



# 2023 Annual Report

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*“Let us do without hesitation  
whatever lies in our hands.”*

– Frédéric Ozanam



## Society of St Vincent de Paul in New Zealand

Published March 2024

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The Society of St Vincent de Paul is an international Catholic lay organization inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Vincentians work to promote human dignity and Justice through personal contact with those in need. Society of St Vincent de Paul New Zealand is a registered charity: CC34707

# Contents

Report from the National President .....	4
Report from the Executive Officer .....	6
Spiritual Reflection – Father Alan Roberts.....	8
Tribute to Terry Jordan .....	9
Farewell to Cardinal Williams, our long-time Patron.....	10
Mission and Vision .....	11
Our Core Values.....	12
Strategic focus areas.....	13
Strategic plan initiatives in action .....	14
Society activities 2023 – a snapshot .....	16
How we help .....	18
Organisational Chart .....	19
What we did.....	20
National Youth Report.....	22
Twinning Report.....	24
Health and Safety Report .....	26
Tonga celebrates 50-year anniversary.....	28
Advertising Campaign .....	30
Feedback from the regions .....	32
Summary Financial Statements .....	60

From our National President

## “Be not afraid”

Another year has gone by, and in the chaos that seems to define the world today, Vincentians continue to find new ways for bringing help to those in need, letting them know that they are loved and respected by Jesus Christ. Our Society is founded on the two Christian commands, “Love God and Love your Neighbour”. Two commands that go hand-in-hand and the Good Samaritan story tells us how.

Frédéric Ozanam and his friends were way ahead of their times when they tended to the needs of the poor in Paris, visiting and offering practical assistance by way of gifts of firewood. They were the Good Samaritans of their time and today we also are tasked to find new ways to do the same in our world today.

Like many organisations, religious and otherwise, our Society has been slow to adjust to a changing world where respect must be earned, not assumed; where behaviour is constantly under scrutiny, and regulations govern our every action. The very heart of what we do is questioned and scrutinised in a challenging way.

Our Society is built on the strong foundations of the Good Samaritan story and those foundations are as strong as ever. However, the way in which we practise them can and must change.

At our last AGM in Dunedin, we took the first steps to “Refound” and re-energise St Vincent de Paul in New Zealand. With outside assistance we identified seven areas that needed to change to make us more relevant and more adaptable to the world environment in which we now live. And along with that was the Refounding programme to make our Conferences places of spiritual growth, shown in loving concern for each other and our “neighbour”. Putting the “love” back into our practical assistance. “Without the love, the practical assistance is just welfare”.

### Implementation Committee

At the AGM a committee was set up to investigate ways of dealing with the seven areas of concern and to report to the November meeting of the National Council. Unfortunately, we got off to a bad

start, not helped by the necessary overseas travel of two members – the National President to help elect a new International President and the Youth Representative to attend the International Young Vincentian Congress. On their return it was decided to select the two most important areas so that a proper report could be made to the November meeting of the National Council. This was achieved and recommendations on the Society’s Governance and Finances were accepted at the November meeting. Work is now being done on putting them into practice.

Work on the other five areas will continue over the next twelve months but we must acknowledge it will be a long process.

**Refounding** is a process of returning to the original founding of our Society and being so inspired by the works and writings of the Founder that we react by seeking radically new ways of doing the same in today’s world.

Unfortunately, the work here has slowed due to the sudden and unexpected illness of our National President in late August. The Vice President who was responsible for the programme has had to take on extra work, meaning it went onto the back burner. It is intended to restart it early in the next year.

The **Vinnies Tāmaki Makaurau Trust** has been set up in Auckland and has been operating successfully for the last months. They are to be congratulated on their hard work and achievements for people in need. I am sure they will make great progress. They are an inspiration to us all.

Work is continuing preparing the guidelines for putting the Safeguarding Policy into practice. This is an important step, and it will affect all Vincentians,



both members and volunteers. There is no way we can avoid taking this topic seriously.

I wish to thank Anne-Marie, our National Executive Officer, and all the staff of National Office. Their constant support and cheerful answers to all our questions is never-ending; as someone once said, “so much is owed by so many to so few”. Providing more resources for them is one of the seven areas of need.

I must also thank all those people and businesses, who donate so much food, goods, services and time to our work in local communities around New Zealand. Without them, there would be more need and more sadness.

Lastly, and certainly not least, I wish to thank all our members, associate members and loyal volunteers for their commitment to our mission. In so many ways you make a difference in the lives of so many.

National Council and Board members and the office staff have been very supportive and understanding as the last few months have been

somewhat busier than I expected. Thank you all for your loyalty and generosity. My special thanks to all the Kapi Mana Area members, and especially to my wife and our family. My apologies for any seeming neglectfulness!

As I complete this report, the news of the death of Terry, our National President, has just come through. A more fitting tribute will be published, but at this stage I would like to acknowledge his dedication and commitment to our Society and its mission. Our deepest sympathy to Julie and his family.

*Every blessing to you all,*



**Gerry Stevens**  
National President



**“The dignity of a people – even the poorest, most wretched, enslaved people – comes from God’s closeness. It is God’s love and closeness that confers dignity, and always raises up a people, offering it a horizon of hope.”**

.....  
– Pope Francis

From our Executive Officer

## Extending our influence

If 2022 was a challenging year for New Zealand, 2023 was perhaps even more so. The year began with a succession of natural disasters which devastated regions, communities and families. The Auckland floods and Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle struck without warning last January and February – communities in Northland, the Waikato, Gisborne, Hawke’s Bay and the Wairarapa were left reeling in their wake. The scale of the damage was huge, there was no immediate fix.

Communities in these areas have had to support one another over the long term, not just materially but also through deeper connections of kindness, generosity and friendship. Very encouragingly, our National Cyclone Appeal raised \$328,972 which was paid out to affected communities and made a significant difference.

Add to these challenges, a sharp rise in the cost of living and an economy still recovering from Covid-19. The combination of these factors has put immense pressures on families and communities throughout New Zealand, especially the most vulnerable. Your view of the world depends on where you stand, and for those struggling to make ends meet, the unemployed and those living on a benefit, those suffering a mental illness, the sick and the lonely, the view can be very bleak.

In many of his addresses Pope Francis has returned to the image of the Church as a “field hospital” that takes in the weakest people, the infirm. The sick and the vulnerable hold a privileged role in the Church and in the priestly heart of all the faithful, he said. The Church belongs with these people and it’s where the Society of St Vincent de Paul belongs. The Pope’s words could be those of our founder Frédéric Ozanam, who said: “The poor person is a unique person of God’s fashioning with an inalienable right to respect.”

As you will see from this Annual Report, Vinnies across the country have taken these words to heart and acted on them. Our Conferences in the regions which were severely impacted by the floods and cyclones were at the forefront of immediate relief efforts and have been there to support communities over the long haul. Their efforts have been tireless and deeply appreciated by families and communities which bore the brunt of these disasters.

Conferences throughout the country have busy programmes of activity, supporting struggling families in numerous ways, visiting people and offering companionship, running our Shops which provide household goods at very affordable prices, finding new ways to relieve the pressure on people. Young Vinnies bring their energy and idealism to the Vinnies enterprise, working alongside our Conferences in many areas. To borrow a phrase from our Spiritual Director, Fr Alan Roberts, what this report reveals is an ‘ocean of service’.

In the last year the Society has made significant steps forward in ‘refounding’, immersing ourselves in the original vision of the Society. Our mission, vision and values remain the same, but our strategic priorities change in response to the needs in our communities. Here are some of our current strategic initiatives: working with like-minded community organisations to extend our influence, training

“Our mission, vision and values remain the same, but our strategic priorities change in response to the needs in our communities.”





Photo below: Hawke's Bay Civil Defence



Cyclone recovery takes years. Vinnies are there for the long haul.

members to advocate for those in need, providing community mental health support, providing housing assistance and employment support, advocating for environmental care and sustainable living, offering on-the-ground support for refugees, migrants, and prisoners after their release.

The ongoing extension of our work into these areas is a sign of the vitality of the Society. There is always an 'ocean of need' alongside the 'ocean of service' so we must be open to new ways of working to reach those whose situations are often desperate.

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My thanks to all who give of their time and talents to the Society so generously. May God bless you all.

.....

Finally I would like to extend my sympathies to the family of Terry Jordan, our National President. It was with great sadness that we learned first of Terry's illness and then his passing in December. Terry brought great energy and commitment to the role of National President and has long been a dedicated Vincentian. May he rest in peace.

**Anne-Marie McCarten**  
Executive Officer





From our Spiritual Director

## An ocean of service

2024 will be my third year as the National Spiritual Director of the Society. I can assure you that in that time I have learned much. As well, I am very grateful for the affirmation received, relating to the reflections written for the monthly newsletter. I have always tried to write from the point of what is happening in my thinking at the time.

**What then have I learned?** Well, the first thing for me would be the realisation that, if we want to do anything well, there are no short-cuts in life. I think I became aware of this when I was able to observe your Acting President, Gerry Stevens, hoping to start something in the Horowhenua that would be more than just a Shop. I saw the dream being laid out, the frustrations, the closed doors, the months of waiting, and then it all came together.

2023 has allowed me to widen my horizons somewhat as far the Society is concerned. The Area Conference in Wellington a few weeks ago gave me the opportunity to observe the frustrations and the longings in the hearts of those present. As well, I have had the chance to watch the Conference at work in a rural Taranaki parish. Putting all this together, all I can say is: persevere with what you are doing. There may be better ways of serving, but until we discover that, just keep on keeping on. You may think what you do is only a drop in the ocean, but, as someone famous used to say: 'the ocean would be less rich if you take out only a drop'. I think that the ocean of service in the name of Christ exists because people like yourselves have put in drops of good.

I've worked in parishes now for over 50 years. I thought the Society wouldn't last too long in year one, but today it is just as strong, just as relentless in its efforts to enrich the ocean – service to the poor for the glory of God.

A call came through to my mobile the other day. It was "one of those calls!" I suspect there'd be many of those throughout the country in the course of a year, and this one I referred to the V de P in the caller's area. What we can't do is give up or be selective in whom we serve. Poverty comes in many forms and relieving poverty is giving hope – just as Christ gave hope to the lepers, the sinners, the insecure and the oppressed.

May 2024 bear fruit once again in all that you do.

Thank you.

**Fr Alan Roberts**  
Spiritual Director



“I think that the ocean of service in the name of Christ exists because people like yourselves have put in drops of good.”



## Vincentian Spirituality comes first

Fr Alan Roberts & Gerry Stevens

Terry became involved with the Society of St Vincent de Paul at the request of his twin brother, Mark, who on his death bed, more or less commanded Terry to join the Society.

Our first involvement with Terry and his family was in the 1980s in the parish of St Patrick's, Wainuiomata. In those years he and his wife Julie were raising their family, and they joined a host of couples that made up a vibrant community of faith. He was a family man and a working man and his faith was obvious. This made him a suitable candidate for the role of President.

He took on the call ready to explore new ways, ready to update and ensure the Society was adapting to the needs of the country in which we live. He spoke of the need to ensure those involved are growing spiritually, because that ultimately is the aim of the Society. He knew that without prayer as the foundation of our work, all would be futile.

Even before he became National President, Terry's passion for the Society was evident in the long conversations about what the Society was meant to be and where it was going in today's world. He fully understood what Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and his companions were trying to achieve when they founded the Society. For him, "Faith" and "Good Works" were not two separate virtues – they went hand-in-hand. Good Works without faith is merely welfare, but welfare with faith is real Christian love as demonstrated by Jesus Christ. Terry would say,

"When you look the poor in the face, you see the face of Jesus."

When he became National President, he embarked on a programme of updating and revitalising the Society. He knew that change was needed and a statement of "but we have always done it that way" was guaranteed to spur him on even more.

However, at the same time, he understood that the Vincentian spirituality was most important. In a Report to the Board he wrote:

"I want to emphasise that although the commercial aspects of the strategic review may be more prominent, the order of importance is, first the spiritual review and then the commercial review."

He said, "we must remember that the point which distinguishes us from other welfare agencies is our emphasis on Christ and our focus on growing our personal holiness through this work."

Rest in peace, Terry. Not only do you deserve it, but you have also really earned it.



Terry Jordan

## Farewell to a passionate supporter

The Society of St Vincent de Paul in New Zealand lost a long-time supporter and friend with the passing of Cardinal Thomas Williams. Cardinal Williams died on 22 December, 2023, aged 93.

The Cardinal was Patron of Honour for the Society in New Zealand for over 30 years. When he finally relinquished the position in 2017, he wrote to the Society:

“It has been a privilege to be Patron of Honour for over three decades since in common with generations of New Zealand Catholics, as well as many outside the Catholic Faith, I hold the Society in great esteem.”



*Cardinal Thomas Williams*

In March 2023 he again wrote to the Society after reading the 2022 Annual Report, which reported on the Society’s activities through a demanding Covid year.

“Congratulations on its splendid presentation. Reading it has deepened my admiration and gratitude for the Society’s work in what must have been a difficult and distressing year. May God richly bless all St Vincent de Paul members throughout the year ahead.”

