

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO EVERYONE

As 2010 draws to an end, it's timely to reflect on the importance of living in a caring and supportive community. That's what helps families and friends cope with devastating events such as the West Coast's Pike River mine tragedy and Canterbury earthquakes. It is also timely to think of all the support agencies involved in these events, such as Christchurch Methodist Mission and the ministry team at Greymouth District Uniting Church. That's why LIFEWISE is keen to support community-based campaigns like Neighbours Day Aotearoa – it's one of the many ways we can all help to build stronger communities.

Most of us look forward to Christmas, that special time of year when we gather to celebrate, relax and enjoy summer. But sadly for many people, trying to find extra money to buy Christmas treats for loved ones just adds to the stress of everyday demands. Our LIFE GIVING GIFTS are one way of spreading some cheer and helping others in need throughout the year. As always, we appreciate your support and generosity – without you, LIFEWISE would not be able to provide such a diverse range of community and social services.

It's been a busy and rewarding year for our team, as you'll see in this newsletter. We're already planning for the years ahead to ensure LIFEWISE continues to bring expertise and essential services to those who need it most.

From all of us at LIFEWISE, have a wonderful Christmas.

John Murray
Executive Director



NEIGHBOURS DAY 2011 GET TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE!

Neighbours Day is going national next year – so put 26-27 March 2011 in your diary now, get together with your neighbours and start planning how you can celebrate together.

Neighbours Day Aotearoa organisers LIFEWISE, Inspiring Communities and Methodist Mission Aotearoa are also seeking major sponsors to sign up and help to inspire a weekend of activities in which Kiwis everywhere can be involved.



Neighbours Day is a great way for all ages to have fun.

"Knowing your neighbours better benefits everyone, especially in times of need, and building stronger neighbourhoods is a key part of LIFEWISE's work," says LIFEWISE development manager Lesley Mynett-Johnson. "The success of the first Neighbours Day in Auckland in 2009 convinced us that this is a movement that can benefit communities everywhere.

"We're already getting an enthusiastic response from groups all over New Zealand, but we need support from businesses to cover the costs of organising such a big campaign."

LIFEWISE and Takapuna Methodist Church community development worker Rebecca Harrington helped develop the first Neighbours Day last year. "Aucklanders told us they wanted to get to know their neighbours but didn't know how, and Neighbours Day gave them that chance. Now we're spreading that message throughout New Zealand."

As well as coordinating other neighbourhood initiatives, Rebecca enjoys the benefits of living in a supportive neighbourhood. "We are excited about living in a street that fully embraces the kaupapa of knowing your neighbours," she says. "Within a month of moving there we met many of our neighbours, shared food with them and were offered countless helping hands."

NEIGHBOURS DAY AOTEAROA 26-27 MARCH 2011

For more details about Neighbours Day or to share ideas on how to celebrate this great campaign, email kiaora@neighboursday.org.nz or ph LIFEWISE (09) 302 5390. Please let us know if you or your organisation would like to help Neighbours Day go national in 2011.

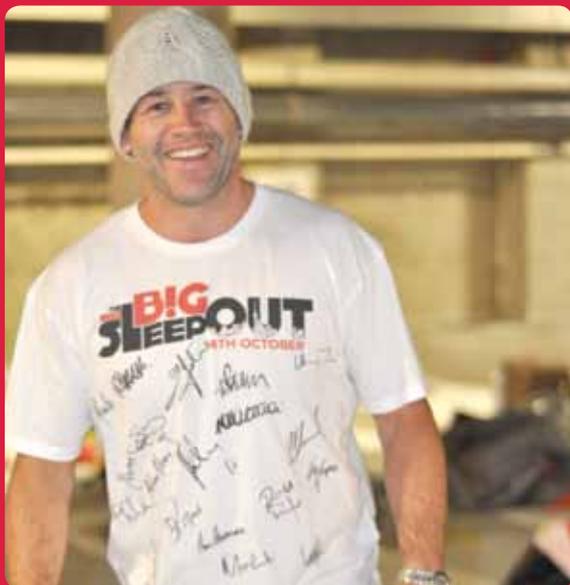
www.neighboursday.org.nz

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LIFEWISE B!

