

THE ANGLICAN TRUST FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

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CARING

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



EPF SERVICE

COMMUNITY CONNECTOR

SWIS HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

WINTER WONDERLAND 2021

putting families first
AtwC

CEO's Message

As I reflect on the past month and as we wait with bated breath about this afternoon's announcement whether Auckland's alert level 4 restrictions get lifted?

This is a time in our history that generations will remember. But what exactly will be remembered about the Covid-19 lockdown? That their household did not have enough food? that they were cold? that this was a time of heightened anxiety for parents? Or that they missed being connected to friends? It is my hope that families remember feeling supported to reach out for help, that families felt the generosity of their neighbours, that children experienced a warm home and an environment that was safe and more importantly that people experienced kindness and aroha. We can control how we respond to each other.

Our ATWC Covid response team are moving around as essential workers, responding to what whānau tell us they need. I acknowledge the generosity of the Auckland City Mission, Kiwi Harvest, Mercury NZ, Ministry of Social Development, Ōtāhuhu Intermediate, Life Church & The Period Place, each has contributed and helped us to

respond to the varying levels of need from the community. We have also had our Anglican Parishes reach out and offer their support in an effort to ensure families in level 4 lockdown do not miss out. It's moments such as these, that I am so proud of our collective response as an organisation, as a community and as a nation.

May God's grace continue to be with us all.

Ma te Atua e manaaki,
God's blessings,



Judy Matai'a
CEO - Anglican Trust for Women and Children



COMMUNITY DAY

26 JUNE 2021 / GLEN INNES COMMUNITY CENTRE

There is no better way to start off the Winter season with a warm cuppa wearing your coesy jumper and socks and don't forget a warm feast!



For some families, this is not their reality.

To bring some light and joy to those in need we held a free family fun day event at the Glenn Innes Community Centre on the 26th of June 2021.

With all the help and support with donations, we were able to provide warm clothes which included over 150 PJs

given away, woollen socks and hats to those in need.

15 students from the Diocesan Girls School helped make this event come to life with their fun activities which included, face painting, bouncing castle, the playlist of music for us all to get into the spirit of things! And plenty of arts and crafts!

To accommodate the young ones a Tik Tok station was set up by the heart movement which put a lot of smiles on people's faces.

if you wanted to sit back and enjoy some performances there were dancing and singing from the youth performances from St Marys Church held by Reverend Joel. Tamaki Wrap helped keep this event waste-free by providing us with recycling and compost bins with a wash station. We ensured all food items were package free, so everyone could enjoy - thanks to

Pak'nSave with their donation of \$100 - sausages and bread. Cupcakes were also baked by the Diocesan Girls School. We made sure there was something healthy to eat too by handing out fruit and don't forget a little sneaky treat of some delicious cake!

We would like to thank all those who made it possible with donations and joining us on this special occasion; Police, Fire Department, Glen Innis Family Church, St Marys Church, Diocesan Girls School, Heart Movement and Tamaki Wrap.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude and so were the families that attended.

Hope to see you all at the next one!



AtwC needs your SUPPORT



ATWC needs your support to help build happy, healthy futures for our children.

To DONATE, visit www.atwc.org.nz or call 09 276 3729. From July 2021 banks will no longer be accepting cheques. Please contact our office for assistance in setting up alternate ways of banking.

Social Workers in School (SWiS) – Ōtāhuhu Holiday Programme

School holidays are often an added stress for many of the whānau/families that ATWC works with. Many parents are unable to take time off work and older children spend their time caring for younger siblings. Many whānau/families also lack access to resources that allow them to participate in activities outside of their immediate neighbourhood.

Our committed team of Social Workers in Schools identified a need for a holiday programme that not only supported whānau but provided children and young people within the Ōtāhuhu and Pakuranga area the opportunity to develop positive social peer relationships whilst also providing fun new experiences to broaden their world view. Through their work with whānau, SWiS identified children who had shown leadership potential in and outside of the classroom but had experienced barriers to realising their full potential.

We know that limited resources, feelings of disconnection and alienation from their communities can result in many children

not taking full advantage of education. While the SWiS role primarily focuses on immediate barriers to education we have learnt by providing positive opportunities that broaden children's experiences, can significantly improve children's overall wellbeing. This Holiday programme was deliberately set outside their usual environment to introduce the children to a new world view, new ideas and new experiences. Many of the activities in this programme were first-time experiences for the children.