Cardinal Williams always had a strong interest in the wellbeing of his fellow men and women and was a passionate advocate for the local churches he served. He himself was deeply involved in the Catholic Youth Movement (CYM) in his youth which had a strong commitment to social action in support of the disadvantaged in society. As with St Vincent de Paul Society, the focus of the Catholic Youth Movement was on doing rather than just expressing good intentions.

‘It [CYM] gave me my vocation,’ he said in a 2020 interview. ‘I wouldn’t have become a priest if had I not had the background in the formation in the Catholic Youth Movement.’

Cardinal Williams was made an archbishop on 20 December 1979, the 20th anniversary of his priestly ordination and was archbishop of Wellington until he retired in 2005. He was made a cardinal by Pope John Paul II on 2 February, 1983. He was appointed a member of the Order of New Zealand, New Zealand’s highest civilian honour, in the 2000 Queen’s Birthday Honours list. Only 20 living people can hold this honour at any one time.

The Society is extremely grateful for the long-term support and unfailing advocacy of Cardinal Williams. We were blessed to have him as Patron for such a long time. Our deepest sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.



*Cardinal Williams - with Pope John Paul II at Plenary meeting of Cardinals 1994*





## Our Mission

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is the largest Catholic lay organisation in the Church. Our members take seriously the commands of the Gospel to serve others and work for justice. We work in a caring and practical manner to promote human dignity and justice through personal contact with those in need.

## Our Vision

We strive to provide person-to-person practical and effective help to those in need – sharing their burdens and joys, sowing seeds of hope and promoting self-sufficiency.



# OUR CORE VALUES

## Generosity

Giving of one's self and one's time.

## Integrity

Living by the Society's values, vision and mission.

## Compassion

Opening our hearts to all in need with understanding and without judgement.

## Empathy

Establishing relationships with those in need by actively listening to them and striving to understand how they are feeling.

## Responsiveness

Responding to the needs of the poor, the lonely, the marginalised and the dispossessed.

## Advocacy

Helping those in need to get the support they need and secure their rightful entitlements to welfare. Working alongside like-minded organisations to address the causes of poverty and injustice.

## Respect for people

Serving all in need regardless of creed, ethnicity, or social background.

## Respect for the environment

Taking action, and supporting others to take action, to reduce our carbon footprint and live sustainably.

## Innovation

Embracing new ways of doing things so we can strengthen the Society and respond more effectively to the disadvantaged in our communities.

## Courage

Finding the courage to be close to those who are vulnerable and lonely, and act on their behalf.





# Strategic Focus Areas

2020-2024

1

## OUR MEMBERS

To ensure a spiritually-focused and fully-engaged Society committed to its vision, mission and values.

2

## OUR FUTURE

To create and invigorate a young, innovative, unified and sustainable Society.

3

## OUR WORK

To serve Christ in the poor, the displaced, the lonely, the marginalised and the isolated.

To recognise our responsibility to care for the earth and the poor of the earth in the way we live.



## *Frédéric Ozanam*

**The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded at the University of Paris in 1833 by a group of young students led by Frédéric Ozanam, a brilliant young law student.**

190 years later the Society has spread throughout the world and today has 1.4 million members. The Society began in New Zealand in 1867, with the first conference being established in Christchurch. The founding group chose St Vincent de Paul as their patron, a 17th century priest who devoted his life to serving the poor and needy.

# STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES

## *in Action!*

### 1 Work with like-minded local/ community organisations

- Food support – night shelters, pensioners, ‘brown paper bag’ appeal (Hamilton)
- Community centre meals (Hamilton)
- “Least we forget” – food parcels and prepared lunches for elderly in Huntly, Ngāruawāhia and Hamilton (Hamilton)
- Petrol assistance (Kapi-Mana)
- Friday weekly drop-in programme: activities and refreshments, popular with older people (Kapi-Mana)
- Work with Salvation Army to process food requests (Whakatāne, Thermal Lands)
- Links with other organisations such as Ministry of Social Development, Citizen’s Advice Bureau, Community House Motueka, Fifeshire Foundation (Nelson)
- Work with police, hospitals, child and youth (Western Bay of Plenty)
- Medical and travel aid to Southern Health (Southland).
- Community get-togethers – morning teas, BBQs (Wellington)
- School breakfasts (Western Bay of Plenty)

### 2 Train members to advocate and support those in need

- Training occurs in all Areas of SVDP in New Zealand. Volunteers and Shop staff are trained to assist people and where appropriate direct them to Vinnies’ services/ external services to address their immediate needs.

### 3 Community mental health support

- Vincentian Centre – mother and baby’s session (Kapi-Mana)
- Cyclone relief, incorporating home visits, financial aid, emotional support, and food parcels (Napier)
- Wellbeing and mental health focus – for the homeless and those suffering from social exclusion (Auckland East/Vinnies Hub)
- Children – therapy, bereavement counselling, camp fees, uniforms (Wellington)

### 4 Homelessness and housing support

- Furniture – full-house packs (Hamilton)
- Cyclone support – food, bedding, clothing (Hastings)
- Home-cooked meals (Taupo, Thermal Lands)
- Wellbeing focus – homelessness, social exclusion, mental wellbeing (Auckland East/ Vinnies Hub)
- House moving/house maintenance, medication support (Western Bay of Plenty)
- Rent, transport, electricity, food, school costs (Nelson)
- Cyclone funding Wairoa – washing machines and fridges (Thermal Lands)
- Petrol vouchers for hospital visits (Hokitika)
- Support of the elderly – cards, movies (West Coast, Hamilton)

“I would like to embrace the whole world in a network of charity.”

– Frédéric Ozanam



## 5 Employment support

- Employment Pathways programme/ DINE Academy, and two schools (Auckland East/Vinnies Hub)

## 6 Work with like-minded Catholic organisations

- School support – uniforms, fees, laptops (Auckland North)
- Catholic schools/parishes and assessment of their needs (Southland)
- Bereavement baskets/Mass cards (Taranaki)
- Support given for school fees and camps (Hokitika)
- Stoke/Nelson – food bank cooperative (Nelson)

## 7 Refugee and migrant support

- Support for refugees: WINZ, IRD appointments (Wellington)
- Wellbeing focus: homelessness, social exclusion, mental wellbeing (Auckland East/Vinnies Hub)

## 8 Prisoner support and rehabilitation

- Prisoner rehabilitation after release (Auckland North)
- Prisoner support (Taranaki, Hamilton)
- Work with police, hospitals, child and youth (Western Bay of Plenty)

## 9 Network with other businesses to reduce inequality

- Healthy homes assessment: housing needs personalised – work with other agencies such as Kainga Ora and power companies (Hamilton)
- Our Power – cheaper power (Hamilton)
- Gardening/lawnmowing/firewood/power bills (Taranaki)
- Dentures/dental treatment (Timaru)
- Doctors’ bills/subscriptions (Taranaki)
- Chemist bills, petrol vouchers (West Coast)

## 10 Budgeting services

- Budgeting services outsourced to Jubilee Trust: reciprocal agreement whereby we assist their clients by electricity, firewood, and other financial support (Southland)

## 11 Environmental advocacy and sustainable living

- Young Vinnies operating throughout New Zealand

## 12 Recycling second-hand goods and reducing waste

- The operation of SVDP shops across New Zealand (all Areas)

# The Society in New Zealand 2023 – A Snapshot



**22**  
AREA  
COUNCILS

**106**  
CONFERENCES

**58** SHOPS

**68** FULL-TIME  
PAID EMPLOYEES

**1,129** MEMBERS

**56** PART-TIME  
PAID EMPLOYEES

**5,786** VOLUNTEERS

**76,903** FOOD PARCELS  
DISPATCHED

**4,233** HOUSEHOLDS  
FURNISHED

**1,079** BUDGETING/  
COUNSELLING SESSIONS

HOME VISITATIONS ➔ **13,058**

REST HOME/  
HOSPITAL VISITS ➔ **6,585**

NATIONAL APPEAL FOR CYCLONE  
AND FLOOD VICTIMS RAISED ➔ **\$328,972**







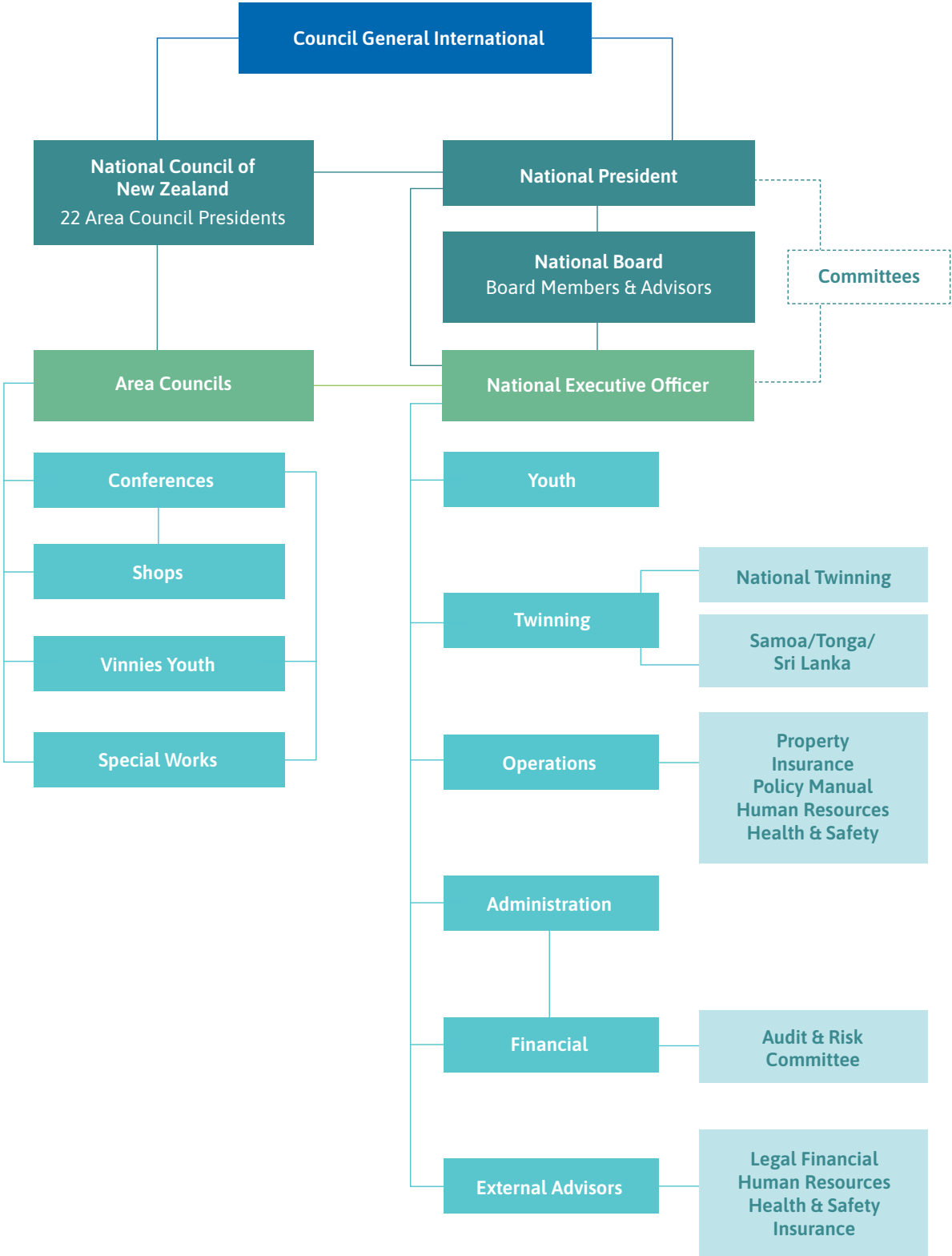




**HOW WE HELP**

- Advocating for people in vulnerable situations ♥
- Running Vinnies Shops ♥
- Providing Emergency Relief ♥
- Organising Foodbanks ♥
- Visiting people in home, hospital and in prison ♥
- Assisting people in need ♥
- Supporting migrants ♥
- Supporting families under stress ♥
- Community outreach ♥
- Mobilising Vinnies Youth to care for others

# Organisational Chart



some of  
**WHAT**  
we did

Provided transport for hospital and medical visits

Provided community and home delivery meals

Re-housed **100** families



Household chores for the elderly

National Appeal raised **\$328,972** to support cyclone and flood victims

Helped prisoners re-integrate back into the community

Provided special Christmas grocery boxes for families



Provided funds to assist people access dental services

Counselling and budgeting services for **1,000+** people

Raised funds to support Twinning Projects in Samoa, Tonga and Sri Lanka



Free clothing for RSE workers

Provided petrol vouchers for hospital visits

Converted a property into a laundry for the homeless

Met regularly in Conferences to support the spiritual growth of members



Ran a food appeal for donations at the local supermarket

Made **6,500** rest home and hospital visits

Organised vanloads of furniture and household goods for families in need



Took communion to the sick and elderly

Helped people in need meet electricity costs

Christmas meals for those who wanted to share the day with others








Provided financial support for school uniforms

Distributed more than **76,000** food parcels

Provided bedding, bikes and kitchen materials for refugees



Organised loads of firewood



Scholarships for students who would not otherwise be able to afford tertiary study

Furnished more than **4,000** homes

**54** visits to prisoners



Provided family counselling sessions

Helped people access mental health services

Provided foster care support



Took elderly people shopping



Made **13,058** home visitations

Provided low-cost clothing and household goods through a network of 58 Shops across New Zealand

Ran children's holiday programmes



Provided low-cost school lunches

Provided funds to support the Society's work on the ground in Ukraine

Provided funds to help with doctor and optician expenses



Supported Women's Refuges



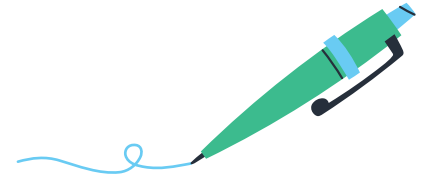
Made numerous hearing aid grants to elderly people

Provided food for night shelters

Advocated on behalf of clients to ensure access to benefit entitlements

From our National Youth Advisor

# Instilling Vincentian values



Our Vinnies Youth Programme is focused on instilling Vincentian values, especially befriending others in primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions. Challenges last year included adapting programmes to fit local need, with a shift toward mental wellbeing initiatives and support for school communities and twinning partners. I would like to acknowledge our coordinators and Area Councils in supporting these efforts.