The first LIFEWISE Big Sleepout in October was an outstanding success. More than 60 business and community leaders as well as politicians 'slept rough' for a night, to raise funds and awareness of the reality facing New Zealand's homeless.

The event raised more than \$100,000 for the new LIFEWISE Hub and Merge cafe, a unique one-stop-shop in Auckland's Karangahape Road providing support services for the homeless and other people in need as well as a welcoming place to gather and enjoy good nutritional food. The next LIFEWISE BIG SLEEPOUT will be July 7, 2011 – so encourage business and community leaders you know to sign up next year and get sponsored. LIFEWISE needs to raise at least \$500,000 a year to run its services for the homeless, and the Big Sleepout is a key part of that campaign. We'll keep you posted...



TV personality Marc Ellis in the Big Sleepout T-shirt signed by the Vodafone Warriors.

“HE AHA TE MEA NUI? HE TANGATA, HE TANGATA, HE TANGATA.”

TUHI LEEF Westpac Bank manager



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER: MP Jacinda Ardern signs a Big Sleepout cardboard 'bed'.

PHOTOS: Thanks to Benjamin Brooking and Shannon Seyb, Big VOICE Ltd.

“CARDBOARD MAKES A LOUSY BED! GREAT CAUSE AND AN HONOUR TO LEARN MORE FROM SUCH DEVOTED SUPPORT STAFF.”

MARC ELLIS Businessman, TV personality



LIFEWISE volunteer Sau Sosaia serving dinner.

“THE LIFEWISE BIG SLEEPOUT WAS VERY WELL ORGANISED. HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TEAM.”

MARK BENTLEY CEO, the Auckland Communities Foundation

BIG SLEEPOUT

“THE BIG SLEEPOUT HAS BEEN THE MOST POSITIVE, INFLUENTIAL EVENT I HAVE EVER PARTICIPATED IN. I GAINED A NEW PERSPECTIVE THAT WILL INFLUENCE THE DECISIONS I MAKE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.”

A LIFEWISE VOLUNTEER AND FORMER HOMELESS YOUTH.



Big Sleepout participants catch some sleep.



LINE UP AT THE POINT OF HOMELESSNESS: Participants line up for food in the LIFEWISE Centre.



Mayor Len Brown with LIFEWISE general manager Steve McCarthy and ADHB chief executive Garry Smith.

“LET’S CATCH THE HOMELESS BEFORE HOMELESSNESS BECOMES AN OPTION.”

JUSTINE TROY Businesswoman, author

“MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. MAKE THAT CHANGE. CHANGE YOUR VIEW ON THE HOMELESS.”

SARAH TROTMAN CEO, Bizzzone



Sarah Trotman, Bizzzone (left) and MP Nikki Kaye.



BIG VOICE CAPTURES SLEEPOUT STORIES

Multimedia production company Big VOICE has created an inspiring documentary about the first LIFEWISE Big Sleepout. The hard-working Big VOICE team, director Serena Stevenson and her assistants Benjamin Brooking, Kelsey O'Brien and Shannon Seyb, volunteered their time and expertise at the Big Sleepout. They also helped participants Sarah Trotman, Steve Bonnici, Poto Williams, David Wilson and Tagaloa (Michael) Stowers create their own short stories combining video, audio and photos.

To see the Big Sleepout stories, follow the links on the LIFEWISE website www.lifewise.org.nz. If you'd like a DVD, phone LIFEWISE (09) 302 6284 or email lifewise@lifewise.org.nz

For details about Big VOICE, see bigvoice.co.nz

HUB OPENS DOORS

LIFEWISE's services for the homeless moved into an exciting new phase in November with the opening of a new community hub and café in Karangahape Road, central Auckland.

At the new LIFEWISE Hub and Merge café, our team of expert social workers work one-on-one with people who come in for meals and support, getting them access to essential services such as housing, welfare, mental health, and drug and alcohol addiction programmes.



Brian Gilbert, Hayley Heta and Stephen Clark serve a customer at LIFEWISE's new café Merge.

"The aim is to become more customer-focused and create a better pathway out of homelessness," says LIFEWISE Hub manager Corie Haddock. "We're getting away from the cycle of dependency and the traditional 'soup kitchen' model where set meals were provided for free only at certain times."

