

At LIFEWISE our work is focused on developing sustainable solutions with people who face social difficulties. This is not the road to short-term results - we believe it is the only way to positively change the future of those in need.

We must continue to look beyond quick fixes and be innovative in how we can help people rebuild their lives. The Homeless World Cup is an admirable example and Everitt Johnson, Captain of the 2008 NZ Homeless World Cup team, has an inspiring story. Read Everitt's story below to see how football has turned this young man into an inspirational leader.

Later this year we'll be opening our new central-city community centre which will change the way we deliver services to the homeless community. It's one of our Top 5 initiatives for 2010, all of which will be supporting our goal of ending homelessness in Auckland by 2022.

I wish you a peaceful Easter and enjoyable reading.

John Murray
Executive Director



K!CK!NG !T KiCKiNG iL

In 2008 a team of 8 players represented New Zealand at the Homeless World Cup in Melbourne. This was the 5th year for the tournament which was started in 2003 to help put an end to homelessness and to unite marginalised and excluded people the world over. There are over one billion homeless people in the world today.

The impact of this annual tournament is significant. Around three quarters of all players change their lives for the better after the experience; coming off drugs and alcohol, finding jobs, and housing, reuniting with families and for some going on to become players and coaches for football teams. In New Zealand the effect has been just as dramatic, as 2008 team captain Everitt Johnson's story highlights.

At the time Everitt had been struggling with drug and alcohol problems, was homeless and had been suspended from his studies at university. Through the LIFEWISE Centre, Everitt

trained with the squad and was selected for the team travelling to Melbourne. Today Everitt is back at University finishing his degree, lives in his own home and has undergone treatment for his drug and alcohol problems.

In his own words, the Melbourne 2008 Homeless World Cup "...not only offered me the opportunity to represent my country in sport, it also motivated me to get off the streets, deal with my addictions and try to get back on track in terms of what I really want to achieve in life.

"I was really proud of what we achieved in Melbourne. We may not have won a lot of games, but we won over a lot of people from all over the world. I now have friends in the United States, Finland, Poland, England and Australia. The Homeless World Cup helped me change my life. It offered me a 'once in a lifetime opportunity' to realise a dream and change my ways. Representing our country in sport still ranks as one of my greatest achievements. I've never forgotten it and never ever will. **See "How A Ball Can Change The World" overleaf.**

1

Opening a café may seem unusual for an organisation like LIFEWISE but by July of this year there will be another establishment on the Auckland café scene – one with an exciting difference. As a part of LIFEWISE's planned new community centre, the café will provide a training ground for homeless people and other marginalised people to develop skills in the food industry. In conjunction with AUT's School of Food and Hospitality, LIFEWISE will provide on-the-job training for baristas, kitchen hands, chefs and waiters with the aim of providing homeless people with the skills needed for future employment.

As part of our aim to break down the barriers between homeless people and the wider community, the café will also be open to the public, replacing the traditional 'soup kitchen,' where food is only available at certain times. In addition to the café, the new central-city community centre will be innovative in its own right. Set up so that social services agencies can hot desk at the centre, it will provide a one-stop-shop for people needing support, allowing them to get help from a range of organisations quickly and in a co-ordinated way.

2

At LIFEWISE we know through our work how difficult it can be for people to change their lives until the underlying issues are overcome. For this reason we are delighted that one of our Top 5 for 2010 is the establishment of a Special Circumstances Court which has been supported by Judge Johnson of the Chief District Court.

A LIFEWISE proposal developed in conjunction with NZ Police and Odyssey House as part of our goal to end homelessness by 2022, this proposed court is based on the concept of therapeutic jurisprudence rather than punitive remediation.

This type of court, which exists in similar jurisdictions overseas, recognises the special needs of homeless people and sets up a process whereby the underlying causes of their offending are assessed. A multi-disciplinary programme is then arranged with the offender, which can involve a combination of alcohol, drug and mental health treatment, and social assistance.

The Special Circumstances Court aims to curtail the cycle of offending homeless people can get locked into. In the long term, by presenting defendants with realistic opportunities, the Court's aim is to reduce repeat offending, minimise wasted law enforcement resources and help offenders turn their lives around.

5

Helping young New Zealanders who are homeless and troubled to create a future is important to many of us and thankfully also to the Vodafone Foundation. With their help, we have been able to appoint Alex Frank as a social worker working exclusively with young homeless people.

Alex is experienced in working with youth and joins LIFEWISE from Child Youth & Family where she worked as a care and protection social worker. In her new role, Alex will focus exclusively on homeless youth, working with them and other agencies in a specialist programme aimed at helping them rebuild their lives.

"It is critical that we intervene quickly with people who are young before they become long-term homeless" says Alex. "Many of them haven't had a great start in life, but they still have the possibility of a great future. Working with this group is enormously rewarding because we can have a dramatic effect on their lives."

This is a first for Auckland and at LIFEWISE it means that in 2010 we can do more to help the many young homeless who still have their whole life ahead of them.

2010
Our Top 5

Our goal is to develop sustainable solutions for social difficulties. Here are some of the things we'll be doing this year to help get us there.

3

Many of the issues we see at LIFEWISE can be linked back to family. Today the pressures on families are greater than ever, and this in turn has an effect on our community and the number of social problems we face.