## Some Highlights...

### CYCLONE GABRIELLE RESPONSE

A group of young Vinnies aged 17-20 actively engaged in providing aid after Cyclone Gabrielle hit Hawke's Bay. They contributed to various relief efforts, including visiting affected areas, distributing essentials and assisting with clean-up. Mental health referrals were made to address trauma, with ongoing support planned for affected communities.

### VINNIES AUCKLAND

There were different phases of flood response efforts, including providing essential supplies, making community connections, advocacy, and partnering with organisations. The focus extended to assisting isolated families, as well as collaborating with helplines and food hubs. Vinnies Youth continues to be an active and integral part of the Auckland operation.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Vinnies effectively utilise social media, with a substantial following. The platform serves as a valuable resource for inquiries about obtaining food parcels, making donations, and locating shops, with over 5000 visits to posts per month.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN NEW PLYMOUTH

Sacred Heart Girls' College students in New Plymouth stepped up to provide community meals when Vinnies faced a shortage of helpers, demonstrating the impact of youth involvement in community service.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NATIONAL AGM

The National AGM in Dunedin included professional development sessions and received reports of impactful projects. Co-ordinators across regions showcased achievements, such as environmental initiatives, community clean-ups and support for food banks.







## END-OF-YEAR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Co-ordinators met to enhance their social media skills in a one-day workshop. New branding specific to Vinnies Youth was introduced. This, along with our new website, will extend the reach of our youth programme.

*New website!*



[www.vinniesyouth.org.nz](http://www.vinniesyouth.org.nz)

## INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Efforts were made to support Tonga through the Twinning programme. As National Director, I actively participate in the International Youth WhatsApp group to share ideas and collaborate. I also meet via Teams with an international group focusing on building and retaining membership.

## WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

I, along with the Youth Coordinator for Kapi-Mana, attended the international St Vincent de Paul meeting in Portugal, which highlighted global efforts in aiding homelessness and providing affordable housing. The meeting emphasised the importance of appointing St Vincent de Paul youth coordinators and fostering positive experiences for members.



“Overall, the work of Vinnies Youth in 2023 reflects a year of adaptive and impactful initiatives and community engagement. The significant role played by youth and young adults in Vinnies’ mission was very evident.”

Paola Minehan – National Youth Director

# Twinning Report

2023 demonstrated the continuing generosity of Area Councils, Conferences and individual donors. This ongoing commitment allows us to assist in the areas of poverty, disasters, economic hardship, war and education. We thank you.



Twinning support was NZ\$61,380. There was the same as the 2022 contribution. From 2024 we are becoming the sole donor country for Sri Lanka. Where we can commit to one extra Conference in Sri Lanka would be welcomed. We have been twinning with Sri Lanka since 1961.

Project funding was not at the same level as the 2022 year. Projects were either completed early in 2023, funds being sent during 2022, or we are waiting on permits to start projects, or they are still in the planning stage. 2024 will be a more active year. Also, the climate was kinder during 2023 with no major cyclones or any natural disasters recorded. NZ\$44,562 of project funding assisted with Twinning Projects in Tonga.



Total Twinning assistance provided in 2023

**\$105,942**

## SRI LANKA

New Zealand continues to be the main contributor to Twinning for Sri Lanka NZ\$61,380. Your contributions are well utilised in all areas of need throughout the many Conferences you support. When funds are remitted, we forward detail on the New Zealand Council and Conferences' contribution which is then forwarded to your Sri Lankan Twin Council and Conferences.

During the year the project in Aligambay, a village in the east of the country, was completed. The project was the development of a new freshwater well and storage which provides drinking water to a village of 2000 and agriculture.

The communication process between twinned Councils and their Conferences in Sri Lanka and their New Zealand donors is being finalised. Reports will be provided from early 2024.



## FUNDRAISING IN 2023

During 2023 we have not had to do any fundraising. I anticipate there will be twinning project activity during 2024 that will need our support.



## TONGA

The agricultural projects that were established after the volcanic eruption and the resulting tsunami are producing crops which are distributed to the needy especially on the main island of Tongatapu.

As reported in 2022, all our funding and material aid that was requested by the National President and National Council was well utilised and met many needs.

In September 2023 the Society celebrated 50 years in Tonga. We were represented by National Executive Officer Anne-Marie, as I and Vice President Gerry Stevens were unable to attend.

The handbook, approved for Oceania, was translated into Tongan and printed. New Zealand assisted with this cost.

A website for Tonga has been developed with assistance from our National Office. There is progress also in the establishment of a Vinnies Youth structure which has also been developed from here through Paola Minehan.

The shop project is progressing after delays caused by the tsunami. The building will have to meet building standards similar to New Zealand's. We have already purchased 2 x 40' containers which form the bulk of the building.

Two containers of school and educational needs were shipped during the year. The majority of the goods were for Apifou'ou College.

I met with President Sakopo in Auckland in the first week in January to plan for 2024 and get updates where needed.

## SAMOA

We have been discussing possible projects during the year but they have not been finalised. Discussion will continue to ensure we get the best option that will assist in the most beneficial way to suit their needs. We are holding funds that will be available to support a project. I hope to meet the twinning coordinator, Peter, early in 2024.

## ASSIST A STUDENT

This was launched in March and to date NZ\$10,000 has been contributed. This is a very worthwhile and proven assistance programme that can only but grow. Its contribution to individual students helps them in many ways. The first disbursement will be in February 2024.

## MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PROJECT

The launch of a project for Medical Equipment required for both Tonga and Samoa has been positive. I have had a call from a Vincentian in Auckland who has acquired a large amount of quality equipment, another has several wheelchairs. Others have offered funding to support the shipping goods. I will follow up in January and advise of the delivery point. It is hoped to have a container going to both Samoa and Tonga.

## OCEANIA

The Oceania region continues to be supported by two donor countries, Australia and New Zealand. The ITVP for Oceania, Frank Brassil, and the Zone Coordinators, Keith Norton and Lily Lober, have put much effort into ensuring that twinned countries within the region have in place the structures and procedures that assist in meeting international policy. The Oceania meeting in April 2023 was very successful and covered many areas relating to the Society and its governance.

## INTERNATIONAL

During 2023 there has been good progress within Solidarity and Special Projects. This section of the international structure embraces Twinning, Commission for International Aid and Development (C.I.A.D), Fund for International Solidarity (F.I.S).

A new CGI International President General Juan Manuel Buego Gómez was elected. He is in the process of appointing his structure members. Twinning, C.I.A.D and FIS will continue to report to International Vice President Ralph Middlecamp.

Strategy 25, which was launched in April 2022, still focuses on the member countries, twinned and un-twinned, who are in extreme poverty. Extreme poverty is measured by those earning USD\$2.15 per day. Most of the project countries are in sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and northern South America. Poverty ranges between 55% and 84% of the population. In Oceania 7% of the population, 3.1m people, live in extreme poverty.

*Many thanks for the generosity of all our donors.*

**Arthur Schultze**  
NZ Twinning



# Health & Safety Report

Health and safety issues are of the highest importance in all the work we do. It is not something which we can focus on every now and again. It needs to be on the agenda of every Conference meeting, in our planning and in the day-to-day running of our Centres and Shops. Our responsibility is to ensure a safe environment for our members, our staff and for every customer who visits one of the 58 Vinnies Shops across New Zealand.

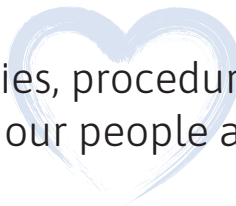
It is pleasing to report that health and safety is a high priority in all the work we do. Area Presidents show in their quarterly reports a high level of awareness of health and safety issues.

A proactive approach to health and safety is essential as there are always potential hazards for our people and our clients. The many, diverse activities which our members undertake in helping others – whether it be visiting people at home, delivering firewood, driving people to hospital, delivering food parcels – all come with an element of risk to health and safety. Alertness to potential hazards is a state of mind which we are working hard to cultivate throughout the organisation.

As an organisation we have comprehensive health and safety policies and procedures in place which provide the foundation. These are reviewed on a regular basis at all levels of the organisation. But we still have to breath life into these policies, ensure that new staff receive thorough training, and make sure that throughout the organisation we are doing everything we can to mitigate risk.

In New Zealand there is a much higher awareness of health and safety issues in recent years. The St Vincent de Paul Society has made a lot of progress in taking a more systematic approach to health and safety, and achieving a safety-conscious culture.

“Health and safety policies, procedures and activities are all an expression of care for our people and the people we serve.”







“What we can’t do is give up or be selective in whom we serve. Poverty comes in many forms and relieving poverty is giving hope – just as Christ gave hope to the lepers, the sinners, the insecure and the oppressed.”

– Fr Alan Roberts,  
National Spiritual Director

# Tongan Vincentians celebrate 50 years of service



The Society of St Vincent de Paul in Tonga celebrated 50 years of active presence in the island kingdom in September 2023.

The Society was established in 1973 and has flourished since then. Today there are 19 active Conferences in parishes spread throughout Tonga – Tongatapu, Eua, Ha’apai, Vava’u and the two Niuas. A National Council is in place, overseeing the Society in Tonga.

The Society has four Young Vinnies Conferences and more than 50 Young Vinnies – a sure sign that the spirit of the Society is alive and active among the next generation of Tongans. A National Youth Committee has been established to foster the growing interest in Young Vinnies groups in parishes.

The Society in Tonga is a member of the Council General International and Oceania SSVP Territory. In 2021 Tonga SVdP President, Tevita Moengangongo Lolohea, universally known as Sakopo, was nominated to the International Executive Committee (IEC).

The Society in New Zealand is a Twinning Partner with Tonga and works closely with the Society there. This strong partnership has been especially evident in responding to the natural disasters which regularly strike Tonga – cyclones, tsunamis and even a volcanic eruption in 2022. In times of greatest need, New Zealand Vincentians have sent containers of essential supplies and Vincentians in Tonga have worked hard to help people cope with the immediate crisis and rebuild their lives. The twinning arrangement, sustained over decades, is a great example of the Society working together internationally to support people in desperate need.

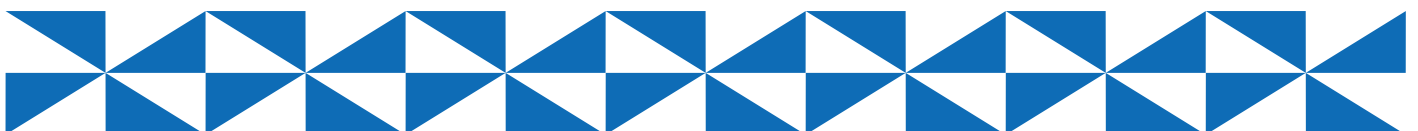
An exciting development is underway with the establishment of a St Vincent de Paul Charity Shop in Ma’ufanga Parish on Vuna Road, Tongatapu. The new Shop will be a great boost for the local Tongan community, providing essential household goods at a low price – clothing, kitchenware, utensils, and bedding. There will also be a gift shop selling Catholic medals, rosaries, prayer books, and Mass supplies.

Over 50 years, the Society in Tonga, built on the faith and dedication of its members, has gone from strength to strength.

Anne-Marie McCarten, Executive Officer of the New Zealand Society, attended the anniversary celebrations in Tonga and paid tribute to “50 years of living out the vision of the Society, 50 years of generosity, service and compassion. The best traditions of the Society are vibrantly alive here.”

“The Society in New Zealand has been delighted to be your Twinning Partner over many years,” she said. “It has been wonderful to see the Society flourish here since it began in 1973. The vision that inspired the Founder Frédéric Ozanam in Paris in 1833 has taken root in Tonga and is now firmly embedded in your community.”

“50 years of living out the vision of the Society, 50 years of generosity, service and compassion. The best traditions of the Society are vibrantly alive here.”