Experienced chef Stephen Clark, who previously managed a restaurant at SkyCity, is offering a varied menu of "cheap and cheerful" meals which are proving popular with clients. His full-time kitchen hand Hayley Heta, a former LIFEWISE volunteer, is busy but enjoying the chance to develop her skills in the hospitality industry.

LIFEWISE is also working with AUT's School of Hospitality and Tourism on a project using Merge café as a training ground for people needing practical skills to help them find jobs.

The LIFEWISE Hub works with homeless and marginalised people in the central city, supporting them so they can start to lead independent lives. In the past two years, we have supported more than 120 rough sleepers into long-term accommodation.

LIFEWISE also manages the Night Shelter, is an active member of Auckland's Homeless Task Force and co-chairs the New Zealand Coalition to End Homelessness.

RIO TRIP OF LIFETIME

Representing New Zealand in the world's most popular sport in Brazil is something most footballers could only dream of. But for eight Kiwis, that dream became a reality when they competed in the Homeless World Cup in Rio de Janeiro in September. They battled jet lag, Rio heat and tough competition while mixing with teams from 47 other countries.

LIFEWISE support worker and Street Football Aotearoa trustee Steve McLuckie says the Kiwis learnt a lot about teamwork and problem-solving. SFA is already planning for the 2012 Homeless World Cup in Mexico, when a new team gets the chance of a lifetime to represent New Zealand.

See: www.streetfooty.org

2010 HIGHLIGHTS

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES COURT

New Zealand's first Special Circumstances Court opened in Auckland in November, a project initiated by LIFEWISE general manager John McCarthy after visiting a similar court in Brisbane. Since then he has worked closely with the Police, Ministry of Justice and Judge Tony Fitzgerald. The new court brings together law enforcement and social service providers to address the causes that lead homeless people and others in high social need to commit offences. It is a collaborative effort between key government departments and social agencies.

EARLY CHILDHOOD RESEARCH

A national research project involving 13 early childhood centres under the umbrella of the Methodist Church of New Zealand is nearly complete. Alli Munt, LIFEWISE's Early Childhood Education project manager, has been working on the research since February as well as coordinating LIFEWISE's management of Samoa Moni I Lana Gagana Preschool in Mangere, South Auckland.

HOMECARE OFFERS NEW OPTION

LIFEWISE Homecare Services is now contracted by the Ministry of Health as an Individualised Funding host, which allows disabled people and their families more flexibility in managing their own support services. More details will be on our website soon. The Homecare team helps more than 1500 clients (older adults and people with disabilities) with household management, personal care, social integration and other services.

WHANAU RECONNECTION PROJECT

More than 60% of rough sleepers in Auckland are Maori, which prompted LIFEWISE to set up a whanau reconnection programme for Maori homeless in collaboration with Te Unga Waka Marae in Epsom. The project, funded by Te Puni Kokiri, was launched in July and LIFEWISE social worker Pura Jackson has worked closely with the first group of participants.

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

To read or download LIFEWISE's full annual report, visit www.lifewise.org.nz. If you'd like copies by post, please phone LIFEWISE (09) 302 5390.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS YEAR

www.lifewise.org.nz

GLEN EDEN NETWORK ON A ROLL

There's a lot of awesome activity happening in Glen Eden – and now several community groups and services are joining forces to make it even better. LIFEWISE Family Services has brought together a diverse network of local stakeholder to focus on projects with a common interest.

The initiative kicked off in August when about 60 people met to focus on the community's successes, needs and gaps. The network developed these ideas at a follow-up meeting in December, co-hosted by Vision West and LIFEWISE. The groups will keep networking at regular meetings next year.

Family Services manager Rose Harrop says LIFEWISE took on the task of coordinating the Glen Eden network after the success of the first gathering.



Project manager Sue Berman directs the first Glen Eden networking workshop.

Family Services already provides foster care support, social work support for families, Toolbox parenting and Parenting through Separation courses. Other initiatives include coordination of the Tatou West Harbour network.

“There was a clear message that people are keen to build a network to link the great work already happening here and to develop a more cohesive community,” she says.

A report by LIFEWISE community project manager Sue Berman shows Glen Eden is projected to be a high growth area and already has a shortage in affordable housing for families.

BETTER SKILLS LIFT STAFF MORALE

Helping staff improve their literacy and numeracy skills not only improves service delivery – it means happier and more confident staff, says LIFEWISE Homecare service manager Andrea McLeod.

