

TŪMANAKO TE ORA

Catholic Family Support Services



**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

The Whanau Gala was cancelled due to Covid-19 lockdown. We plan to hold the Whanau Gala on the 20 March 2021.

Charity Quiz Night

We are excited to announce that the 2021 quiz will be held on Friday 17 September 2021 at Hamilton Gardens pavilion.

Keeping hope alive

Manager's Corner

Kia ora e hoa mā,

Many people may ask what does Catholic Family Support Services do in the community; how can our parishes and people access our services.

Catholic Family Support Service comes under the auspices of the Hamilton Diocese. In keeping with the teaching of Jesus Christ, Catholic Family Support Services seeks to assist whanau and families that are vulnerable, and who are struggling in any way; and to be of service to them. The team also use Catholic Family Support Services values, Whakapapa, Whanautanga, Aroha, Manaakitanga, Kotahitanga and Integrity when assisting whanau and families through their journey.

Catholic Family Support Services operates out of Te Ara Hou Village, Hamilton and provide Financial Mentoring, Intensive Family Support and Supervised Contact Services. We have total of nine staff members (part-time and full-time) who are either qualified, registered Social Workers; or trained Financial Mentors and whanau support workers who are deeply committed to providing excellent family social services in our community. If you need our services, please contact us as our team is always willing to help you.

Since 2016 we have operated out of Tauranga providing a slightly different family support service, however, the Social Worker position is currently vacant, and we have been trying to fill the role for some time. We are hopeful this service will be up and running in the near future.

Catholic Family Support Services is also a member of the Hamilton Combined Christian Foodbank and have access to food parcels for people in need. In July I was elected as Chairperson.

We also have a number of very kind supporters who drop off items of clothing and blankets which we distribute free of charge to people who need them. Club 1000 members



Services

Family Support

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

Financial Mentoring

Our staff can work with you to help you achieve your 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 in need.

Supervised Contact

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

Programmes

Our skilled staff run grief programmes, money management programmes and cooking classes.

continue to donate monthly and we are truly blessed and thankful. If you wish to become a member of Club 1000 please call our office for information (07) 856 3760.

Catholic Family Support Services continues to be truly blessed and thankful to have the support of the Greenlea Foundation. This Foundation has given us a grant each year which is tagged to support people in need and covers items such as healthcare, housing, utilities, personal care, school expenses, vehicle, travel, children's programme and emergency expenses.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS HAMPER PLEDGE

The Christmas Season is nearly upon us again. The Church celebrates the Birth of Jesus Christ and it is a festival full of joy for many people. Unfortunately, this joyful season doesn't come easy for many of our whanau and families. There is an increase of family violence, and financial burden and sadly many children are caught up in these situations.

Last year, we asked for help and donations to sponsor a Christmas Hamper for children and their families/whanau going through hard and tough times. Due to your generosity we were able to provide 20 whanau with Christmas Hampers. Six (6) hampers worth \$100 each and fourteen (14) hampers worth \$50 each. Families and whanau were so thankful our kindness and generosity.

2020 has presented many challenges for our families and whanau due to COVID-19. Christmas 2020 will be another trying and difficult time for many more people. To help bring some small joy and relief to these families and whanau we work with, I ask for your support to pledge today by sponsoring a Family Christmas Hamper for families, and whanau in need.

Pledge:

Small Families Christmas Hamper worth \$50

Large Families Christmas Hamper worth \$100

Catholic Family Support Services Account number: 02-0342-0008002-00. Please put your name and phone number so we may contact you.

If you wish to know more information, please contact the office on 07 856 3760 or email admin@cfss.org.nz

I thank you for your support and generosity.

Ngā manaakitanga (with best wishes)

Renee Rewi

Whanau Gala - 20 March 2021

We have begun planning the Whanau Gala for 2021. We have faith that next year there will be no reason to cancel.

The intention of our gala is to bring together the community in which we live and work. We are very 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 to collaborate with parishes and schools in the diocese and will make contact with you soon. However, if you are wanting to get involved please make contact with Janinne on 027 603 5033, or janinnet@cfss.org.nz.

There will be space available for market stalls where anyone can register with us and set up a trestle to sell their crafts.