## Advertising Campaign 2023

# Responding with urgency

The main thrust of the advertising in 2023 was seeking support for those many communities and families that were devastated by the floods and cyclones that struck New Zealand early in the year.

Soon after Cyclone Gabrielle hit, advertising was quickly developed which focused on supporting those affected over the long term, when government intervention begins to fade and media attention goes elsewhere. 'We're there for the long term' was the key idea, reflecting the great strength of the Society in its long-term dedication to those in need in their local communities.

The National Appeal to help the Vinnies provide support to flood and cyclone victims was very successful. \$328,972 was raised and distributed to those areas where the need was greatest. Local St Vincent de Paul Conferences provided comprehensive feedback reporting on how the money was spent and showing how grateful local communities were for Vinnies' ongoing support.

The advertisements ran predominantly in Catholic media and were supported with regular editorial in Catholic print and online media. A regular advertising campaign and stories showing the kind of work that Vinnies do is essential in ensuring the Society continues to have a strong profile in the Catholic community.

Later in the year a new campaign was developed which appealed for funds to support Vinnies work generally. Some advertisements included an invitation for people to join the Society.

A long-standing advertisement inviting people to consider making a bequest to the Society also ran from time to time.



## WE'RE THERE FOR

When the TV cameras pack up and leave, local Vinnies will still be there on the ground, helping people get back on their feet. Help us to support those struggling in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle.

**You can make a donation to our bank account:**

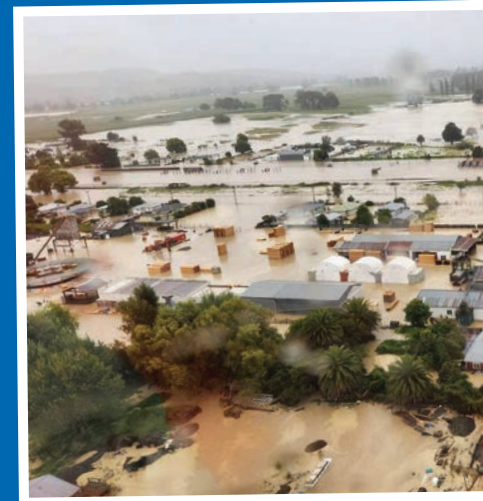
Society of St Vincent De Paul  
BNZ 02-0528-0208598-027

Please use your name and email address as a reference and we will send you a receipt.

## WE'RE THERE THE LONG HAUL

**A cyclone hits suddenly with force. But recovery takes a long time.**

When the TV cameras pack up and leave, local Vinnies will still be there on the ground, helping people get back on their feet. Help us to support those struggling in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle.



**You can make a donation to our bank account:**

Society of St Vincent De Paul  
BNZ 02-0528-0208598-027

Please use your name and email address as a reference and we will send you a receipt.

[www.svdpc.org.nz](http://www.svdpc.org.nz)

# THE LONG HAUL



Photo: Hawkes Bay Civil Defence



[www.svdp.org.nz](http://www.svdp.org.nz)

# FOR JL



on devastating  
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and leave, local Vinnies  
helping people get back  
those struggling in the



Photo: Hawkes Bay Civil Defence

Vincent De Paul  
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.org.nz

# JOIN THE VINNIES



Young and old, town and country. Vinnies harness the generosity of Aotearoa NZ – whānau, churches, community groups, schools. Get involved and help those who are going through tough times.



St Patrick's School fundraiser – 800 cans donated to the Vinnies Annual Food Drive in Christchurch.



**Join up with your local Vinnies or make a donation:**

**Society of St Vincent de Paul  
BNZ 02-0528-0208598-027**

Please use your name and email address as a reference and we will send you a receipt.

[www.svdp.org.nz](http://www.svdp.org.nz)

 Society of St Vincent de Paul New Zealand

# JOIN THE VINNIES



Young and old, town and country. Vinnies harness the generosity of Aotearoa NZ – whānau, churches, community groups, schools. Get involved and help those who are going through tough times.

**You can join up with your local Vinnies Conference or make a donation to:**

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02-0528-0208598-027**

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St Patrick's School fundraiser – 800 cans donated to the Vinnies Annual Food Drive in Christchurch.

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 Society of St Vincent de Paul New Zealand



# FEEDBACK FROM THE REGIONS



## Northland Area Council

We have 13 active Conference members, who are involved in visiting, volunteering at the food bank, and making and delivering meals on wheels. Twenty more associate members help with our work in different areas, collecting and delivering food parcels and in several cases providing budget advice. Two students take food parcels on the bus to Dargaville.

More than 25 Young Vinnies meet at school once a week at lunchtime. They organise activities that they get the school involved in raising money for organisations such as the Alzheimer's Society and the Cancer Society. They also organise food donations for the food bank and collect presents for students in need.

Weather and road works permitting, the main areas we work in are Whangarei, Hikurangi, Paihia, Moerewa /Kawakawa and Ruakaka. We have associates in all these places who deliver food for us. Members are encouraged to be mindful of their safety, looking out for dogs (a big problem up here), Covid and other natural hazards. Having locals to assist has been very helpful as it cuts down on the cost of petrol and our travelling time.

We are working more with families, especially young families who are finding it difficult to purchase the basics, especially fresh food. Many of these people are on a basic wage, which barely covers the rent/mortgage. Through social workers, we are getting more requests for food parcels from the schools.

At present our biggest project is working with schools to gather food for the families that we work with. The local primary school has had six 'bring a can' multi days which benefits us and those we work closely with.

**Anna Williams**  
– Northland Area President



*'Bring a can' multi days – a successful way of boosting food stocks to assist needy families.*

# Auckland North Area Council

Auckland North Area Council consists of six Conferences, all of which are active. For most Conferences, 2023 saw a return to pre-2020 levels of activity. The main focus this year has been the closure of the long-serving Shop in Beach Haven and the opening of a new Shop in Barry's Point Road, Takapuna. The new Shop is four times the size of the Beach Haven Shop. This has given us space to stock furniture, for which there has been a long-standing need. While the loss of the community involvement in Beach Haven is felt keenly, we have been able to start afresh at Barry's Point Road with a more amicable rental arrangement and better opportunities.

**St Mary's Northcote Conference** continues to support a large number of needy, providing assistance with food and other expenses. We also work closely with De Paul House in Northcote.

At the start of the year, **St Thomas More Glenfield Conference** helped a number of families with their back-to-school requirements, by meeting costs for uniforms, school supplies and fees. During the year we provided food parcels to those in need in our community and visited the elderly in their homes.

**Maria Assumpta Beach Haven Conference** focused activities on the recruitment of new members, visiting people, providing food parcels and Woolworth's Gift Certificates to those in need, and delivering bread to needy households each week. While we are a small Conference, a steady amount of work is undertaken and constant support to the needy is maintained. One of our members is involved with supporting parolees being rehabilitated after lengthy prison sentences.

**St Joseph Takapuna Conference** is very active, maintaining a large food bank and distributing around 130 parcels every three months. We also visit those in need and arrange for the support of people moving into new homes.



**St Francis de Sales and All Souls Devonport Conference** has lost three members this year due to retirement. However we were lucky enough to recruit two more volunteers. We gave out food parcels to approximately 20 families each month, and also helped with power bills, children's clothes, visiting the elderly and assisting with the purchase of a car. We are a small Conference of six, with three others helping as required.

**St John the Baptist and St Francis de Sales East Coast Bays Conference** regularly supplies food parcels to families we are looking after, as well as providing many emergency parcels to people in emergency housing. We supplied shoes and clothing to struggling families as well as assisting with school fees and supplies for needy families. We supported the elderly with hearing aids, and donated funds for hurricane relief, flood appeal and student assistance in our twinning programme. We also made a large donation to a parishioner who needed funding for Keytruda (cancer medication). In addition to our visiting, we prepared and distributed Christmas hampers and gifts.

**Charles Grinter**  
– Auckland North Area President



Photos: The Vinnies Shop Opening Blessing at 25 Barry's Point Road, Takapuna.



# West Auckland Area Council

2023 has been a mixed year of triumphs and challenges. Our Conferences manage the difficulties of increasing demand for food and diminishing donations. The cost of petrol has forced us to re-evaluate the ongoing need to deliver food parcels.

People's needs are also more complex. Balancing mental illness and anxiety issues with the safety and wellbeing of our volunteers is a huge task.

We've also noticed an increase in government agencies and medical centres seeking our assistance in dealing with these people. In this regard, one of our focuses for next year will be to strengthen our networking with appropriate agencies who can help with these specialised issues. I'm always inspired by the generosity and willingness of our volunteers and am proud of how they continuously find ways to overcome obstacles.

Avondale Conference combined their food bank with another local charity, Kai Avondale. The relationship and food bank work well. We host Feed the Streets for Kai Avondale when we can (a free hot meal for members of the community). Patronage has increased from around 40 people a fortnight to an average 100 guests. This is a great networking opportunity with locals and gives both parties a safe place to meet, talk and share a nice hot meal. Free clothing and a pantry are also available on the night. Avondale Conference also continued their tradition of an Annual Anointing of the Sick Mass to celebrate the Feast Day of St Vincent de Paul and hosted morning tea for all those who attended.

Henderson Conference continue their good works and had a lovely re-commissioning Mass. Massey Conference continue to be strong with some great relationships with local schools, especially St Paul's Primary School. Owairaka Conference has recently elected a new Conference President, so we look forward to exciting works coming from there. A focus we have for our Conferences in the upcoming year will be branding and compliance.

"In my role, I've been privileged to have worked among some of the Society's best. I've learnt a lot from them all and I appreciate their willingness to help, talk and listen."

A huge thanks to our National Office team, Anne-Marie, Natasha, Ross and Anthony who continue to help without hesitation. I am so grateful for you all.

**Paula Betham**  
- West Auckland Area President





“Do not be afraid of new beginnings. Be creative. Be inventive.”

– Frédéric Ozanam,  
Founder of the Society of Saint  
Vincent de Paul



# South Auckland Area Council

St Vincent de Paul South Auckland has continued to help individuals and families in need who have been impacted by the rising cost of living and other life issues.

Covid and its aftermath decimated the financial situations of many individuals and families in South Auckland – people who were already living pay check to pay check, often with extended family living in the garage or in one room to help with rent payments. The situation was made worse with no wage subsidy for contractors in lockdown followed by contracts being cancelled, families isolating with 10-15 people in a small house and children trying to do school work, extending wifi to meet everyone's entertainment and connection commitments, and no incoming money for food. This wasn't the 're-set or pause' that some of us experienced.

Some of the most marginal South Auckland communities were hit with severe weather and flooding in January 2023. They have also had to cope with rising petrol and food prices, as well as rent increases, leaving many families in precarious positions. Many young people have become disengaged from school and have fallen behind. Many working families have been unable to afford food. Escalating levels of debt and an increase in KiwiSaver hardship applications show how tough it is for many people.

From November 2022 – Sept 2023 the Otahuhu Centre has provided:

**4,118** food parcels

**541** pieces of furniture donated

**662** financial mentoring sessions

Sue Small started as Centre Manager in February this year. Her focus has been on ensuring the team has the capacity to continue to meet the volumes and requirements of our financial mentoring contract. Sue has completed her Financial Mentoring training and is now seeing clients; this has been helpful to ensure we have the capacity to keep the service going when one of the two financial mentors are on leave. This year the centre has been through the three-yearly accreditation needed to having a government contract.

The centre has a stable and committed staff. We have a new driver/helper who, in addition to the existing driver, ensures we can maintain the activities of the truck and increase the volume of furniture donations to keep up with demand. We have been fortunate to have a base of dedicated volunteers who come in weekly on set days to run the food bank. On our non-food bank days, we have volunteers who come in to do reception duties and book in food bank clients for the following days. This year we have bought on 10 new volunteers, plus we welcome school students who need to do service hours, or cook with the Young Vinnies (the meals are put in food parcels for single clients living in boarding houses).

**Two client stories highlight areas where assistance has been given.**

*A South African engineer emigrated to NZ on a work visa with an engineering job, with his partner and 15 year-old son for a new start, after the loss of a child. The partner left after the job did not work out, and the man was left covering rent for a three-bedroom house and car repayments; unable to work until immigration gave him a visa variation.*

*SVdP helped with food parcels, financial mentoring to advocate for the rent arrears and car repayments, advocated to an MP for immigration help, provided food parcels and was able to connect with a donor. With our support, this man was able to survive and get back on his feet.*





A woman in her late 50s could not afford to eat because her income fell \$105 a week short of her living costs, including repayments of \$70 a week on a car loan that she had taken out four months before. She has a mental health condition and a recent cancer issue.

The car dealer/ loan company, gave her a loan without a contract, but made her sign a letter to Work and Income asking them to take \$70 a week out of her benefit to repay the loan. Without seeing a contract, Work and Income set up this payment and recorded it as in place for the next five years. That would have meant she would have paid \$18,200 for the car - almost four times the \$4,990 that she had agreed to pay for it.