“At LIFEWISE, we’ve found incorporating learning into our work has not only vastly reduced staff turnover, it has improved quality in service delivery to clients. “This is demonstrated by more compliments for staff and fewer complaints from clients. It’s also inspiring to see the increase in the staff members’ confidence and self-belief.”

Julie Reilly, Homecare staff development/quality leader, says before LIFEWISE started its literacy, language and numeracy initiative, most of the support staff had no formal qualifications. “About 50% do not speak English as their first language.”

More than 122 staff now have the NCEA level 2 foundation certificate and many have achieved the level 3 core competency certificate in Home and Community Support.

LIFEWISE Homecare worker Kimi Faukafa feels the training has made her more confident. “Learning has been the best challenge I have ever had. I found it difficult at times but the encouragement and support from LIFEWISE kept me going.”

The Homecare Services team made the finals of the 2010 EEO Trust Work & Life Awards. As a Skills Highway Award finalist, LIFEWISE documented how training staff had boosted workplace literacy and numeracy skills and its impact on service delivery.



Homecare Services staff Kimi Faukafa (left), Andrea McLeod and Sumi Balaraman at the EEO Trust Awards.

LIFE GIVING GIFTS

Looking for some Christmas gifts that will bring cheer to those in the community who need it most? Check out the options LIFEWISE offers through LIFE GIVING GIFTS. Whether it's a homeless person starting a new life, a foster child needing extra activities or an elderly person living alone, your gift can help to change their lives.

We have gifts to suit every budget and they're easy to order: Just post us the form below, order online (www.lifewise.org.nz) or phone LIFEWISE (09) 302 5390 or 0800 543 394.

LIFEWISE will make sure your gift goes to those who need it most, and we'll send you a gift card to pass on to someone special. These gifts not only bring joy to people at Christmas, you can order them any time. Help LIFEWISE help Kiwis in need by giving gifts that make a lasting difference.



Give cheer \$20
Give flowers to an elderly person living alone so they know someone is thinking of them.



Give activities \$50
Give out-of-school activities to help a foster child get a better start in life.



Give an outing \$70
Give 4 elderly people living alone a chance to make new friends at a special morning tea (includes care worker).



Give a new start \$100
Give household basics for a newly housed person, plus a support worker to help.

HOW IT WORKS

1 Choose a life-giving gift
From \$20 to \$100, there's something to suit every friend, colleague or family member. Simply fill in the form below:

2 Send a card
Someone special gets a personalised card from you describing the generous life-giving gift. They'll feel good and so will you.

3 Change a life
Your gift will be used to help vulnerable New Zealanders turn their lives around. Thanks for your life-giving support!

MY LIFE GIVING ORDER/DONATION FORM

3 WAYS TO ORDER/DONATE

 By mail, simply fill out the form below and pop in the freepost envelope enclosed.

 By phone, call LIFEWISE 0800 543 394 or 09 302 5390 with your credit card details.

 Online, go to www.lifewise.org.nz/wisebuys



| First Name | | | | |
|--|------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| Address | | | | |
| Post Code | | Phone | | |
| Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Rev / Other | | | | |
| Surname | | | | |
| Suburb | | City | | |
| CODE | GIFT | PRICE | QTY | TOTAL |
| LHS2 | Give cheer | \$20 | | |
| LHS1 | Give activities | \$50 | | |
| LFS1 | Give an outing | \$70 | | |
| LC1 | Give a new start | \$100 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to make LIFEWISE an additional donation | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rather than ordering gifts, I'd like to make a general donation to LIFEWISE | | | | |
| TOTAL SUM ENCLOSED | | | | |

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| Email <input type="text"/> | |
| Please add your email if you would like us to keep you informed about LIFEWISE | |
| MY PAYMENT DETAILS | |
| I prefer to pay by: <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque (enclosed) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card (please make cheques payable to LIFEWISE) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visa | <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard |
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| Name on Card <input type="text"/> | |
| Expiry Date <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> | |
| Signature <input type="text"/> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I do not wish to receive cards for my gifts | |
| LIFEWISE is a community and social services agency of the Methodist Church of NZ: CC 40248 Your details will only be used by authorised people and will be kept confidential from third parties. | |