

# *You Wrapped up this Winter...*

*A Report Back from Winter Appeal 2021*



Te Ope Whakaora

# *...with our Wraparound Gifts*

*Over winter we have provided (01/06/21–16/08/21):*

**2987**

*instances of  
financial mentoring*

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*accommodation to  
**638** families*

**4624**

*counselling sessions*

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**15,953**

*instances of Social Work  
including advocacy,  
social support and  
Positive Lifestyle  
Programme sessions*



# ***‘You are not a drop in the ocean, you are the ocean in a drop’ –Rumi***

**While sometimes donating to people in need may feel like a drop in the ocean of poverty, you are actually changing lives. The help that you give does not only last the length of winter, it has long-term implications that can cause a ripple effect in somebody’s life.**

By giving somebody a Positive Lifestyle Programme session, you allow them to become more confident taking care of their whānau. This in turn can end the cycle of poverty, by allowing our youth to grow up in safe and happy homes.

By giving somebody a budgeting session, you allow them to set up attainable financial goals to get them out of debt. This allows future security, as well as the confidence to continue to thrive on their own.

By giving somebody a practical help parcel, you allow vulnerable Kiwi to focus on more important things, like savings, debt clearing and planning for the future. A gift of some cleaning products or warm blankets may not seem like much, but it allows freedom, independence and self-sufficiency.

Winter can often exacerbate existing problems. We often see a huge increase in new clients seeking our services over the colder season. Without your support, we would not be able to keep up with demands.

***So thank you for helping us pave the way for permanent change in someone’s life.***



# A Place to Call Home

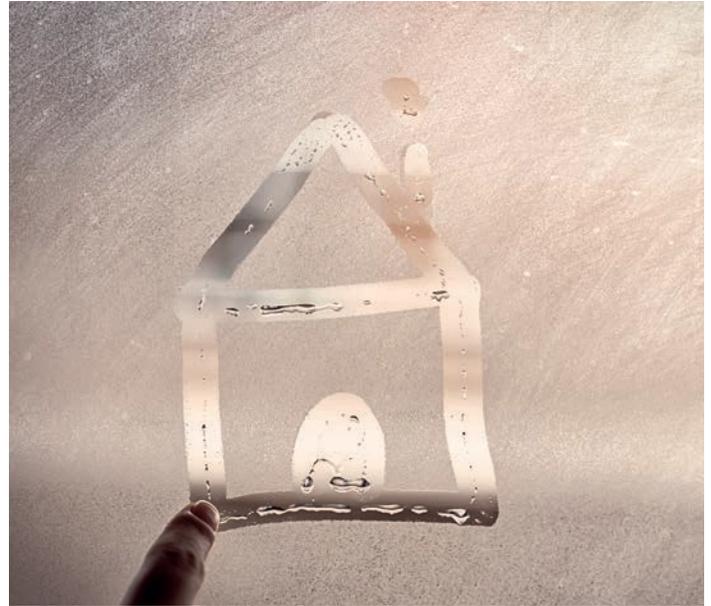
Winter can often exacerbate pre-existing problems, especially when concerning substandard housing. Robert and Sophie moved to Christchurch to be near family, but they struggled to find a place to call home.

‘We applied for hundreds of houses. We’ve lived in a tent, a garage and now resorted to the house that we’re in. It’s not good. There are rotten weatherboards that are crumbling off the house and gaps in the windows. Sophie is sick and I’ve always got a cold. I reached out to the Sallies because I had been helped by them in the past.’

Christchurch community worker Jeff Jones explains that, ‘there are houses in New Zealand that just should not be on the market at all. Their power bills become astronomical—once the temperature inside Robert and Sophie’s house was the same as outside—just 9 degrees.’

‘With Sophie’s health issues, and their desire to be together, they fell through the cracks. Mostly we’ve been advocating for them by helping set up appointments with WINZ and other services,’ explains a frustrated Jeff.

The housing crisis is a well-documented issue within New Zealand, but over this winter Jeff has seen advocacy demands increase. ‘There is an additional pressure developing here in Christchurch as property owners are selling to get out of the rental market. Of course, that means less supply and our clients are forced to take housing at a lower and lower standard.



Some of those properties have yet to come into compliance on insulation requirements, and some have complied but are still damp and drafty due to the age of the house.’

‘The response from the government is that people who cannot get into private rentals should apply for social housing, and that happens, but they are put on a list and if they are already in a place, even a substandard one, they will be low on the list. So, families are stuck, and they come to us with big power bills that are in arrears.’

‘I’m trying to do the right thing and just get a nice healthy house,’ says Robert. ‘I sit down with Jeff every week. Just having someone to talk to who cares makes things a bit easier.’

There are no simple solutions for people like Robert and Sophie, but your donations to our Winter Appeal enable us to provide advocacy, support and hope for those struggling in the current housing crisis to find a place to call home.

# *While winter has drawn to a close, need continues throughout the year.*



In the *State of Our Communities Report\** published by the Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit (SPPU), housing is the main issue of concern highlighted. It reports that, 'The cost of rental properties is rising faster than the levels of income. In addition, the quality of housing locals are facing is concerning, with high levels of damp, mould and overcrowding.'

Throughout the report's findings in Tokoroa, Carterton and Invercargill, there are clear signs that the housing crisis can effect everyone. In Tokoroa, 58% of those surveyed highlighted homelessness as the town's biggest issue. The state of homelessness and social housing also ranked highly elsewhere, with 28% in Carterton and 30% in Invercargill. One man surveyed stated, 'The place I am renting, it's not warm during winter ... but I have no choice.'

But it's not just housing issues that bring people to our door. Territorial Director of Community Ministries Jono Bell says that donations are desperately needed to supply the increasing demand for our wraparound services.

'With the continued state of the Covid virus we are seeing increased anxiety, stress and financial hardship. The Salvation Army continues to see increased demand for two main services.

'Positive Lifestyle Programme is an educational programme that gives people strategies and skills to respond to their mental wellbeing, looking at topics such as grief, loneliness and problem-solving.

'Financial Mentoring services help people with large levels of debt, especially those that are contract workers and do not have the security of work in the uncertainty of lockdowns. Financial Mentoring has seen a massive increase in debt advocacy and education, creating safety nets for people.'

\* You can read the report at [salvationarmy.org.nz/OurCommunities2021](https://salvationarmy.org.nz/OurCommunities2021)

*With your help, our mission is to empower people to move from crisis to sustainable independence, **to realise hopes and goals for their future.***

Although the days are slowly getting warmer, winter's icy grasp still has hold over those who live in poverty: in houses that are no warmer inside than outside; in budgets that are stretched to accommodate the price of fresh fruit and vegetables; in the isolation of the cold that damages people's mental health.

Your support of our appeals and work helps us to continue serving the community.



*Thank you for all you've already done; and thank you in advance for all that you may be willing to still do.*



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[salvationarmy.org.nz/together-newsletter](https://salvationarmy.org.nz/together-newsletter)