The financial mentor found there was no contract and it breached lending requirements so with the financial mentor, she returned the car to the car dealer and made sure that the dealer cancelled the loan and repaid all money - \$1,740. She used the money to buy a cheaper second-hand car from her son for cash. The financial mentor reported the case to the Commerce Commission and she later told her story to two investigators from the Commission who came to St Vinnies to meet her.

The financial mentor also negotiated reduced repayments to Work and Income and the Ministry of Justice, and Mercury Energy and Debt Managers (Intercoll) agreed to write off other debts. She now has enough money to live on and knows that she is strong enough to stand up for her rights if anyone tries to take advantage of her again.

The Op Shops (Papakura, Manurewa and Mangere Bridge) have energetic managers and teams of volunteers committed to ensuring the Shops are inviting, well presented and attract donations and customers to ensure some profitability. The Shops are yet to return to pre-Covid takings. We are sourcing more furniture to go into the Shops as this helps with increasing revenue, and provides a supply of furniture that can be donated to families in need.

The Conferences of Howick, Pakuranga, Otahuhu and Papakura continue the work of the Society in their localised areas. Collectively in these areas some 760 food parcels have been provided, with many other forms of assistance given.

The South Auckland Council continues to support students at the three Catholic Colleges in the area – McAuley, De La Salle and Sancta Maria – with scholarships to enable them to continue their school education.

### **Well done Frank!**

Some of you will know Frank Heffernan, who celebrated his 90th birthday recently. At his birthday in lieu of gifts, he requested that donations received be used under the umbrella of the Society. He received \$1,500 which he has presented to a 2023 De La Salle school-leaver in memory of his late wife Marie, in the form of a scholarship for future studies. Frank did try to retire a year or so ago but was encouraged to continue.

He has shared that finally he's retiring, so we in South Auckland and on behalf of the Society in New Zealand say to Frank – well done! We have greatly valued his dedicated contribution to the work of the Society for many years.

### **Rosanne Wills**

– Auckland South Area President



Frank singing at his 90th Birthday.

# Hamilton Area Council

2023 was a very busy year for the Society in Hamilton as the following statistics show. These figures relate to work done from our main centre in Frankton from June 2022 to July 2023.

**4,989**

food parcels distributed.

**5,911**

hot meals provided from our Soup Kitchen. The Soup Kitchen provides three sittings per week.

**Through our shops:**

**261**

homes in the region were furnished.

**209**

homes received a free healthy homes assessment.

The Society in Hamilton has 39 Conference members spread across five Conferences – Te Awamutu, Cambridge, Melville, Fairfield and the Cathedral. We also have a pool of volunteers and 10 paid staff.

Young Vinnies bring their vitality to the Society's work. Young Vinnies at St John's College do a fortnightly sausage sizzle. We provide the sausages and bread and this year they raised \$3,000 for the Society. Work is underway to re-establish Young Vinnies at Sacred Heart Girls' College. St Joseph's, St Columba and St Paul's primary schools each do a 'can drive' each year to source canned goods for our food bank.

Work for the St Joseph's Fairfield Conference includes regular visiting at Atawhai Assisi Home and Hospital. This Conference is currently piloting an initiative to visit the residents of council flats to offer whatever assistance they can provide.

The St Patrick's Te Awamutu Conference has been very busy with regular activities – firewood deliveries, rest-home and hospital visits, supporting the Te Awamutu Combined Churches and community food bank, and providing community meals for 15-25 people each month. A 'brown paper bag' appeal has also been successful in benefitting 400 people with family hampers and care packages.

**John Smulders**

– Secretary, Hamilton Area Council



# Manawatu–Whanganui Area Council

The Manawatu – Whanganui Area Council comprises St Patrick’s Conference Palmerston North, St Brigid’s Feilding, St Joseph’s Dannevirke, St Mary’s Foxton and Holy Family Whanganui.

**St Brigid’s Conference in Feilding** has an active membership of 12, plus seven associate members, as well as an active Young Vinnies group at St Joseph’s School. The Conference continues to supply food parcels to the community and to struggling families at three local schools, as well as responding to school requests for assistance with uniforms and other school expenses for families. Members also organise an Anointing Mass twice a year and provide visitation and communion to the sick and elderly. A winter food parcel is delivered to the 200 pensioner residents of the Manawatu Community Trust Flats and a Christmas fruit tray is delivered to the 45 residents of the St Dominic’s Home. Our Conference continues to support Women’s Refuge with food, clothing and furniture. Recently members have provided cooked and frozen meals to the local Heart Kids Support worker for delivery to Heart Kids families.

**St Joseph’s Conference in Dannevirke** continues to provide food parcels – the demand for these has increased dramatically in recent times. A small Conference of five active members undertakes regular visitations to the sick and elderly. The clothing Shop is staffed by enthusiastic volunteers and the Conference continues to support school children with uniforms and funds for school trips for those who need assistance.

**Holy Family Conference in Whanganui** has 12 active members and a team of approximately 35 shop volunteers assisting in our Vinnies Shop. The Shop provides food parcels and free clothes to anyone who asks for help.

Conference members visit sick and elderly parishioners. We provide tinned fish to the Whanganui Foodbank on a six-weekly basis. We have a money pool at Gonville Health Pharmacy to assist with prescription costs for customers who cannot afford their prescription. We also provide financial assistance by way of Pak’nSave vouchers to families in need. We are in contact with a community nurse in the parish who lets us know of any families who may need financial support for a specific need e.g. shoes, camp fees. We provide Warehouse vouchers to needy families (selected by our three Catholic primary schools) at Christmas time to ease their load.

To boost our funds, we run two raffles a year which are always generously supported by parishioners. We try to provide financial support annually to National Office for Relief Appeals.

In December we spoke to the parish of Whanganui at every Mass to highlight what we do and seek new members. Fr Craig Butler actively supports us in our work.

**St Mary’s Conference in Foxton** has an active membership of five and continues to provide food parcels and collaborates with other churches assisting those in need. The Conference also oversees the management of the social housing provided by the Society in Foxton.

**St Patrick’s Conference in Palmerston North** has 17 active members and a group of associate members who help out regularly. The core activities of the Conference continue to be visiting people in the community – bringing Holy Communion, supporting people with food and furniture or it may just be offering companionship. We are well supported with generous donations of money and goods from the Catholic community.

An active, enthusiastic team of volunteers, under Toni our Shop manager, continues to conduct a busy Vinnies Op Shop.

Society members support refugee families with food parcels on arrival. Members also offer their time and expertise in the governance of The Ozanam House Trust, which provides accommodation for out-of-town cancer patients.

This year a new Young Vinnies Coordinator has worked with enthusiasm and we now have established groups at two primary schools and St Peter’s College. Young Vinnies have been involved in visits to rest homes, as well as assisting at parish functions and food and toy drives.

A special Mass was celebrated on the feast of St Vincent de Paul when we commissioned two new members.

**Roger Clark**

– Acting Area President, Manawatu – Whanganui

# Taranaki Area Council

The Taranaki team of Vincentians have worked very hard this year and can be proud of their achievements.

A total of 48 members, 5 associates and 147 volunteers make up three Conferences in our area. These three Conferences are St Joseph's Hawera, Immaculate Conception Stratford and in August 2023 our two New Plymouth Conferences (Our Lady Help of Christians and St Joseph's New Plymouth), amalgamated to become St Joseph's New Plymouth.

All Conferences meet monthly, with Hawera also having an additional visitation meeting each month. Area Council meets four times per year. All meetings commence with prayers and a spiritual reflection, in which individuals are encouraged to participate and reflect on the discussions that take place.

## Community Meals

In New Plymouth volunteers provide weekly meals on a rostered system. Both our New Plymouth Catholic secondary schools help out with meal preparation during term time and St Pius X Primary School provides soup during the winter months. Each week between 35 and 50 diners attend, and four to six meals are delivered to the men's shelter. During December we hosted a Christmas meal – the hall was decorated and a visit from Santa provided a Christmas bag filled with treats and toiletries.

Our Hawera Conference provides meals and food as the need arises. Donated bread and other food items are delivered to pre-schools, kindergartens, and private homes weekly, which is always greatly appreciated. The local Lions Club holds a monthly luncheon which rest homes and other elderly members of the public are invited to attend, at our cost.

Our Stratford Conference hosts monthly afternoon teas attended by up to 100 people. At the Mass on All Saints Day, each person received a candle, and a morning tea was held. During November, a hot lunch was provided following an Anointing Mass and a luncheon was organised to welcome new parishioners. A special Christmas function was held which included a visit from Santa who gave each person a donated present. Left-over presents were then delivered to rest homes and families known to St Vincent de Paul who may struggle over the Christmas period.

## Whare Kai

Cooking classes for young mothers in New Plymouth continues with four to six attending each week to learn how to cook healthy meals for their families. All ingredients required for cooking the meals, including additional food items left over, are given to the attendees to take home following the lesson. These mothers are also provided with extensive support, including advocacy advice and a child-minding service while they undertake the cooking lessons.

All our Conferences have members who also work at food bank. We regularly liaise with food bank – since Covid there has been a significant increase in the amount of food items required. Requests for linen, crockery and furniture has also seen a large increase, especially during the winter months.

### The following social services have been provided throughout our community:

**6,841** people have been provided with food through SVdP this year.

**669** people have had furniture provided.

**8** people have received budgeting and/or counselling advice services.

**13** households have had gardening, lawn mowing, or firewood provided.

**45** bereavement baskets and/or Mass cards have been delivered.

**7** households have had their power bills paid.

**24** prisoners have been supported with items such as clothing and bedding.

**6** people have had their GP visit and/or prescriptions paid

**7** students have received education support payments.



Society members also regularly undertake visitations to rest homes, hospitals or provide transportation (1,196 visits last year) and visitations to private homes (653).

### Donations

We support all National Appeals – Sri Lanka through our twinning programme, Tonga, Fiji, Samoa, South Auckland, and our largest donation was for Cyclone Gabrielle (Northland, Auckland, Hawke’s Bay areas). Some of the more significant local donations were to the Men’s Shelter, Creative Inclusion, Cystic Fibrosis, Trinity Home and Hospital, St John’s, Elderly Foundation for hearing aids, a baby change station installed at St Joseph’s church, Community Living to provide clothing and bedding for newly released prisoners, Riding for Disabled (purchased a pony to benefit children with various disabilities in our community) and a specialised mattress was purchased for use by the hospice. SVdP also provided several boxes of clothing to areas throughout New Zealand, upon request.

Monetary support is provided to individuals and families as the need arises. Assistance can take the form of food and petrol vouchers, and payment of car, phone, power and medical bills.

A Toi Foundation grant of \$15,000 was again awarded to the New Plymouth Conference to help towards the costs associated with the Whare Kai and Community meals.



Whare Kai cooking class attendees from left, Racheal Pearce, Dominic Brinkmann and Joelene Evans.

Photo credit: Vanessa Laurie, Stuff.



Kevin Hartfield, volunteer for St Vincent de Paul’s furniture pick-up and delivery services in New Plymouth.

### Community Organisation and Refugee Sponsorship (CORS)

This is an ongoing New Plymouth project to bring at least one refugee family to New Plymouth. Approximately one year following the completion of an accreditation process of the CORS committee, they are yet to be allocated a family. Immigration New Zealand has outlined to the CORS committee that if approved, one or potentially two families could arrive in New Plymouth by autumn 2024.

### Shops

Our two Shops are well managed with a great team of volunteers. They both look clean, tidy and the stock is well presented with realistic pricing. The New Plymouth shop recently employed a Shop manager.

### Annette Orchard

– Taranaki Area President

# Western Bay of Plenty Area Council

In 2022-23 we have seen a substantial increase in the needs of clients. Families with two working parents now struggle to meet higher mortgage repayments, which have doubled in some cases. Basic needs are now a luxury for our clients.

We have had a significant surge in people accessing our services, with over 5000 people in need receiving help throughout this year.

Our Conferences are growing stronger in numbers and are managing the increased cases that come to them for action. Conference members are active in the community in every way needed, devoting their time to a range of activities every day. Nothing is out of reach for us to do, case by case.

Our devoted members deal with requests for furniture, firewood, vehicle and building repairs, transport, clothing, mobility scooters, medical requests, mobility aids, baby equipment and mobile phones. We try to help with any request that will change a life for the better. Food parcels have become the most common request and throughout the last year we helped people with over \$400,000 of food given out in Western Bay of Plenty.

One of the things here in the Bay that makes everything work well is our people! We have an incredible team of staff and volunteers in our stores and Conferences who are helping make a difference in people's lives every day.

Our "Loaves & Fishes" project supplies school lunches to eight schools a week. This need is growing as families struggle to make ends meet. We also have a "Fullstop" food truck – a dedicated team prepares and delivers meals to low-income areas.

Our Support Centre is the main contact point for clients to be referred to Conferences in Tauranga, giving them access to a listening ear and a range of support services. Food parcels are processed through our food bank at the Support Centre, and furniture requests are organised through our storage facility.

