

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES | 1 - 30 NOVEMBER 2023

KOTAHITANGA ANNUAL APPEAL

Unity | Togetherness | Collective Action

Dear Friends,

Working with people on the margins and finding ways of collaborating with others to ensure great outcomes is what Catholic Social Services does.

We have a clear model of delivery which is consistent with the 2017 Synod and the call to us all: “Go you are sent”

We are often asked what trends and challenges CSS has noticed following two and a bit years of Covid. The challenges remain the same but they are more intense and complex. Finding affordable housing is almost impossible and emergency housing is at capacity. Mental Health services are stretched to their limits and helping our clients access appropriate services is distressing. One client told us, “My son needs help now, not in 6 or 12 months’ time. Each path we go down to get him help is totally log jammed, we are desperate”.



Another emerging trend is that more and more people are feeling scared, isolated and lonely. An online survey carried out by Research First in 2023 supports this, but concerningly the findings also confirm that loneliness is highest among our Rangatahi.

Major issues facing all social agencies are both recruiting qualified staff and the securing and retention of sufficient funding to maintain a high level of service. During Covid the Government made a significant amount of funding available to enable communities to get the help they needed to survive the pandemic. This led to the establishment of some new organisations who, now that that particular funding has stopped, are looking to the same funding sources that

other charities have relied on. We now have a situation where there are more agencies, but less money.

In light of these fiscal challenges, CSS has adopted three main approaches to ensuring the growth and ongoing delivery of our services.

Our first approach is to collaborate with parishes and organisations with shared values. For example Greenstone Doors, Changemakers Resettlement Forum, Upper Hutt Benefit Educational Services Trust, St Vincent de Paul, St Joseph's parish Levin and Our Lady Of Kapiti parish.

Our second approach is to develop a strong volunteer base. We owe a debt of gratitude to these remarkable people as they are a critical part of Catholic Social Services' service delivery model. Without them we could not do what we do. We would like to introduce a few of our many volunteers to you and the work they do to ensure that our programmes and projects reach the people who need them. Follow this link to read about some of our wonderful volunteers. <https://bit.ly/45x1OFv>

Our third approach is where you come in. For CSS to grow in all areas of our work, but particularly in the area of Social Group Work, we need a significant funding boost to employ people with the right qualifications and experience. We have seen a real impact in the lives of men who have attended our men's parenting course *Game On* which needs to expand from its current format of men's parenting courses to provide ongoing support groups for men. We know from the feedback we are getting that we need to find ways to grow. To provide this extra support we need to employ a therapeutically trained staff member. We estimate that in the next financial year we will need to raise funding of **\$150,000** to support our programme expansion.

Our Women's Friendship Project, while in its formative stages is beginning to make an impact on people who feel isolated and alone. We see the need to expand this work and to support our communities offering friendship to people who are lonely. But here too we need to employ a Volunteer Coordinator. This programme will need us to raise funding of **\$80,000** to support this planned growth.

Here is how you can help

You can become a member of our sustainable Kotahitanga support programme by setting up a monthly automatic payment to suit your budget.

- You can make a gift of any amount on our Donate Page: wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz/donate,
- Arrange a gift via our bank account 02-0560-0213864-00 with your Surname & Initials, **Code** CSS23, and Phone Number.
- You can fill out the form below and post it back to us at PO Box 9408 Wellington 6141.

Your gift to the Kotahitanga Annual Appeal helps fulfil our mission to reach out and serve those on the margins. There is great need in our local communities and the suffering is real. Thank you for believing that together, in unity and through collective action, we can make a real difference right here in our local communities.

Ma te Atua koe e manaaki (May God Bless You)



Kamau Holland

Kaiarahi - Catholic Social Services

YES!
I can help

CHOOSE YOUR GIFT (circle one)

\$10 \$26 \$52 \$130
\$260 Other: _____

CHOOSE YOUR FREQUENCY (circle one)

WEEKLY FORTNIGHTLY
MONTHLY ANNUALLY ONE OFF

DONATE BY CREDIT CARD

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If you wish, you can also call our office to donate via credit card.

CARD #: _____

EXPIRY: /

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Please identify your gift with
PARTICULARS: your surname & initials
REFERENCE: Your phone number
CODE: CSS23

Title: _____

First name: _____

Last name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____