Strong families make for strong communities which make for a healthy society. We can either have more and more social workers and health professionals coming into our communities or we can try to find new ways to make our communities strong and reduce our need for those professionals. So how do we go about achieving this in today's changing world?

We have a few ideas but by no means do we have all the answers, which is why one of our Top 5 for 2010 is the implementation of a six month family and community research project to be conducted

in West Auckland. The objective of the project is to ascertain which services families need now and in the future, and how we can develop ourselves to best meet their needs.

The project will be run by an independent researcher who will consult with all members of the community; including households, social service agencies, businesses and community leaders. Findings and recommendations from the project will provide the direction for the future of LIFEWISE's Family Services and help us to achieve our goal of building strong and healthy families.

4

Becoming terminally ill as a parent of young children is devastating and puts enormous pressure on any family. In many situations, the caregiver (usually a grandparent) struggles to provide adequate care for both the patient and children.

One of our most poignant initiatives for this year is the introduction of a Respite Care service for children with a terminally ill parent. Working in conjunction with West Auckland Hospice,

LIFEWISE's Family Services is able to provide respite for families where a parent is terminally ill. The children are cared for out of the home providing the caregiver, patient and children with a break from a very difficult and stressful situation.

LIFEWISE is currently helping 10 families with its Respite Care service, and receives on average one new referral each week. We are looking for new carers to support this initiative. If you or your family are interested in offering a family facing terminal illness a well-earned break please contact Rose Harrop on 09 818 6834 or email RoseH@lifewise.org.nz

JANETTE THIRD SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



Homecare Services has recently appointed a new case manager specialising in disability support. This is a new role at Homecare and means that specialist care for people with disabilities can now be provided.

Janette Third has previously held roles at Presbyterian Support Services and the University of Auckland where she provided disability support for students and staff attending the University. With a degree in social sciences and more than 20 years' experience in social services, she is a valuable addition to team.

For Janette, working at Homecare Services is about enabling a good quality of life for people who live with a disability. This may mean helping a young person get ready in the morning so they can attend University or helping an elderly person become involved in community activities. "The role is hugely varied," says Janet, "My youngest client is 10 months and the oldest 77 years!" As a case manager, Janet will assess her clients' individual situation and co-ordinate the support and services that best meet their needs. Janette's appointment is also already enabling Homecare to explore new developments in the services it provides to people with disabilities.

THANK YOU

Without the generous support of many organisations we'd be unable to carry out all the work that we do.

In particular we'd like to thank the staff at AUT University (through the AUT Lions' Group), Ernst & Young, Hesketh Henry, the Stamford Plaza and the Warkworth Methodist Church for their special support at Christmas.

We are also very grateful to the ASB Community Trust and to Guardian Trust for funding received from Marion Davis Trust, J M McLachlan Trust, the Strathlachlan Fund and the Sir John Logan Campbell Trust.

HOW A BALL CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

Help us send a team to the Rio 2010 Homeless World Cup. Street Football Aotearoa, the group driving the 2010 Homeless World Cup campaign, needs to raise \$40,000 to fund a team to Rio this September. This will cover costs such as travel, equipment and accommodation for a team of 8 players plus support workers. While this is a significant figure, it's small compared to the financial and social costs of maintaining people in homelessness.

If you can help please contact Steve McLuckie on 09 302 5398 or email StephenM@lifewise.org.nz



HELPING CHILDREN WITH A DYING PARENT

In 2009, Tanya was living a healthy and happy life with her partner and two children, Taylor aged 3 and Jessica aged 18 months.

After several bouts of bad headaches and dizziness she went to the doctor and was sent for further tests. At 25 years old, Tanya was diagnosed with an aggressive brain cancer and told she only had a short time to live.

Unable to cope with the situation, Tanya had no other choice than to return to her family home so that her mother Janine could care for her and the children.

At 72 years of age, Janine was suddenly faced with the impending loss of her daughter as well as the future care of her grandchildren. She welcomed the young family into her home and set about caring for Tanya and making her life as comfortable as possible. As a result of her condition Tanya is noise and light intolerant, so the house must be kept quiet and in darkness - not a healthy environment for her two energetic preschoolers. Tanya's condition demands most of Janine's energy and at times she struggles to provide Taylor and Jessica with all they need.

Financially the family struggles, living only on benefits, and there is little money left over for emergencies or treats.



HOW LIFEWISE HELPS TANYA AND HER FAMILY

LIFEWISE Family Services organises a weekly food parcel for the family and also provides Respite Care for the two children. Two days a week, Taylor and Jessica spend the day with a LIFEWISE foster caregiver from 10am to 4pm and during this time can be typical noisy, energetic kids. The adults have some breathing space and Janine can devote the day solely to Tanya knowing that the children are safe and happy in a nurturing environment.

LIFEWISE Family Services began offering Respite Care in 2010. Since the service was started in January it has had one new referral a week for families with young children and a terminally ill parent. This high level of demand is placing increasing pressure on our services and in order to continue helping families like Tanya's we ask for your help. We and our families are grateful for your support.

YES I'D LIKE TO HELP FAMILIES LIKE TANYA'S

Please find enclosed my donation of:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other

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please make cheques payable to The LIFEWISE TRUST

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

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