tony has great plans for the future and we'll bring you more news of this in 2010. We are grateful for a recent grant from Auckland DHB's Healthy Eating Healthy Action Fund to support this initiative.

It's critical that we know if, and how, our community programmes are making a difference and an independent external evaluation is the best way to do this. After one-year of running the new collaborative homeless programme at the Centre, LIFEWISE commissioned a 360° review involving partner agencies, other sector stakeholders, Centre staff and clients and shared the findings with the sector. The report (summary available on www.lifewise.org.nz) reaffirmed the significant successes of year one and also highlighted future developments which could build on the success to date.

This evaluation will be repeated at key points in the future to assess ongoing effectiveness. We think these evaluations are part of our responsibility to those funders who provide grants to keep the programme going.

It takes a team effort to assist people to address the complex issues contributing to homelessness and at the Centre we've got a great team of staff and volunteers. Not to mention all those from our collaborative partners who regularly work out of the Centre. In late November, LIFEWISE was one of 12 organisations to sign up to a Memorandum of Understanding between Government and non-Government agencies aimed at ending homelessness on the streets of Auckland by 2020 through the implementation of an Action Plan and greater inter-agency collaboration.



When asked what makes this work so special Griff talks about the community, the numerous organisations he links in with to encourage parents to attend as well as the wider work of the Service. "The courses fit well with our more intensive one-on-one social work with families. At the moment I'm running a course especially for teenage mums through Henderson High. With all the babies in the classroom at the same time, things can get fairly hectic! But it's going really well and I'm hoping to get the Dads along to a course in 2010."



THANK YOU

We want to say a big thank you to everyone who donates money, goods and skills to LIFEWISE. Without their generosity and commitment we'd struggle to help those who need our support.

In recent months our work with homeless people has been assisted by grants from the **Community Response Fund** (a new fund from the Ministry of Social Development to assist community organisations through the recession) and the **Sir Ernest Davis Trust** (administered by Guardian Trust). These grants will go towards the LIFEWISE Centre's general running costs such as buying food and paying wages. They are a boost to our fundraising goal for the year, quite literally helping us to keep the doors of the Centre open.

In addition we've just been granted funding by the **Vodafone Foundation** to develop and establish a youth homelessness programme, with a commitment of \$120,000 per year for two years. Corie Haddock who manages the Centre acknowledges this support, "this incredible grant means we can now kick-start a new specialist programme for homeless youth. There's a strong-link between state-care and youth homelessness. We have to intervene quickly before young people get caught up in the street culture and become long-term homeless."

The recent evaluation of the Centre's work highlighted the need to boost the number of Client Support Workers. "Thanks to Vodafone we're now able to recruit a youth worker and, funding permitting, we hope to bring another person on board in the next twelve months to support homeless women. It's critical that we connect with these client groups and support them off the streets."

Rather than toys, the Christmas tree at AUT University's staff gathering was this year surrounded by a huge array of basic household equipment - all part of a drive by the University's Lions group to put together home starter kits for homeless individuals, to help make the transition into housing a little easier.

Corie concludes "I'd like to add my personal thanks to all those who support our efforts; the Centre wouldn't be able to house homeless people if it wasn't for the fantastic support we receive from all our volunteers, donors and funders. They make a difference to our work everyday".



Vodafone
New Zealand
Foundation

WORKING TOGETHER AND THINKING BIG

There is nothing wrong in having a strong vision and setting big goals. After all when it comes to the World Cup in 2011 we don't want the All Blacks to come away with a participation certificate – naturally we want them to win.

I used this example recently when talking on television about the New Zealand Coalition to End Homelessness's vision to end homelessness by 2020. Whatever the issue (family violence, child abuse, homelessness or something else) I think one of the challenges faced by the community sector is to look at the big picture and the overall outcomes for our community, not focus solely on addressing the needs of the person who turns up at the door. To bring about long-term change, we need to "act locally but think globally".

I believe that the community sector has to look at issues as a whole, rather than each organisation simply thinking about its own programmes. Collectively we can achieve more by working together than acting alone – we close gaps, reduce duplication and get the best outcomes for dollars spent.

That's why LIFEWISE is increasingly taking a collaborative approach to both dealing with and preventing social problems. While we focus on delivering programmes that have an impact, we are also working to strengthen community as a whole and pass on a healthier society to future generations. The recent success of Neighbours Day shows how important this type of approach is. We should feel encouraged at how valuable Kiwi neighbourliness can be as an effective tool to address and prevent social issues but it will take deliberate effort.



John McCarthy - General Manager

Each day LIFEWISE is turning lives around but we cannot do this on our own. We need your support. Since mid-2009 LIFEWISE has been a charitable trust in its own right – each year we will receive a grant from Methodist Mission Northern towards our community programmes but beyond this we cannot draw upon the resources of the Mission. LIFEWISE has to 'stand on its own two feet' when it comes to meeting costs and so community support is critical – be it major grants from funders such as the ASB Community Trust and the Vodafone Foundation or smaller donations and gifts-in-kind from companies and individuals. I know that for many people life is tough, with little money to spare. However if you are in a position to help, I would ask you to consider making a donation to assist people in need this Christmas time. Your support will make a difference.

YES I'D LIKE TO HELP 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 The LIFEWISE TRUST

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.

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Rev / Other

First Name

Surname

Address

Postcode

Phone

Please send me information about:

- Making a bequest to LIFEWISE in my will
- Donating regularly direct from my bank account
- Organising a LIFEWISE speaker for my group/business

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 (Registration No. CC40248) is a community and social services agency of The Methodist Church of New Zealand