The Area Manager collates the figures for all items given out to families through the last year. Here is a summary of activities in the last financial year:

- ♥ We clothed people with over **\$13,000** worth of clothing.
- ♥ We furnished homes with over **\$75,000** worth of furniture.
- ♥ We fed people in need with over **\$400,000** in food.
- ♥ We helped families meet school costs with over **\$10,500** in uniforms.
- ♥ We stocked kitchens with over **\$16,000** worth of cooking equipment and essentials.
- ♥ We gave people over **\$12,000** of whiteware.
- ♥ Parents were helped with over **\$12,500** worth of baby equipment.
- ♥ **268** children were made safe by the provision of car seats.
- ♥ Over **2,000** people were re-homed with furniture.
- ♥ We helped over **4,000** people.
- ♥ Over **435** people come through our Support Office each month.
- ♥ The Support Office responded to over **350** emails **180** phone calls a week.
- ♥ We dealt with over **110** agencies.



We built a mutual relationship with the Warehouse to help us help others. They gave our clients thousands of Christmas gifts this year and also provided thousands of dollars in vouchers for us to purchase items for people in need.

Our shops deserve recognition for the work they do. Our dedicated team of managers increased our revenue every year, enabling us to fund our 'good works', while also offering the best prices in the region. Lowering our prices to be more affordable than any other store has increased sales. Our people believe strongly they are there to help people and make a difference.

Our Area Council is strong in faith and commitment to our spiritual works. They lead their Conferences with kindness and encouragement. Stella Maris in Waihi and St Thomas More at Mount Manganui have had a notably large increase in volunteers. Stella Maris

at Waihi is led by our Conference President, Rose Comber. They do an amazing job in their local community.

### **Des Mulhern**

– *Western Bay of Plenty Area President*

## **CLIENT STORY**

*Mouna wears the Bellman hearing amplifier SVdP purchased for her. She was not able to use normal hearing aids. She has not stopped smiling since receiving the hearing amplifier which has been life-changing for her.*



# **Marlborough Area Council**

Our two Conferences face the same struggles as most other areas with low membership and aging members. Sadly, joining St Vincent de Paul seems to be something that people only think about in retirement. That said, we still manage to do great works in both Picton and Blenheim supporting those in need.

Blenheim held a Mid-Winter Christmas Seniors lunch, after an Anointing Mass, with 90 people attending. The Blenheim Conference continues to support St Mary's School and pre-school families as required. The St Mary's Youth Group is also supported by the Conference.

In Blenheim we work alongside other agencies to fill gaps, and we generously support our local food bank. Visitations are an important ministry, along with supporting people with rent, bonds, food and power to help them keep afloat in a tough economic climate.

Blenheim Vinnies has had a new paint job which has brightened up the Shop and improved our visibility in town. The Shop is well supported by Conference and volunteers.

Picton Conference also has good relationships with other agencies which is important in a small,

close-knit community. Assistance with transport, food and clothing makes up much of their work. They have had a busy time this year, renovating their Shop, incorporating the Holiday Home which was not being used to its full potential. The renovations took longer than hoped but the results are worth the wait. The Conference and Shop volunteers worked very hard to get everything right for the opening in September. Fr. Michael McCabe blessed the building and longtime volunteers Christine and Lloyd Bugler cut the blue ribbon with Picton Conference President Maria McConnaway.

Vinnies Picton goes the extra mile supporting their community and opening on Sundays to accommodate cruise ship visitors.

### **Lorraine Walker**

– *Marlborough Area President*



# Thermal Lands Area Council

## ST PETER CHANEL (WHAKATANE) CONFERENCE

Almost daily we hear that many people in this country are struggling. Locally we seek to assist the worst affected. This year we had 1,497 food assistance requests, up 32% on 2021–22. Some people also received clothing from the shop and a small number had financial help with bills. The number of individuals assisted rose 34% from 3,841 in 2021-22 to 5,182 this year. Increased food donations from outside sources have kept food parcel costs lower.

Close to 50 volunteers do at least three hours each a week and often much more. While there are a few new people joining us, the solid core from 12 months ago remains. The increasing age of individuals of our group is a risk for us.

**Lindsay N Riddick**  
– Conference President

## STELLA MARIS (GISBORNE) CONFERENCE

Our branch has been very busy since Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle flooded homes and disrupted the lives of many families in this district in February 2023. People and organisations donated food, goods and money.

The first thing to arrive was a truckload of bedding from the SVdP area branch in Hamilton delivered by a local parishioner. Next Campion College students arrived with a big load of tinned food sent from St John's College in Hamilton. Many individuals and groups from all around the country donated money personally or by fundraising. This totalled almost \$25,000. We bought new fridge freezers, washing machines, and stoves for families out at Te Karaka.

Our National St Vincent de Paul Office Flood Recovery Fund donated \$50,000, the largest donation, for our "Whiteware for Wairoa Project", where over 200 houses were flooded.

Our thanks to all the SVdP branches, the Common Good Foundation and everyone who donated. Please pray for all the flood-affected families. They have a long and difficult journey ahead of them.

**Kathy Langer**  
– Conference President



SVDP secretary Helen Geard with the boxes of food donated by St John's College Hamilton which we were given to distribute to people in our community affected by the flood.



Jim and Kathy from St Vincent de Paul and Wairoa Recovery Manager Benita Tahuri.

## ST PATRICK'S (TAUPO) CONFERENCE

As the new President of the Taupo Conference, I thank my team for supporting me in my new role. These are some of the works we do in our parish community:

- coordinating and preparing home-cooked meals to be frozen and distributed as needed
- annual soup drive
- supporting the local food bank
- providing breakfast ingredients for children at school
- providing furniture, firewood, emergency food and petrol vouchers
- annual fundraising
- providing lunch for those attending the Anointing Mass once a month.

**Elizabeth Giesen**  
– Conference President

## ST MICHAEL'S (ROTORUA) CONFERENCE

We have had increased food parcel requests this year. Our local college helps with a monthly food drive and our parish community also donates food.

The two local Shops help fund the food bank and provide bedding and clothing as needed. We donated to the Cyclone Gabrielle fund. We help the aged in our community with food donations, home visits and shopping for those who need support.

**Stephen McLeod**  
– Conference President

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS (OPOTIKI) CONFERENCE

We continue to believe in always treating people with respect, good will and generosity of spirit.

During the year we have supported local families under stress, and helped new migrant families adjust to their new life in NZ. We have visited the sick and those in hospital, as well as visiting people in their own homes and in rest homes.

**Sue Maloney**  
– Conference President

# Napier Area Council

No-one could have envisaged the catastrophic effect of Cyclone Gabrielle which struck Napier and the Hawkes Bay area on 14 February, 2023. Our region lost power for five days, and it was only when power came back on that we realised the scale of the devastation.

Our Conferences quickly responded to the needs of those affected, as soon as we were able to. This help has been well documented with the feedback we have been able to share with our Society members. We will be forever grateful to the Society for organising fundraising for those affected and grateful to Catholic communities throughout New Zealand who were so generous with their donations and other help. Their support meant we were able to assist the most vulnerable during this time and beyond. The people we have helped have been so appreciative of the Society and support that has been given to them.

We have continued our regular work – visiting, lawn mowing, food collection and distribution. We have also continued working with PARS (Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Society), assisting newly released prisoners and their families.

We have assisted “Whatever it Takes”, an initiative which supports the homeless in our Napier area, providing clothing, sleeping bags and other goods from our Napier Vinnies Shop. They were also very grateful for our help when we provided whatever they needed for the 30 homeless people who took shelter in the Outreach Centre during the cyclone.



*Hawke's Bay 'new' young adults group making vases and cups to donate to the hospital.*

The schools in our area have greatly benefited from funding we have been able to provide when requested by the school principals. One low decile school reported that without the funds we gave them, their children would not have been able to go on a school camp. Many of the families of these children had been affected by the cyclone so it was particularly pleasing to be able to do this.

A new Conference started this year, formed by young adult Vinnies from both Napier and Hastings areas. The new Conference is called Ark of the Covenant. Members of this Conference were active during the cyclone and have carried on distributing food parcels, making home/hospital visits and nurturing the wellbeing of young people in the Hawkes Bay region.

Many thanks to our Conference members, our Area Council, our hard-working and dedicated volunteers who work at our shop, our Vinnies shop manager, National Office and everyone who has pulled together during this particularly difficult year to enable us to do the work we do.

**Christine Tong** – Napier Area President

# Hastings Area Council

2024 has seen SVdP's work across Hawkes Bay largely dominated by the ongoing impact of Cyclone Gabrielle which hit the region in mid-February with devastating consequences for many individuals and families. The impact of the cyclone and the economic downturn have resulted in our services being in constant demand as people have found themselves struggling to meet their basic needs.

Consequently, our Council has seen an increase in requests for regular food boxes, furniture, kitchenware, bedding, and clothing. Over the winter months, many families also found themselves struggling to meet fuel and electricity costs. In conjunction with a local timber merchant, we were able to provide support with firewood to keep both themselves and their homes warm.

To date we have been able to meet all requests thanks to our generous donors and funding grants from the Catholic Diocese of Palmerston North Cyclone Relief Fund, and the Community Organisation Grants Scheme.

Over the past year the Hastings Area Council has continued monitoring and supporting the daily running of the SVdP Shops in Hastings and Flaxmere. A key focus area throughout the year has been the work undertaken to upgrade both facilities.

We have continued our support of local Catholic schools by providing a \$1,000 scholarship to a Year 9 St John's College student, making donations towards transport costs, and assisting students who school principals nominate for financial support regarding ongoing education costs.

As part of the Council's outreach programme, Conferences have continued to support the elderly, sick and lonely members of our communities. Members have been involved in taking communion to the sick and elderly and rest home residents on a weekly basis, as well as making regular home visits or phone calls to offer friendship and support. Numerous bereavement packages and Easter and Christmas Cheer parcels have also been distributed.

We have also continued our support of the RSE (Recognised Seasonal Employer) workers in the district by providing them with access to free clothing on arrival as well as giving them \$400 worth of clothing from our two Shops to take back to the islands at the end of their season.

In all it has been a very busy year in which we have thankfully been able to respond to the ever-increasing financial demands facing families throughout our region.

**Jim Leogreen**

*- Hastings Area President*



*Some of the devastation in Hawke's Bay.*



## In the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, St Vincent de Paul in Taradale swung into action, helping the community and families in desperate need.

In mid-February Cyclone Gabrielle struck Hawke's Bay causing huge devastation to the region. Many land-based businesses and households were severely affected and people struggled to get back on their feet.

In the months after the cyclone hit, St Mary's Conference in Taradale was very proactive. Funds were provided from the St Vincent de Paul National Office for work with cyclone-affected families.

An August report on the Conference's activities notes: "Since March we have visited 59 families and gifted \$98,500 to them. We have heard about people in need by word of mouth, neighbour to neighbour, through friends and families of those we meet."

The Conference reported that the issue moved on to become not survival from flood waters and silt but people finding the resilience to pick up their lives and continue.

"Stress is very high in the communities, especially among the men. Their whole meaning and purpose for living has been wiped away. They have been busy with orchard and farm work all their lives and now there is nothing but debt, debris, loss – their lovely homes gone, vintage cars, some restored lovingly over the years, all gone and many of these people in their seventies. How do you find hope?"

In their visits the Vinnies brought compassion and a readiness to listen, as well as funds.

"Our visits involve just sitting and listening, giving hugs which even these weather-hardened men relish, (one man said I've learned how great hugs can be!). We offer some funds for them to spend

on themselves as they wish, and get some time away from the devastation. All those given funds send an email when received so we have a good paper trail for accountability.

They assure us it all helps.

"They appreciate knowing they are not forgotten. Again and again they say it really helps to be listened to with compassion. They are very grateful to SVDP and the people of New Zealand for their generosity."

"I've said this before and I continue to say it, we are so privileged to be in this position, it is so humbling."

Meanwhile the Taradale Conference carried on with its regular work – supporting families, collecting food donations from church and delivering food to the Napier Family Centre.



Photo: Annette Scullion/WelCom

# Hutt Valley and Wairarapa Area Council

The Hutt Valley and Wairarapa Area Council continues to work in the spirit of St Vincent de Paul, helping those in need, providing visitations, and building ongoing relationships.

A special acknowledgement to Charles Bell for his dedication and commitment as the Area Council President over the past six years. The Hutt Valley and Wairarapa Area Council looks forward to continuing the vision of SVdP – embracing change, building connections, and working together towards a sustainable future.

## Our mahi

The Hutt Valley and Wairarapa Area Council comprises ten Conferences and three shops (Petone, Carterton and Wainuiomata). A number of Conferences have provided highlights for 2023.

Terry Jordan, who was a longstanding member of the Waiwhetu and Eastbourne Conference, attended the SVdP International General Assembly in Rome in September last year and had the opportunity to meet with leaders from across Oceania. Sadly Terry, who was National President of the Society, passed away in December.

The Waiwhetu and Eastbourne Conference continues to visit rest homes, hospitals and those homebound who need support and a friendly face. Food and petrol vouchers are given to provide a hand up to those who have fallen on hard times. During the Cyclone Relief period, Waiwhetu and Eastbourne Conferences raised \$12,344 and also gifted \$1,000 to the Vincentian Foundation for the Elderly to assist with hearing aids.

St Joseph's Conference, Upper Hutt assisted with the resettlement of two families in Upper Hutt. Under the guidance of Catholic Social Services and Red Cross, the Conference helped the families to get set up and provided them with pantry packs and household items.

