

Annual Report 2023





Christchurch Methodist Mission

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CONTENTS

Chair's Report Executive Director's Report	
Schools and Group Work	9
Building Community	11
Social Services	13
Community Housing Christchurch	15
Housing First Ōtautahi	17
Housing - Te Tau Ihu	19
WesleyCare	21
Thank You	23
Financial Performance	25

Chair's Report

As New Zealand struggles to address the challenges brought about by the challenging global economic situation, the role and services of CMM are more important than ever.

The cost of living crisis hits the more vulnerable in a community first. The test of a decent society is how we treat those with the greatest need.

The growing number of unhoused people on our streets and living in motels are indicators of the lack of love in our economy. CMM seeks to identify causes and address them in a caring and supportive way. Our challenge is to think through and fund longterm deep investments that empower and change people's lives for the better.

In a series of articles in the Listener, Rebecca Macfie has written about challenges in



our society for those who are struggling to survive:

"...they can't fix a housing system that favours the rights of housing investors over the human rights of families to decent homes."

Our country struggles to find solutions to NZ's housing crisis. This requires long-term political collaboration by all parties. Community housing initiatives need support by central and local government, iwi and churches. CMM continues to build houses to address these inequities. The evidence of the resulting wellbeing for families in our houses, with support if needed, is obvious as people's lives settle into normality.

We are only able to provide the broad range of services from cradle to arave because of the dedicated and generous staff who live the kaupapa of the Mission, Staff from all our sectors present to our Board at each meeting. This keeps us up to date with the challenges on the ground. As a Board we are blown away by the professionalism, energy, commitment, and love manifested by our staff at all levels.

In the past year CMM has introduced the Living Wage for all staff. It's important that we live our message of equity in our society.

The Government continues to underpay for the provision of aged care. This is a constant challenge for our Board and I commend all our hospital and rest home staff for their dedication as they provide their high level of care.

The Christchurch Methodist Parishes continue to provide support, funding, and prayers for the work of the Mission. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and valued.

CMM is respected throughout NZ. It provides a voice for those who are often forgotten. Nobody manifests this better than Jill Hawkey, our Executive Director. As a Board we are proud and grateful to have a leader who articulates and advocates at both a local and national level for the challenge of social justice.

To my fellow Board members who freely donate their time and expertise, I thank you for all your contribution and wisdom.



Pam Sharpe, Board Chair

To our external donors, thank you. The stories in this Annual Report demonstrate how well your contributions have impacted on the work of the Mission and the lives of those we serve.

Executive Director's Report

The end of Covid-19 lockdowns has enabled CMM to continue developing its diverse range of services across the community.

Residents of WesleyCare and their families have appreciated the end of visitor restrictions, group work with children and adults re-started, and staff enjoyed rebuilding relationships at the inaugural All Staff Retreat. New initiatives have flourished such as the Pasifika Mamas Group and CMM taking on responsibility for Christchurch's Blanket Bank.

CMM became a Living Wage Employer during the year; the first Aged Care provider to have done so. The Pay Equity Claim for Social Workers with the PSA was also settled, with funding to meet higher social work wage costs being granted by the Government. Both initiatives recognise the compassion, knowledge and skills that CMM's employees contribute every day.

In recent years, CMM's staff team has increased significantly to 280 workers. Having appointed our first Housing worker in 2015, we now have 71 staff working on housing issues across Christchurch, Blenheim, Nelson and Greymouth.

We are continuing to witness the challenges for older people without significant assets seeking either affordable housing or residential care. The wait list for our affordable rental accommodation at Wesley Village has continued to grow and we are proud that WesleyCare offers high-quality rest home and hospital-level care irrespective

Jill Hawkey, Executive Director of financial circumstances. However, this does mean that WesleyCare incurs financial losses as Government aged care fees do not meet increasing costs; a fact that we highlighted to Hon. Andrew Little, then Minister of Health, when he visited WesleyCare.

The overall financial position of CMM is strong, with surpluses applied to social housing projects. Having supported many homeless families in emergency and transitional housing in Blenheim, our first building project of six two-bedroom houses is now underway.

In Christchurch, we are partnering with local parishes to build housing on their land. We have undertaken a long-term lease of 14 new family homes in the Karamū development and have established He Oranga Rua, seven units for those who have been long-term homeless and have struggled to maintain a tenancy, as part of the Housing

First programme. Transitional housing is also being provided for young people, working alongside the Supported Accommodation service for young people leaving Oranga Tamariki.

While much of CMM's work is supported with Government contracts, many of our services such as the Community Development Workers, the Whānau Support Worker at Aratupu, and the Chaplain at WesleyCare are reliant on the support of individuals, parishes and philanthropic organisations. We are incredible grateful to all those who support CMM's vision of a just and inclusive society in which all people flourish.

75 children attending

Aratupu



Aratupu Preschool and Whānau Hub is a community hub with an Early Childhood Centre at its heart. We are driven by the Mission's vision of a socially just and inclusive society in which all people flourish.

