

TŪMANAKO TE ORA

Catholic Family Support Services

Keeping hope alive

Our mission and values

Catholic Family Support Services is the Social Service agency for the Diocese of Hamilton. Our services are home-based and provide the support necessary for people to make fundamental changes to their lives. The ultimate goal is to empower families and individuals to regain control of their own lives. Our commitment is to foster independence and confidence. It is not about a "hand-out" but a "hand-up". We welcome people whatever their beliefs.

Events

Whanau Gala

28th March 2020 - Family Gala at Te Are Hou Village, 100 Morrinsville Road. 8am - 2pm.



Charity Quiz Night

28th Sept 2020 - Charity Quiz Night at Hamilton Gardens. 6:00pm.

Manager's Corner

Welcome to Catholic Family Support Services first Tūmanako te Ora bi-monthly newsletter for 2020 and the beginning of a new decade. 2020 has started fast and furiously for the team working hard with whanau, attending workshops, meetings, as well as planning for our up and coming fundraising events (keep a watch out). There have been changes to the team over the last 4 months and in particular a warm welcome to Graeme Munford and Mihi Smith to our Hamilton team.

At this time of year, many of our family and whanau are focusing on children returning to school, paying for school uniforms, school fees, activities and stationary. It is a hard time for many of our families and whanau who are either struggling financially, emotionally after the Christmas and New Year break. With the ongoing support of our wonderful team here at Catholic Family Support Services, family and whanau are helped and supported through these times.

I want to share with you a message from his holiness Pope Francis "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him: "In the service of the poor, there is no room for competition. Rather, we should humbly recognise that the Spirit is the source of our actions that reveal God's closeness and his answer to our prayers. When we find ways of drawing near to the poor, we know that the primacy belongs to God, who opens our eyes and hearts to conversion. The poor do not need self-promoters, but a love that knows how to remain hidden and not think about all the good it has been able to do. At the centre must always be the Lord and the poor. Anyone desirous of serving is an instrument in God's hands, a means of manifesting his saving presence. Saint Paul recalled this when he wrote to the Christians in Corinth who competed for the more prestigious charisms: "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you'" (1 Cor 12:21). Paul makes an important point when he notes that the apparently weaker parts of the body are in fact the most necessary (cf. v. 22) and that those "we think less honourable we invest with the greater honour, and our unrepresentable parts



Services

Family Support

Social work services for families who require some support to manage the challenges they face.

Children's Team

We are active members of The Hamiltons Children's team, with a Lead Professional and members of the Children's Action Network on our team.

Financial Mentoring

Our staff can work with you to help people struggling to achieve their financial goals.

BFC + Kabukura

It is a holistic approach to building financial resilience that acknowledges financial issues are not in isolation of an individual's wider social needs.

Provision of basic resources

We can access food, clothing and other basics for people who are struggling.

Supervised Contact

We provide a safe environment where children can have contact with their parents.

are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require" (vv. 23-24). Paul offers the community a basic teaching about charisms, but also about the attitude it should have, in the light of the Gospel, towards its weaker and needier members. Far be it from Christ's disciples to nurture feelings of disdain or pity towards the poor. Instead, we are called to honour the poor and to give them precedence, out of the conviction that they are a true presence of Jesus in our midst. "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40).

The team at Catholic Family Support Service through our work is here to serve and walk alongside our whanau and families in the community and parishes by **"Keeping Hope Alive"**.

Noho ora mai

Renee Rewi

Financial mentoring

Our financial mentors help clients with a range of income and debt issues. Sometimes finances are often so scarce that one single event in their lives can tip the balance and plunge their finances into crises. The following is an example of how we have helped one such client.

Our client is quite good with their budget. They have a fixed amount come in every week, and a fixed amount goes out. The remainder they withdraw from their bank account and only spends what is available. Their car is financed, and they never miss a payment. However, when the client's car broke down, they had no spare money to pay for the repairs.

Our client was quoted a large sum to repair the vehicle which they could not afford. With the help of their financial mentor, a call was made to the finance company to apply to top up their finance and pay for the repairs. The client had around two-thirds of the original amount remaining on their finance, and the finance company declined their application. After the call to the finance company, it's owner made an offer to have the vehicle repaired himself. As a result, the repairs only cost 25% of the original quote. A further success was that our financial mentor arranged to have the repairs paid for by our client assistance fund, which also paid for a WOF.

Our client now has a vehicle with a new WOF and registration. They are extremely grateful for the help they have received from the agency and their financial mentor, and no longer has the stress and anxiety that accompanies such financial crises.

Whanau Gala - Saturday 28th March



We are deep in the planning stages of the Whanau Gala. The intention of the gala is to bring together the community in which we live and work, and we are excited about catching up with familiar faces and meeting new friends.

The gala will be old-style A&P show in vibe. There will be a bouncy castle, side-shows, live music, barista coffee and ice-cream. We are hoping that we can encourage school groups to perform on our stage.

During the gala we will be selling hangi. It is essential to pre-order the hangi. \$15 per hangi. Hangi will include chicken, beef, pork, potato, kumara, pumpkin, cabbage, stuffing & steamed pud, call our office to order.

There is space available for market stalls where anyone can register with us and set up a trestle and sell their crafts or promote their organisation. Members of our team will be selling second-hand clothing, in particular a surplus of knitted baby clothes which have been so generously donated by our Club 1000 members.

We would appreciate volunteers for our gala. If you wish to get involved in any way or want to speak to our team about a stall, please call (07) 856 3760 or email events@cfss.org.nz.

