



Te Ope Whakaora



*You opened the
door to hope...*

...hope not just for Christmas, but for a changed life.

Through your kindness:



Over 55,000 individuals helped during the Christmas period in our Community Ministries centres nationwide.



14,579 individuals and families celebrated the joy and hope of Christmas with **food hampers and appropriate small gifts.**



538 new clients started working on budgeting towards life stability **with our financial mentoring teams.**



Because of your donations this Christmas, an additional nine financial mentors were able to be hired, providing an **extra 17,500 hours of financial mentoring to clients in need.**

The Christmas Gifts of Hope were thanks to you!

It's said that 'Christmas makes people have bigger hearts', and this proved to be true for Christmas 2020. It was reflected in the responses from every caring New Zealander who donated, and especially in regard to friends like you who already have such big hearts. Thank you.

Thank you for opening doors that were closed by hopelessness.

For the joy you spread when there was none in sight.

For the hope you gave—hope that sprang from knowing that 'someone cares about me, even though I'm a stranger'.

Thank you for also opening the door to something beyond Christmas—the opportunity to change a downward pattern of life.

For reaching out to many more people in need than usual this past Christmas... ordinary, everyday individuals and families impacted by loss through Covid-19.

Your gifts of hope will last far beyond the Christmas season. They will give those who need to change their life the power to do so throughout the new year.

538 people in need have grasped this opportunity and taken their first step with budgeting advice.



One of the families
you have helped.



Personal thanks and appreciation from the people you'll never meet...

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‘When I sat down and looked through the wonderful parcels you brought, I had a very emotional few minutes of gratitude, and feeling so blessed that there are kind and loving people who care for those who struggle like us. I’m so grateful to all who made our Christmas a time to celebrate. We wish you so much love, health and happiness—thank you from the bottom of our hearts.’

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‘Thank you for everything you have done. Just chatting helps a lot. The help you’ve offered me since we met has been amazing. I wish you a wonderful Christmas and start to 2021. Please don’t ever stop doing the work you do.’

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‘Thank you so much—the presents and food are very much appreciated and loved. We don’t know how to show our gratitude and thanks.’

*Ki te kotahi te kākaho ka whati,
ki te kāpuia, e kore e whati.*

*If there is but one toetoe stem it will
break, but if they are together in a
bundle they will never break.*

KING TĀWHIAO



With the joy of Christmas still in our hearts, our heads must focus on the 2021 year that lies ahead of us.

Education: Getting our children back to school on the right foot is a concern for those families who can't afford the basic essentials.

Covid-19: Infections may be under control, thanks to the action taken to curb the spread of the virus. But the human, social and economic damage of the virus is still very much with us.

Financial hardship: This can be the biggest hurdle for those in need of help. Getting more clients into our financial mentoring services is crucial to teach resilience and necessary life skills.

Food security: Food parcel distribution is still 30% higher than pre-Covid levels. Life depends on food, and Covid-19 has highlighted the very real poverty that already existed and must be addressed.

More people are unemployed: 24% increase in those receiving work-related benefits as at the 8 January 2021, a figure which is expected to rise. Anxiety and uncertainty have been overwhelming, and still are, in many aspects of life.

Homelessness: The dire shortage of all housing, and the poor quality of some existing housing are major concerns. There are currently 22,409 households on the public housing waiting list, which grew by over 2000 in one month, with a median wait time of 152 days.

Addiction and mental health: The need for our addiction services has increased over the Covid-19 period, and will continue to increase as its effects are felt.

Mental health has also been impacted by the virus, and we expect the need for help and support to continue into the new year.

Your support means our wraparound services and solutions can change lives.



Te Ope Whakaora

Offering a Hand up

salvationarmy.org.nz/backtoschoolappeal

Our mission is to empower people to move from crisis to sustainable independence, so they can realise hopes and goals for their future. With your help, they can achieve this.

Ensuring children get a good education is a significant key to unlocking the restraints of poverty.

Our 'Back to School' campaign is starting now.

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