Charity Quiz Night - 17 September 2021

After sadly cancelling the CFSS Charity Quiz Night for 2020, we are happy to announce that we set and booked the Hamilton Gardens Pavilion for the 17 of September 2021. More information and details to come in the New Year on how you can book your team and table.



Financial mentoring Success Stories

Some clients come to our service only when they have hit rock bottom. We see many clients who borrow money from a lenders such as a payday lenders to pay off a debt somewhere else. Unfortunately, that debt might coincide with high-interest finance they have on a vehicle that they cannot afford to pay. This type of robbing Peter to pay Paul ends up with our client spiralling into further debt with no ability to recover. There are often other unforeseen circumstances surrounding these instances such as job loss or a death in the family.

Recently, we helped one such client recently, who ended up with many high-interest, high repayment debts that she could not afford to pay. After working with her and solving her immediate issue of not having any food in the pantry, we took a look at her budget and quickly worked out that her expenses exceeded her income quite significantly.



We are very lucky to have available remedies such as interest-free loans that we can support our clients into applying for, but lesser-known are remedies such as Debt Repayment Orders (DRO) and No Asset Procedure (NAP). The two latter remedies are minor insolvencies, mini bankruptcies if you like. A DRO will allow you to repay a % of the total debt you owe over 3-5 years; the NAP wipes the debts completely but has harsher penalties such as your name being published in the Mercantile Gazette. Both a DRO and a NAP prohibit you from incurring any further debt until the process is complete among other penalties.

Our client opted for the lesser DRO because she was able to find a small amount of money in her budget to repay a percentage of the debt. A solution that many companies are happier with rather than wiping the debt completely. Additionally, we applied for interest-free micro-finance to clear the high-interest finance she has on her car, and spreading out these repayments over 3 years means her repayments are free of interest and decrease by around \$70 per week.

These two remedies alone have resulted in a small surplus in her income, allowing her to afford to pay for expenses such as vehicle WOF's, Registration and insurance, luxuries beneficiaries cannot often afford.

Additionally, we will continue to work with the client, constantly supporting her with financial mentoring and helping her build her confidence with her finances so that in the future she cannot be held back by previous decisions.

- Janinne Thomas

Meet the team

Sina Asomua-Bishop

Talofa Lava, Malo le Soifua!

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

Ko Ngāti Hāmoa rāua ko Ngāti Pākehā ōku iwi

Ko Va'a Asomua rāua ko Hazel Sanders ōku mātua

Nō Lotofaga me Whakatū ahau

E noho ana au ki Pirongia

Ko Danny Bishop tāku hoa tāne

Nō Kāwhia ia

Ko Tawera tāku tamaiti

Ko Sina Asomua-Bishop tōku ingoa

Tenā koutou katoa



I have recently joined the team here as a Family/Whānau Support Worker and have a background working in health and community social services agencies, pastoral care and community development initiatives.

I love our Philosophy of "Keeping Hope Alive" and believe hope can bring much encouragement as many of us encounter life challenges and struggles. I am looking forward to working with the Catholic Family Support Services team and alongside whānau to support them in moving towards their goals and aspirations.

Matariki celebrations at Catholic Family Support Services



This year, in honour of Matariki, our team members, and some luckier members of our Board of Trustees celebrated by taking a long lunch to enjoy a hangi together; to share stories, to learn and acknowledge the celebration that plays such an important role in Māori culture. Every member of our team provided something for the hangi, chicken, pork, beef, and vegetables; and Renee (the boss) sacrificed precious sleep to get up very early and put the hangi down. It was such a nice time to spend together sharing gritudes and talking about community.

Our hangi was a highly anticipated event from the beginning to the end of the day, the focus was on working together and sharing gritudes as we collaborated in the creation of a delicious feast.

Matariki - Matariki rere ki pae mahara



Matariki is the Māori name for a cluster of stars. There are nine stars in the Greek tradition of the constellation: seven children and their parents. In the Māori tradition, there are also nine stars. Matariki is a shortened version of Ngā mata o te ariki o Tāwhirimātea, or 'the eyes of the god Tāwhirimātea', but it is sometimes incorrectly translated as 'little eyes'.