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (The invisible disorder) - by Mihi Smith

I was privileged to attend a presentation facilitated by Rose Hawkins from Oranga Tamariki on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder commonly known as FASD. FASD is a preventable disorder that affects a child's brain development in the womb. A mother that drinks during pregnancy, whether it be one or several alcoholic drinks is literally playing Russian roulette with their tamariki/children's lives resulting in devastating and long-term consequences.



It is known as the 'invisible disorder', due to social judgements and because of this, an unwillingness by the haapu/pregnant woman to connect with services that can offer support.

There is a very simple statement that can be made to Mother's that are pregnant -

"If you drink while pregnant, your child will be drinking the same amount in the womb"

There have been minimal campaigns for FASD and the dangers and consequences of drinking during pregnancy. There is no explanation to date that explains why one drink of alcohol or several can have the same effect on the foetus resulting in a child born with FASD.

An example of a 'visible campaign', are the drink and drug driving advertisements; smoking advertising on cigarette packets showing the consequences; domestic violence advertisements showing the effects this is having on whanau/family and mental health campaigns encouraging people to reach out for help.

For children with FASD, a model has been created that supports their living and learning in a world that unless educated, perceives FASD children judgementally and unkindly. Many parents, caregivers and whanau of FASD children, have shared, that they feel isolated, unsupported and judged by the community.

More awareness and changes are needed to support whanau and families. In the **5S Model** it refers to a **Structure** that FASD tamariki need and thrive on. **S**upport and **S**upervision are essential for the families, keeping it **S**imple and building on the **S**trengths of FASD tamariki, not their weaknesses.

He aroha whakato...He aroha putamai...If kindness is sewn..then kindness you shall receive.

Meet Mihi

Ko Whenuaroa tooku waka

Ko Huruiki tooku maunga

Ko Whangaruru tooku awa

Ko Ngatiwai tooku iwi

Ko Hikihiki tooku haapu

Ko Ngaiotonga tooku marae

Ko Mihi Smith ahau

Connections are so important to Maori, hence why we give our pepeha, this is our way of standing and saying do you know where I'm from? Can we make a connection?

My practice is based on my principles and I use my name not only as an acronym for explaining those principles, but as a solid base from where I can practice from and be an effective Social worker and Primary teacher.

M stands for 'Mauri' where all connections start.from, the essence, the beginnings.

I for Ihi..the first breath..lived life experiences..

H is for Haa..the exhale..the consequences, and lastly,

I in Inoi..the hope and faith that all we do works towards a positive and collaborative outcome

So looking forward to working with whaanau

Mauri Ora



Charity Quiz Night

We had so much fun at our quiz last year we have decided to plan another for 2020. This year the event will be held at the Exhibition Hall and Central Court at Hamilton Gardens on Friday the 25th of September. People are still talking about the fantastic food that was supplied by Cater Plus Catering Services, so we are thrilled that they have generously offered to cater our event again this year. The change of location allows us to licence the event and accept a greater number of teams.

We are taking team registrations already, so if you are interested in participating in the quiz this year, please make contact with our office. We are building a large list of raffle prizes again, as well as auctioning off exciting experiences; a professional quiz master running the quiz and it will be themed 'MAD HATTER' so the evening should be exciting.

If you can help us with our quiz in any way, please make contact with Janinne 027 603 5033.

Meet Graeme

Graeme joined Catholic Family Support Services part time to work on a number of projects in support of the social work team.

Graeme has recently moved to Hamilton with his wife Wendy and 2 children (Wendy is the new Dean at Waikato Anglican Cathedral). Graeme previously managed Anglican and Catholic Family Services (ACROSS) in Palmerston North where he worked for 14 years.

With a background in social work and counselling, and a registered social worker he has become an integral part of our team.

Graeme says he is "looking forward to the opportunity to add to the excellent work Catholic Family Support Services is doing in the community".



Christmas Hampers

Last Christmas we launched the ***Whanau Christmas Project***. This project began with the hope that we could alleviate the enormous financial demand at a time of year when stress is at its peak. Beginning at our charity quiz night, and carrying on until Christmas, we had so many generous donations that we were able to donate Christmas food hampers to 20 families experiencing financial hardship. The hampers were filled with small luxuries that would usually be missed out on. Delivery of the baskets was such an exciting time for our staff because supporting the wellbeing of our whanau at Christmas time brought us such joy and Christmas spirit. Our goal is to double our fundraising for 2020 and support 40 families at Christmas time with Christmas presents as well as food hampers.

Vacancies - Hamilton

Social Worker or Counsellor

Are you ready for a change? Would you like to work for an agency that is values based and committed to principles of social justice and where you can make a real difference.

Then think about joining our dynamic team at Catholic Family Support Services who are looking for a full time SOCIAL WORKER or COUNSELLOR either Registered (or eligible to be registered) with proven experience.

The role includes working directly with whanau/families referred from the community and government agencies. You will need Full NZ Drivers License (Clean - Class 1)

If you would like to be part of CFSS exceptional team, want to share your knowledge and experience and help to continue to grow our team, then we would love to hear from you.

For a job description and an application form, please contact:

Graeme or Renee at Catholic Family Support Services, ph. [07 8563760](tel:078563760) or graeme@cfss.org.nz

Supervised Contact

Catholic Family Support are looking for people to help supervise family visits at their site at Te Ara Hou village. The role is a casual, part time one and would suit someone who has great communication skills and experience of working with children and their parents/ caregivers - if you are interested in more information about this position contact:

Graeme at CFSS ph. [07 8563760](tel:078563760) or graeme@cfss.org.nz

Social Media



Many of you may have seen our Facebook page, but now we also have an instagram page, so please follow our pages to keep up to date with our events and other hopefully interesting posts.



Contact

p: (07) 856-3760

e: admin@cfss.org.nz

Te Ara Hou Village

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PO Box 24010