Though designed specifically for year 5-8 students the programme had the added benefit of utilising year 12 and 13 McAuley

High School students in a leadership role. By enlisting the support of these McAuley students, SWiS provided an additional level of mentors and role models. The programme also used this same tuakana/teina relationship between the year 5 and 8 students by providing opportunities for the year 8 children to help their younger peers navigate the transition to Intermediate school.

In social work, we learn that children are impacted on many levels. This is best illustrated by the Ecological model which explains how children's needs are met not only by their immediate and extended whānau, but also by the community, and wider society. By having an awareness of

these multiple levels of impact, we can ensure the best possible outcomes for the children and families we work with.

Not only did the programme enable children to grow in confidence and enhance their self-image it also helped them feel more connected to their wider community, Tamaki Makaurau. New friendships were formed, and skills developed and enhanced. The children had the full benefit of SWiS knowledge and training in a fun-filled environment. Everyone had a great time and bonded over food, fun and laughter. The programme successfully fostered positive connections through, relationship building, shared meals and adrenaline filled physical activities while introducing the children to the wider Auckland community, landscape, and culture.

- Day One brought the children and young people together. The McAuley students with the help of SWiS broke the younger children into 4 groups and worked with them on team bonding and Whakawhānaungatanga. The McAuley students then organised lunch and everyone played games until the end of the day.
- Day Two saw the group visit Butterfly Creek followed by activities at Rocket Ropes. Again, lunches and activities with the children were organised by the McAuley Seniors.
- Day Three was a memorable trip to Kelly Tarlton's.



RIVERSIDE



The Riverside project is yet another fantastic ATWC community initiative, this time in partnership with the Auckland City Council.

The Riverside Programme is an extension of our after-school programme based at Panama Road School. We have two youth workers employed to run activities in the community, during the school term and after school until 6 pm. Not only does this programme keep tamariki entertained in a safe and fun environment it also provides hard-working parents peace of mind. Families rightly want more than just a baby-sitting service; they want to see their children thrive and take full advantage of new experiences and opportunities offered to them. The Riverside program

does this and more. It promotes engagement across the whole Riverside neighbourhood, serving to strengthen existing relationships, and build new ones. Feedback on the programme is extremely positive and we have already seen a marked improvement in the learning development and interpersonal skills of the children involved.

Families were also quick to take up the opportunity of a third holiday programme in July 2021, with 30 tamariki enrolled. The days were filled with games and activities such as orienteering, art workshops, baking and much more! Other highlights included bucket drumming and a visit to the Weta Workshop in the Sky Tower. Children were then treated to delicious kai supplied and delivered by our local Ōtāhuhu Oranga Tamariki staff. The success of the programme has seen demand from the community grow fast. We are excited to see what the future holds for this programme.



Minister of Children's visit to ATWC

On the 29th of July, we had the privilege of welcoming the Minister for Children and Corrections, the Hon Kelvin Davis to ATWC. We welcomed Minister Davis with a whakatau in our chapel led by Matua Piripi and supported by the amazing singing voices of our Family Start wahine.



The visit gave ATWC an opportunity to share with Minister Davis some of the great work staff are undertaking across communities and alongside whanau. Service Manager, Paul Jones presented on Granger Grove, a residential parenting programme and Practice Manager, Tania Beekmans shared the success of Breaking Ground, a 2-year pilot program in partnership with Ōtāhuhu Oranga Tamariki aimed at preventing tamariki entering statutory care.

Minister Davis showed a keen interest in the work of ATWC asking many questions with a specific focus on outcomes for Māori. Towards the end of his visit Sue Zimmerman from

our Board of Trustee's gifted Minister Davis a photograph from the early 1900s when Prime Minister Joseph Savage visited ATWC.

Taking advantage of opportunities to keep relevant Ministers informed of the important and ground-breaking work we do at ATWC is a vital way of not only showcasing our work but highlighting the changing needs of the whanau and communities we work in.

We look forward to his next visit and the potential to work alongside Minister Davis to improve the lives of tamariki and whanau.

YWiSS CONFERENCE

YWiSS youth workers Georgia and Jonas presented at a national conference, 'Positive Behaviour 4 Learning', held in Wellington in August.