The Carterton Shop has seen encouraging results with a change of management, including a new Manager, Assistant Manager, and truck driver. This has resulted in increased donations and sales and a positive vibe in store.

The Petone Conference members buddied up with Sacred Heart Primary School students in Year 7 and 8 to talk about what SVdP members do and how students can help the poor. They baked goods and held a cake stall raising \$744.90.

In recognition of World Day of the Poor on 19 November, the Petone shop set up an area offering free items to people in need.

The Nae Nae Conference holds cooking classes to teach people in need how to create meals on a budget. This has proved popular with people attending, as the following comment shows: *“For me, this is what’s meant by communion. Work of human hands. The Vinnies team do such an incredible job. They rearrange the hall space, freeing up the kitchen, and distribute free food efficiently so no-one misses out. For me, it is the Vinnies prayer in action.”*

Special acknowledgement to founding member of the Wainuiomata Conference, Margaret Benge, who turned 91 this year and has dedicated over 50 years as a Vincentian in Lower Hutt. Margaret is in a rest home but often asks about the Vinnies.



Wainuiomata Conference founding member Margaret Benge, 91, (middle) with longstanding member Chris Morgan (left) and new Hutt Valley and Wairarapa Area Council President Bernice Smith (right).

Looking ahead, the Hutt Valley and Wairarapa Area Council will continue to build stronger connections between Conferences and Shops, sharing resources and information to reach those people who need help the most. I acknowledge and thank everyone for their ongoing commitment and support to the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

*“He waka eke noa – we are all in this together.”*

**Bernice Smith**

– Hutt Valley and Wairarapa Area President





Petone shop display, created by Jino Jose, SVdP Shop Manager.



Petone Conference members and Sacred Heart Primary School students baking for cake stall.



Petone Conference and Sacred Heart School students run a cake stall.



Carterton shop Manager Greg Vesper with volunteers.

## He waka eke noa

We are all in this together.



# Kapi Mana Area Council

The past twelve months have been a time of “increases” – increases in the cost of living, increases in the number of requests for help and an increase in opportunities to spread the Gospel through the provision of assistance to people in need. I like to think we are not welfare workers but missionaries, bringing an experience of the love of Jesus for people, our neighbours.

We have put more emphasis on our spiritual reflections and understanding of why Blessed Frédéric and his friends founded the Society. Growing members’ faith and spirituality better equips them to understand their work of helping the poor.

Keeping in touch with parishioners through regular contact in parish newsletters and providing feedback on what we have been doing has helped considerably in raising our profile. I believe this, and our focus on members’ spirituality, has helped us to maintain our membership and achieve some growth in numbers.

We are experiencing considerable increase in food parcel requests and in some places demand has doubled over the past 12 months. It is noticeable that some requests are now coming from people who are employed but are obviously struggling on low wages. Higher rent and mortgage rates are not helping. Requests for petrol vouchers are also increasing and requests for household goods and furniture, particularly from refugees and Women’s Refuge, continue to grow.

Our Vincentian Centre in Levin has grown slowly over the year with a Friday drop-in programme, Babies and Young Mothers, and the Red Cross refugee training courses. Contact has been made with the local Teen Parent unit. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Catholic Social Services who use the Centre for training courses and other helping programmes. They are starting with “Game On” - a parenting course just for Dads.

Young Vinnies have experienced considerable expansion in numbers at the Catholic schools in the area. We have increased the number of hours worked by our Youth Coordinator to cope with the upsurge in demand. We also have volunteers now helping in this vital area. We are hoping to expand into our one local Catholic college in 2024.

Visitation and personal contact remain the backbone of the our Society. It is what makes us different from being “just another welfare society”. Members who do visiting are trained to handle the Safeguarding and Health and Safety aspects, as well as learning how to recognise when problems exist that need more professional help.

Total business through our two Shops increased again this year. The effort put in by the Shop managers and their staff go a long way to keeping us “in business”. Thank you!

Finally, my sincere thanks and blessings to all our members, volunteers and young Vinnies for their work for St Vinnies. Special thanks to all our donors – individuals, groups and the businesses who supply us with much of the food we give away. Our thanks too to the National Office team for their never-failing support and guidance. And finally, thanks to all those “Vincentian widows and widowers” for their never-ending patience and understanding.

**Gerry Stevens**

– Kapi Mana Area President



St Vincent de Paul’s Levin Food bank was one of the benefactors of the generosity of the ‘Help us pack the bus’ initiative held in December 2023.

# Nelson – Tasman Area Council

Our five Conference groups had fun this year, meeting and working hard together to make the world a better place. Membership numbers grew overall, and our three Shops reported increased sales across the year.

In Motueka we are present at the Community House twice per week and in Takaka, well, everyone knows us there!

We like the integration of our Shops and our Conference assistance offices in our urban areas. Shops provide a pleasant place to spend some time, are easy to find and well known to many. Clients and customers seem to enjoy spending time with our volunteers, when shopping, donating goods or asking about assistance.

Our members are busy welcoming and working alongside new members; everyone has a job to do and a chance to suggest ideas and improvements. We have built stronger links to groups that we work alongside, including the Salvation Army, Mohua Social Services, the Community Food Bank, MSD and Motueka Foodshare.

The Society's values of responsiveness, service and generosity are reflected in the 2,496 individuals or whanau that we assisted during the year. When we upgraded the exterior of our shop and Conference office building in Nelson we decided to put our values up on display using the Vinnies' tree image. As we keep reviewing our processes and checking on policy guidelines, we are showing that integrity is an important value for our members.

Our commitment and compassion is something we worked on by visiting in pairs – we managed to do 1,311 visits during the year.

We were pleased to be able to support the Cyclone Gabrielle Appeal and the Assist a Student project.

In future we would like to increase and improve our advocacy for the people who benefit from our support.

## Elizabeth Owens

– Nelson Area President



We've nailed our values to the wall of the Vinnies shop in Nelson.



Members of our Richmond conference enjoying the sunshine and apple picking, thanks to the generous access to the orchard.

# West Coast Area Council

## REEFTON CONFERENCE

Our Reefton group has distributed food parcels and continued to support “Who Cares Reefton” with food from us and also large donations of food from Westport Vinnies. We have shared some of this food with the Anglicans.

A group of us sorted baby and children’s clothes which Grey Valley Couriers transported for us free of charge. Our special thanks to them. We assisted with petrol vouchers for two parishioners whose young daughter died of cancer. We gave a donation to a fundraiser to assist with alterations to a house for a man who has muscular dystrophy.

**Moira Lockington**

– Conference President

## WESTPORT CONFERENCE

My thanks to our loyal team of volunteers for your hard work in administration and running the Shop which enables us to keep Vinnies running smoothly.

Over the last Christmas - New Year period we received donations of food for our food bank from an American couple who were travelling around New Zealand. They were on their way home and thought we could use the food. Amazing how the St. Vincent de Paul Society reaches all countries.

We donated to the National Appeal for Relief after Cyclone Gabrielle to both Auckland and Napier. Our secretary and I were honoured to be invited to the opening of the refurbished shop in Hokitika. Congratulations to Hokitika for their dedication. It certainly paid off.

We had a special Mass in Greymouth at the end of September for the feast day of St Vincent de Paul with a regional meeting following. It was an excellent day.

The spiritual reflections from Father Alan Roberts are always well received and certainly give pause for thought. Father Alan, do not stop doing this!

During the year we were fortunate enough to be given a bulk donation for our food bank. We were able to send a lot to Reefton for their community food bank which was possibly having to close due to excess demand and fewer donations.

We continue to support the “Foster Hope” winter pyjama project. We again donated 100 chocolate Easter bunnies to Homebuilders Westport for distribution to local children.

Our food bank has been busy this year with referrals for assistance.

**Julie Hands**

– Conference President

## HOKITIKA CONFERENCE

I am so lucky to have a very experienced committee with the knowledge, passion and energy to make things happen in our small town of Hokitika. Our keen volunteers not only serve and sell in the Shop, they also sort the donated material items. It is good friendship, fellowship and networking.

We moved out of our 80 Revell Street Shop building in July and Simpson Residential did a grand job of almost building a new Shop for us. The grand opening of our Shop in Revell Street was on May 10, 2023. Father Joe [Camano] blessed the building. The honour of cutting the ribbon was done by Barry Veal who with his late wife Norma had done a lot of volunteering work on behalf of St Vinnie’s.

We have continued to support the needy people in our district with food and fuel vouchers, wood and coal. We have also provided funds to support St Mary’s school camp and school-leavers, Father Joe’s trip back to the Philippines, Father Dan O’Connor to purchase four homes for the poor in Pakistan, plus helping the Greymouth branch with regular boxes of clothing. Lorraine Davidson took 39 bags of surplus summer clothing and shoes over to the Kids for Cancer bins in Lincoln-Christchurch which were surplus to our requirements.

It was a huge effort to move all our material items back to the Revell Street shop and special thanks to both Lorraine and Ian Davidson and also Trish Sheridan. Since moving back into the Revell Street shop, our turnover has gone through the roof.

We had a round-table chat with most of our volunteers in July and there were a lot of good



suggestions on how we could run our Shop better. One suggestion was to line the roof of the back room and install a heat pump to have the room nice and warm. We are planning to have these meetings every four months so volunteers can have input which is so valuable.

I would like to thank our two Shop managers, Pauline Weaver and Lorraine Davison, Chris Wright our treasurer, and Stephanie Knighton our branch secretary, for all their hard work.

We have lost Norma Veal and Margaret Macpherson who passed away this year. Norma was one of our valuable committee members. Once again, thank you to our committee members and our keen volunteers who make it all happen.

**Mike Keenan**  
– *Conference President*

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## GREYMOUTH CONFERENCE

I feel that it is important to start by acknowledging the amazing work which has been done by our reliable, hard-working and caring group of volunteers. Without their commitment we would not have the assistance to carry out the work that has been completed through the year by our Vinnies team here in Greymouth.

Our temporary Shop holds pride of place in the CBD and we have found that we not only have custom from locals but so many visitors to our region as well. The feedback regarding the Shop is very positive.

It has been an extremely tough year for many Coasters. On a monthly basis we have been providing assistance with food and clothing vouchers to many of the schools in our district. Staff from these schools are aware of those needing help and they distribute as required. On several occasions we have been given big grocery parcels to give out to those in need who call into the Shop. We have focused on the schools throughout the year as it is here the poverty is very obvious. The schools we have been helping were all contacted regarding assistance in the lead-up to Christmas and we were able to provide vouchers to all of them. Hampers were also made up for those most in need.

We provided assistance to a parish youth group so they could attend the regional camp and we continue to support our Cobden Mercy Outreach Sisters who do a wonderful job assisting sole parents and children who require urgent help. We also sent financial help to assist those affected by the cyclone and floods in Auckland and Gisborne areas.

The popularity of our Vinnies Shop has meant that on occasion throughout the year we have run very low in stock to sell. This necessitated us running a hugely successful advertising campaign in our local paper and our grateful thanks go to our sponsor, the Greymouth Evening Star, who ran the ads free of charge. We were initially inundated with goods and from then on we have received a steady flow of all sorts of items on a regular basis.

The help we are providing throughout the Greymouth area is recognised by our donors who continue to be so generous with their support and our grateful thanks goes to them.

**Brenda Brown**  
– *Conference President*



# Christchurch Area Council

The past year has seen numerous achievements with the highlight being the opening of the Ozanam Apartments by Bishop Michael Gielen earlier in the year. Today, these seven units are fully occupied by young families and are managed and supported with wrap-around services by the staff of St John of God (Hauora Trust). Thank you again to all the donors who have made this initiative possible.

Our Festival day was hosted by local Conference President, Denise Holling, at St Peters in Beckenham. An interesting programme of events was appreciated by a great turnout of Vincentians. First on the list of presentations was safeguarding by Clodagh Ward and was followed by reflections from Fr Chris, Fr Ben and Sr Clare Murphy. Mike Daly (National Board member) spoke on the membership initiatives planned by the Society to recruit new members. External presenters included Kim Taylor from “The Loft” that provides an extensive range of services to support community wellbeing. Speakers from “Pegasus Health” spoke on issues associated with health equity and accessibility of health services – they provided great advice to our Vincentians.

Our annual Commissioning Mass for our new Vincentians was held at St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral in late June. The event was presided over by Bishop Michael with a very full church of Conference members, Young Vinnies, parents and supporters. It was very heartening to see the commissioning of 18 new Conference members and some 200 new Young Vinnies who represented 18 schools in Canterbury.

In October, the Kaiapoi Conference celebrated its 50th anniversary. Mayor Dan Gordon opened the celebrations and presented long-service

certificates to six past and current members. Two of the members from the earlier era cut the Jubilee cake. Members reminisced over the past 50 years of service to the North Canterbury community and acknowledged the strong bond that existed between the Rangiora Conference, the local food banks and agencies that support the local North Canterbury community.