For Māori ancestors, astronomy was interwoven into all facets of life. Experts would observe the sky, making notes on star and planet movements, the relationship of those stars and planets to the moon and sun, while noting what was happening around them on land and in the oceans, lakes and rivers. All

these celestial objects were given Māori names and their stories were woven into the history of the people.

One Matariki story is about when Tāwhirimātea god of the wind, discovered that his parents, Ranginui the sky father and Papatūānuku the earth mother had been separated. He tore out his eyes in anger and threw them into the sky - the stars are his eyes.

Tainui history tells that a sign was seen in the Matariki constellation at the birth of King Koroki. The Waikato people call this sign, Te Waka o Tainui. During Matariki the waka cast a net across the earth, gathering all those who have passed in the previous year. Our ancestors would weep and lament as Matariki carried their dead into the afterlife.

Matariki rises in mid-winter and for many Māori, it is the start of a new year. In Aotearoa New Zealand it comes into view low on the north-eastern horizon. It appears in the tail of the Milky Way in the last days of May or in early June, just before dawn. According to the Maramataka (the Māori lunar calendar), the reappearance of Matariki, brings the old lunar year to a close and marks the beginning of the new year.

In the past, tohunga (priests or experts) looked to Matariki to predict the success of the next harvest. The brighter and clearer the stars seemed, the warmer the growing season would be, ensuring a good harvest.

Traditionally, Matariki was a time to remember those who had died in the last year. But it was also a happy event - crops had been harvested and seafood and birds had been collected. With plenty of food in the storehouses, Matariki was a time for celebration.



- Janinne Thomas

New Board of Trustees

On the 29th of July we held our Annual General Meeting. With the Bishop, we said goodbye and thank-you to members retiring from the Board of Trustees, and welcomed the new members. From left to right:

Bishop Steve Lowe, John Coulam (Chairman), Greg Schmidt (Treasurer), Niall Baker, Anne Wilkinson, Peter Clarke, Rosemary Northcott, Daniel Shore (retiring Chairman), and Daryn Goodall.



Bishop's retreat

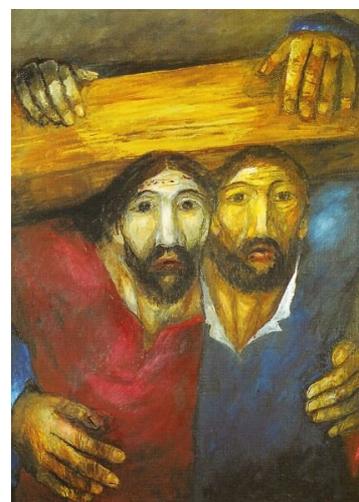
On 17 July 2020 the staff of Catholic Family Support Services took a well earned day off and met with Bishop Steve at his residence in Matangi for our annual retreat.

As always Steve was the host with the most and lead the group. It was an intensive but relaxing day interspersed with morning tea and lunch. The day was interspersed with quiet time.

Steve used art and passages from the bible to draw comparisons between passages in the bible and how we interact with our clients and how the work we do with our clients draws that comparison.

I have attended a number of retreats organised by Steve and have always found them to be both enlightening and worthwhile.

- Dianne Le Bas



Whanau/Family Support

Catholic Family Social Services is currently taking referrals for those looking for family/ whanau support (family/ whanau can also self-refer.) This is a home based service that offers intensive wraparound support including;

- Help with parenting advice and information
- Accessing other services
- Advocating on behalf of family/ whanauSupport with managing the behaviour and care of children
- Support for extended family/ whanau caring for children
- Access to counselling services

Financial Mentoring

Do you need support with your budget? Are you finding it hard to make ends meet?

Our Financial Mentors can help you to deal with debt, support you in speaking to other agencies and organisations about your debt.

CFSS CAN HELP YOU!!!

Financial Mentoring Team at Catholic Family Support Services is here to HELP YOU. We will work with you to remove some of your financial pressures.

Call us on 07 856 3760 or text us on 021 755 753 or email us at admin@cfss.org.nz or message us.

Family Support

Intensive, home-based social work services are provided by a registered social worker to assist families and individuals who are struggling with personal, family or social issues.

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

CFSS CAN HELP YOU!!!

Call us on 07 856 3760 or email any referrals to referrals@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

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