Presenting to a room full of professionals is not an easy task for anyone. Preparing for the conference involved many late nights of research, discussion and lots of practice. Important to both Georgia and Jonas was to be themselves, to present with impact and to get their key messages across by showcasing how it is they successfully engage with secondary school students who have become disengaged in learning. They did this by highlighting what youth culture is all about and through connecting to their audience using the same skills they use mentoring young people.

Following their presentation Jonas and Georgia received much positive feedback, their audience appreciated the stories shared, new learnings gained and a better understanding of the Check and Connect mentoring program YWiSS use to re-engage students' learning potential and keep them in school.

YWiSS support 7 secondary schools across Auckland. Mentors work closely with students for up to 2 years. This allows time to establish sincere relationships, support, skill build and mentor students through their learning journey, which is vital to their future success.

Mentors meet weekly with students discussing their needs, understanding the challenges they face and setting goals to achieve certain milestones. "We encourage students to stay in school by goal setting and building motivation and confidence within themselves".

Over the years we have had many success stories which fill our hearts with joy.

Jonas shares one of his success stories:

A young male in year 9 was referred to YWiSS due to his decrease in attendance, skipping classes and not completing schoolwork. He had a negative attitude towards school but at the same time was always respectful. Before approaching this situation Jonas made sure he went into this with his intentions to first build a relationship with this student knowing that building trust is crucial. He felt that finding common ground and shared interests helped to form a bond. Fast forward two years and we are happy to

"Building relationships, building trust and keeping that rapport and open communication are the most important things for our students."

- Jonas

"Sometimes talking to teachers about problems they are facing can be a little scary and overwhelming, for students to be able to speak to someone from the outside who can meet them on their level and their way of thinking to sort out a solution or to overcome different obstacles is vital!"

- Georgia



say this student is still in school and on track to completing NCEA level 2.

Georgia also shares a beautiful story:

A female student in year 9 showing signs of disengagement, not attending school, showing up late and receiving behavioural referrals which led to her being stood down from school.

Georgia first had to break down her student's reasons to understand what was impacting on her not wanting to be at school.

They worked on building self-confidence and self-esteem then spent time exploring her interests and talents and how these can be used during school.

This student has now found something that sparks her interest and joined a kapa haka group which she now leads. Her aspiration to become the leader had a ripple effect and she now has a positive mindset about school. She has now completed NCEA level 1 and has plans to stay and complete year 13. We are so very proud of our students and can't wait to see what their future holds.



COMMUNITY Connector

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) Community Connections Service is part of a national support, safety and recovery response to Covid 19. The role of Community Connector is to support repatriates throughout the mandatory 14 days spent in a Managed Isolation Quarantine (MIQ) facility.

ATWC has one social worker in the role which is a ground-breaking type of social work allowing us to connect with returnees to NZ and support them during what can be a difficult, stressful and lonely time for many.



Beth Collins is our Community Connector and works across three Auckland based MIQ facilities. She has been the perfect staff member for this role as she returned to NZ from the UK early in the global pandemic and understand first-hand the anxiety and fear that can result.

For families returning to NZ, straight into isolation for two weeks, the experience can be quite daunting. For families coming from countries like Samoa who don't have Covid, this can be their first real experience of social distancing and being treated as if they have Covid. Beth supports returnees during this period to help them

get through this tough time which can challenge mental health and wellbeing.

Arowa Tangiora was a returnee who got caught in Australia when the bubble closed, she came back to isolation, which she wasn't expecting, after visiting whanau in Australia. Arowa allowed us to share her experience. MIQ was a real struggle for her, alone with her 3-year-old son, she really appreciated Beth's support through this time.

Beth provided toys and games for Arowa to keep her son entertained. Before leaving MIQ, Beth was able to visit Arowa (with full PPE) and her son was able to show off his dance moves, he told Beth he "loved it so much here, I don't want to leave". Thankfully his experience was made positive with the support of Beth in this role.

One of Beth's hotels support children and young people who have returned to NZ without an adult accompanying them. A part of Beth's role is to connect and support these young people during their stay. Beth has acquired items that can be used during the stay and keeps in contact via phone to ensure they are doing OK.

Beth was one of the first group of people to get vaccinated in NZ. Her role requires her to get tested for Covid every week. We appreciate the work Beth does to keep our borders safe, never complaining about the regular testing, staying positive and having a smile in her voice when she is unable to see families face to face.