Late in May, I was in Paris for a short time and visited the tomb of St Vincent de Paul. This was located in a reliquary above the altar in the Chapel dedicated to St Vincent de Paul. On arrival, Mass was being celebrated and the singing of the congregation contributed to an amazing experience. After Mass, I had the opportunity to climb the stairs behind the altar to St Vincent de Paul’s tomb and pray for all the members of the Society in New Zealand.

It was with great pleasure that we were able to recognise the great support of several of our volunteers at our Festival day with Peter Dravitski (over 50 years), Tony Fahey, George Varghese and Tim O’Sullivan (all 25+ years) receiving the Vincentian “Works of Mercy Cross.”

Earlier in the year, Trish O’Keefe (33 years) was also recognised for her great work as Secretary for the Canterbury Area Council and Board.



The reliquary above the altar containing the remains of St Vincent de Paul.



Some of our volunteers celebrating ‘Volunteer Week’.





*Our Young Vinnies plus a number of Adults at our Commissioning Mass with Bishop Michael in June 2023.*

The demand for welfare assistance has greatly extended the capacity of our Conferences in the second half of 2023. Demand has increased for the year to date (October 23) by 37% on last year. As is usual, the need for food assistance made up 80% of all requests for assistance. Two Conferences – the Cathedral Conference and (the newly established) West Conference – supported 40% of these requests.

Our three Retail Stores in Canterbury have found trading conditions difficult during 2023 and have utilised a series of special events to help boost our sales. These have included a range of events including a “Spring Initiative,”

Book Sales” and “Vinnies Meets Vogue” that was held on two occasions during the year. The latter initiative showcased a selection of donated designer clothing, vintage collectables, beautiful homewares and offered a special shopping experience to our customers that included goodie bags filled with cakes and vouchers. During the year, we celebrated National Volunteer Week with a morning tea and acknowledged the great work and dedication of the volunteers at all three shops.

**Mike Moore**  
– Christchurch Area President



*Bishop Michael cutting the ribbon to formally open the Ozanam Apartments.*



*Bishop Michael with Ozanam Trust Board members Mike Daly (SVDP) and Sarah Hillier (St John of God – Hauora Trust).*



# Dunedin Area Council

This year has been a busy one for Dunedin with the demand on our food bank increasing. We are extremely blessed and thankful that we have wonderful paid staff and volunteers who run our Shops and food bank. Our reliance on volunteers is ever-increasing and as of now we have 80 wonderful individuals who are helping us. I give thanks and gratitude to them for all the time that they dedicate to us.

This leaves our Conference members time to get out and about in the community doing the Vincentian work. The list of what our Vincentians are doing is a long and varied one. A few examples are St Dominic's Conference which has a pantry at Sacred Heart and one at Holy Name Parish which provides meals that are cooked and frozen for others to take to families in need. Suzanne Aubert Conference assist recently released prisoners with toiletry packs and also visit regularly many boarding houses in the city with care packages and food. They give Easter and Christmas parcels as well.

St Francis Xavier Conference has a strong focus on helping the elderly of their parish as well as helping in the school with reading. They have a connection with an organisation which helps rehabilitate ex-prisoners and with the help of the school children are sorting their yearly Christmas treats for all of the men there.

Oamaru, under the guidance of Des Burke, is doing great works of mercy with their newly set-up pantry. The support they give to Dunedin food bank each month, with jam from a local factory, is very much appreciated. Their Shop is looking amazing and runs with a great team of 25 volunteers who are supported by their Shop manager, Renee.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the amazing support of our parishioners here and in Oamaru who are so incredibly generous with their time, their devotion and their donations. We simply could not do all of the wonderful acts of kindness that we do without them.

**Lynley Forbes**

– Dunedin Area President

## DUNEDIN YOUTH REPORT

St Vincent de Paul works with 15 primary schools, one college and the University of Otago, covering the city, Ranfurly, Alexandra, Wanaka and Queenstown. I am involved with over 20 classes that reach about 500 students.

This year we have run education sessions in the schools covering topics of Vincentian Spirituality and the new curriculum To Tātou Whakapono, Servant Leadership, poverty in Aotearoa, and gratitude and generosity. Our school communities have participated in myriad social justice activities, retreats, liturgies and Masses. Some of their actions include food and clothing collections, cook-ups, fundraising, kaitiaki of creation with neighbourhood clean-ups, weeding and gardening, as well as visits and volunteering in our Shop. Our University Vinnies also regularly help at the night shelter and run our Saturday Shop. The highlight of the year was our Kāhui Ako (combined Catholic Schools) Social Justice Week that saw all of our schools working together to live our faith in community.

**Jo Bell**

– Youth Coordinator



St Mary's Mosgiel Vinnies helping in the George Street shop.

## SOCIETY CORE VALUE IN ACTION

One of the core values of the society is...

### **Respect for the environment:**

Taking action and supporting others to take action to reduce our carbon footprint and live sustainably.



With this in mind, the Dunedin area has made positive, sustainable changes this year that we are proud of.

We have reduced our general waste by half, found more sustainable ways to operate our food banks so we are not sending single-use plastic out into the community, and we have reduced our fabric waste substantially by making a number of rag rug looms and having volunteers weave gorgeous rugs either in their homes or at the centre. We have stepped up our recycling, ensuring that nothing goes into general waste that can somehow be recycled.



It has been a difficult time for people in our community with the cost-of-living crisis and housing shortage. Our food bank has seen an increase in demand and a reduction in food donations resulting in the need to purchase more food than we have ever had to.

There has also been an increase in more complex client situations. No longer are most people coming in as a means to tide them over because of an unexpected expense.

Many people are living in a state of crisis and not coping. In Dunedin we have an excellent network of social service agencies who we work closely with, ensuring that these complex clients receive the wrap-around support required.

**Sarah Strang**

– Office Administrator



# Mid-South Canterbury Area Council

The Mid-South Canterbury Area Council comprises Ashburton, Timaru, Temuka and Waimate Conferences. These Conferences have had an active year, interacting and meeting local needs in their communities. This includes food banks, delivery of food parcels, welfare clothing and furniture distribution. We have paid power bills, car repairs, school fees and medical costs as well as personal visits to the old and lonely which are a blessing.

Timaru Conference has been very active in dentistry assistance as they believe oral health is very beneficial and more life-changing to self-esteem and confidence than receiving a food parcel from time to time. Timaru has also modernised the rear entry and stock storage area of the Shop.

Ashburton has purchased a de-consecrated Anglican Church, which enables further growth, with room for storage and short-term accommodation in family violence situations.

All Conferences are proactive within their local areas. Events such as Toot for Tucker, Santa's Little Helpers, agencies such as He Waka Tapu and Presbyterian Support Budget Services and other supporting societies all help us in our work.

Membership for Conferences is always a priority and assistance from Mike Daly (Christchurch) in holding a PowerPoint recruitment meeting in Waimate was warmly appreciated.

The Area Council has held two festival meetings this year and some combined Conference and volunteer Christmas celebrations were very successful.

A successful Conference meets regularly and enthusiastically, at least once a fortnight – reflecting, getting the business sorted, involving all members in financial discussions and recording full and accurate minutes. These minutes are essential as they are distributed to any member who may have missed the meeting and thus keeps him/her in touch with the action of the moment which is instrumental in retaining all members' interest. While each Conference records their meetings differently, swapping minutes between Conferences is also beneficial in sharing knowledge and ideas which can only be helpful.

**Michael Hanham**

– *Mid-South Canterbury Area President*



*Laura Banks (left) receives a much appreciated meat donation given to St Vincent de Paul Society's Ashburton foodbank from business owner Stefan Brook.*

*Photo credit - The Ashburton Courier*



# Southland Area Council

It's been a huge, moving, productive yet frustrating year for our Invercargill Conferences but we carry on in good heart and hope.

## Vinnies Shops

We have recently sold one Shop which means we now have two Shops in Invercargill. Both need upgrading but the most urgent action is needed in the South Invercargill Shop in Pomona Street. Because we are fully volunteer-based, we are able to meet the needs of the vulnerable by offering them free and very inexpensive goods from this Shop. As all of the other op shops have moved into the centre of the city in order to increase their revenue, we are now the only organisation that serves the South and its people. We are overwhelmed with generous donations and the Shop is continually full of wonderful customers, pleased to be able to clothe their families and buy household items and presents on a very limited income. Ironically we also have excellent financial turnover.

However the urgency of the need to re-purpose our Shop to meet the demands of its success has led to some frustration as we engage with the necessary consent and building processes.

An exciting innovation – the result of a collaboration between our Pomona Street Shop and St Thomas' school in Winton – was the creation of 'distraction packs' for children at A&E in Kew Hospital, Invercargill. Young Vinnies at the school came up with the brilliant idea so the Shop donated the money and the children created the packs of toys and games to help distract children as they wait for care in hospital. This initiative has received many appreciative comments.

The North Road Shop is in a rebuilding phase with managers Pam and Christine running the Shop and online sales. Like Pomona Street, the Shop has a focus on creating a community of support both for the volunteers and the customers. Because of its location, many of the customers are from the country areas. This Shop, based in an old house which is not really suited to being a shop, is next in line for development.

While we give out some food from the Shops and supermarket vouchers to some families with school-aged children, we are lucky to have



*Christmas garage sale.*

regular access to the Southland food bank to which two of our Council members belong. This frees up our time and energy to meet other needs for vulnerable people in our community. We give out Easter and Christmas parcels both to town people and those in the wider Southland area. Many generous donors also give us furniture which some ask us to give away or we sell at reasonable prices. There's a tremendous community of Southland people who support us in our work.

## Scholarship

An innovation this year is the establishment of a substantial tertiary education scholarship for a student who is experiencing hardship and may not otherwise be able to pursue this option. It has taken quite a bit of effort in setting it up but we hope it will keep running each year. We are excited to be able to offer this opportunity in 2024 to a young man in the city.

## Gore

In recent years the long-standing, devoted Vinnies committee passed on the baton to a new group of younger volunteers. It is a privilege to help them on their Vincentian journey.

We have a wide base of deeply committed volunteers – people who donate goods, work in our Shops, serve on the committees, and donate food each Sunday at Mass. Many work behind the scenes and their generosity really makes a difference to those who are in need. We are humbled to be the loving hands that administer material and spiritual healing to the vulnerable in our community.

## Bernadette Ford

– *Southland Area President*

Society of St Vincent de Paul in New Zealand

# Summary Financial Statements

## Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>		
Revenue from sale of goods	8,716,270	7,799,972
Revenue from fundraising activities	4,639,810	7,091,098
Other revenue	299,582	530,448
<b>Total operating revenue</b>	<b>13,655,662</b>	<b>15,421,518</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Wages, salaries and other employee costs	5,311,723	5,122,493
Shops operating expenses	1,440,294	1,424,019
Other overhead and administration expenses	4,109,444	3,802,094
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>10,861,462</b>	<b>10,348,606</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>2,794,201</b>	<b>5,072,912</b>
Surplus/(deficit) from investing activities	344,335	(17,955)
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE PROVISION POVERTY RELIEF</b>	<b>3,138,535</b>	<b>5,054,957</b>
Direct costs related to the provision of poverty relief	3,114,813	3,920,377
<b>SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>23,722</b>	<b>1,134,580</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSES</b>		
Revaluation of land and buildings	(2,723,072)	3,387,934
<b>Total other comprehensive revenue and expense</b>	<b>(2,723,072)</b>	<b>3,387,934</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSE</b>	<b>(2,699,350)</b>	<b>4,522,514</b>

## Statement of Financial Position As at 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current	9,968,395	10,815,381
Non-current	32,008,438	34,259,409
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>41,976,833</b>	<b>45,074,790</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current	924,475	1,323,082
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>924,475</b>	<b>1,323,082</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>41,052,358</b>	<b>43,751,708</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated funds	9,676,493	10,159,688
Other equity reserves	31,375,865	33,592,020
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>41,052,358</b>	<b>43,751,708</b>

Statement of Changes in Net Assets  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		
Opening balance	10,159,688	10,998,030
Surplus/deficit) for the year	23,722	1,134,580
Transfer from/(to) other equity reserves	(506,917)	(1,972,922)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>9,676,493</b>	<b>10,159,688</b>
<b>Other equity reserves</b>		
Opening balance	33,592,020	28,231,164
Revaluation of land and buildings	(2,723,072)	3,387,934
Transfer from/(to) accumulated funds	506,917	1,972,922
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>31,375,865</b>	<b>33,592,020</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>41,052,358</b>	<b>43,751,708</b>

Statement of Cash Flows  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	352,108	1,280,894
Cash flows from/(used in) investing activities	(2,708,637)	(1,965,021)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(2,356,529)	(684,127)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	8,368,708	9,052,835
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>6,012,179</b>	<b>8,368,708</b>

The summary financial statements have been extracted from the full annual financial statements of the Society of St Vincent de Paul in New Zealand for the year ended 30 June 2023. The full annual financial statements are available via the Society's website - [www.svdp.org.nz](http://www.svdp.org.nz).

The summary financial statements do not include all the disclosures provided in the full financial statements and cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding as provided by the full financial statements.





“Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveller who has been attacked. It is justice’s role to prevent the attack.”

– Frédéric Ozanam





**Society of St Vincent de Paul in New Zealand**

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