Early Learning Support by EPF

The Engaging Priority Families service (EPF) is free and supports whānau with early learning education. We work with 3 to 5-year-old children who are not participating in Early Childhood Education (ECE) services.

Early learning education is a key support to enable our tamariki to develop key competencies that help them realise their potential and build a strong foundation for later learning and for life. The EPF programme – part of the Ministry of Education's Engaging Priority Families/Whānau Initiative – targets Māori, Pasifika, low socio-economic and migrant families to help them achieve strong, early learning foundations through sustained early childhood education.

Our EPF coordinators support parents to establish foundations for their child/tamariki in preparation for their transition to school. We develop Early Learning Plans (ELP's) with families to facilitate and monitor their tamariki's participation in ECE services which includes support with primary school enrolments, pre-entry visits and monitoring of their attendance during the first 12 weeks of starting school. EPF coordinators continue to support children for the first six months after enrolling into primary school.

With just over 150 whānau on our books, our ATWC EPF team cover six different areas of Auckland and are the biggest EPF service provider. An essential part of the programme is the monthly home visits with our families as it allows us to connect with them and make sure they are supported and that progress is being made. "Our Whanau workers put in a lot of hard work and dedication to ensure our programme is out there for people to see", shared Erolini Toua, an experienced educator and Practice Manager of ATWC's EPF team.



Prior to lockdown, the team went to the streets to promote the service and have recently created a Facebook (FB) Page for family engagement over lockdown to ensure that those in need have access to key information and learning supports for their tamariki while isolated at home. Each day EPF team members create an educational post on FB with ideas on how to entertain their little ones - from crafts to exercises and baking.

A story that highlights why these efforts are important is reflected in the story of a young mum, "Maria" who was standing in line at Work and Income and heard about the EPF service. Maria sent an enquiry email which transpired into a self-referral. It was there Maria soon shared with a whanau worker she currently resided in emergency housing at Greenlane Hotel.

Maria had tamariki aged 10, 8, 4 and 2 years old. Almost three had not started school yet when the term already started over a month ago. They, unfortunately, did not qualify for permanent emergency housing as she was earning over a certain wage bracket.

Within 2 weeks of support from the EPF team, and Maria's determination, the whānau moved into a 4-bedroom house in Papatoetoe. From there, we were able to assist them in getting a fridge and from ATWC donation, clothing for all her children. Maria's eldest girls were then enrolled into a local primary school, and we continue to have positive engagement with this family.

We look forward to supporting more whānau like Maria's in the upcoming year.

Order Form for Ruth Pretty Christmas Cakes and Puddings

In support of the friends of Anglican Trust for Women & Children

- Please select your order:
- 1.2kg Boxed cake - \$62
 - 750g Pudding - \$38
 - 450g Pudding - \$28

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- Please deliver as per the enclosed instructions

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Any queries, or to pay via credit card please contact Relda Hill at ATWC on 027 567 4209 or send an email to friends@atwc.org.nz

Thanks for your support!

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The Rainbow Op Shop is a hidden gem in Avondale, stocking clothing, shoes and household goods.

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 NEEDED**



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VOLUNTEERS WANTED



IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN THE TEAM!

Please contact us to find out more:

The Anglican Trust for Women and Children

Phone: 09 276 3729 • Fax: 09 276 9761

Email: info@atwc.org.nz

Or visit us online:
www.atwc.org.nz

DONATE OR RECYCLE?

A guideline for donating to ATWC, please use this guide to determine whether your items can be put to good use.



- Clothing & shoes (incl gloves, hats & scarves)
- Accessories (incl jewelry, handbags)
- Books
- Housewares (Pots, pans & dishes)
- Childrens toys & games
- Furniture
- Linen (sheets, pillows)



- Broken or malfunctioning items
- Stained or ripped clothing
- Stained or ripped furniture
- Electronic items
- Items with an odor/damp smell
- Hazardous chemicals, expired carseats/helmets

For information about how to recycle unwanted items please check out <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling/ways-reduce-waste>

ASK YOURSELF...

BEFORE DONATING...



- Inspect for rips or tears
- Fix broken buttons or zips
- Make sure clothing/linen has been washed
- Make sure kitchen items are clean
- Package breakable items carefully



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