We are animated by this vision to have an expansive approach to early childhood education that makes us unique. At Aratupu, kaiako, a whānau support worker and the wider Christchurch Methodist Mission work together to provide a wraparound service for all tamariki and whānau to flourish.

The special character of Aratupu enables us to work with vulnerable tamariki and whānau closely and over several years which is important as the complexity of needs in our community has intensified, resulting in a growing requirement for complex intervention plans and multiagency support. 97%

of Aratupu parents satisfied or very satisfied with the service they receive

Staff work hard at building respectful engagement with whānau to ensure a comprehensive approach is taken so that positive outcomes are achieved for tamariki.

This year a stronger relationship with Ministry of Education Support Services has meant more tamariki have been able to access limited funded support both in the Centre and in the home, alongside professional development for the teaching team.

Cost of living pressures over the past year have resulted in an increased need among whānau for essential items such as food and clothing. Over winter this year, Aratupu partnered with Good Night Sleep Tight to ensure all of the Centre's tamariki and their siblings had pajamas and blankets to battle the winter chills.

Over the past year, a number of Aratupu tamariki have struggled with emotional regulation, resulting in frequent disruptive behaviour. Our kaiako work with these children to help them develop the regulation skills they need to function more effectively in a wide range of situations. This can include learning to manage



emotions, thoughts and behaviour, as well as to perform important everyday tasks such as taking turns, working well with others, and persisting with difficult or frustrating tasks.

While it can be challenging to support a large cohort of tamariki with complex needs, our kaiako report that they are motivated by the knowledge that this effort will lead to more positive outcomes across the lifespan of these tamariki.

A positive Education Review Office (ERO) review of Aratupu Preschool and Whānau Hub affirmed the Centre's kaupapa by acknowledging its work to support and nurture development of tamariki and whānau. ERO highlighted the special support to tamariki with additional learning needs and its effective engagement with whānau and support agencies.

The emphasis on engaging whānau at Aratupu is also reflected in the numerous events we host. Most recently the Matariki celebration gave whānau the opportunity not only to socialize with other whānau, but also to celebrate the successes and learning of tamariki, and to dream about the year to come.

Schools and Group Work

1098

tamariki supported either individually or through group programmes in schools

The increasing demand for Mana Ake services and our independently contracted schools highlights the complex range of challenges in a post-COVID-19 world for many in our city.

Cost-of-living pressures along with job and housing insecurity, and social isolation impact not only the adults but also the tamariki in their care. We are proud that the value of our work is recognised and that schools invite our teams to provide critical support in their communities.

The Child Wellbeing Team is a group of professional kaimahi who work alongside tamariki in schools to help create safe, inclusive, and supportive environments for young people across Ōtautahi. While one-onone interventions with young people make up the core of the work, requests for group work has steadily increased this past year. Groups provide a place where children and adults can come together to normalise their experiences and build knowledge and resilience.

Popular groups include WISEUP (a life skills groups for 8-10-year olds); Seasons for Growth (a grief and loss group for young people); ACES (support specifically for children experience parental separation); Tuning into Kids/ Teens (for parents to learn about parenting with emotional intelligence); Ko Wai Au (a place for tamariki to explore their identity); Brave Brains (using brain science to address anxiety), and many more.

Although the service managed more requests than ever over the vear. hundreds of our tamariki achieved personal goals with the support of kaimahi. When it comes to wellbeing and personal growth, it is hard to see the full impact on a young person and their whānau until much later, but feedback such as this from parents has been heartwarming to receive this year: "My child's confidence has grown exponentially and she's much more content within herself." and "The workers' support has been amazing, not only to me but my girls also."

Woman Wise, our successful and well-loved women's selfconfidence programme, was run twice in the year, with full attendance on both occasions. The programme attracts a variety of participants and we run a wait list due to persistently high numbers of referrals. Presently, there are as many women on the wait list as attended Woman Wise over the year.

Participants of Woman Wise report that they would highly recommend the programme, that they have discovered strength they didn't realise they had, and that the programme has given them a sense of purpose. One woman had barely left her house in two-and-a-half years, yet she summoned the courage to attend and did so every week, sharing her story and joining the coffee group that was created at the end.

Demand for group work is high, and running groups is costeffective in meeting the needs of a number of participants at one time. We continue to rely on philanthropic funding to remove cost as a barrier to participation and to make this an equitable service for tamariki and whānau.

Building Community



blankets distributed through the Blanket Bank

From our youngest citizens to adults desiring greater autonomy over their lives, the Community Response Team delivered a range of life-enhancing and wellness activities over the course of the year.

Two of those initiatives were new to CMM. In November 2022. CMM responded to the need for a mother and baby support group for Pasifika and created Pasifika Mamas, Pasifika Mamas is the only group of its type in Christchurch for mums of Pasifika heritage or with Pasifika children. A group of three mothers approached a CMM staff member who initially arranged a space for the group and has since continued to support the growth of the group, with up to 11 mothers now regularly attending sessions.

Modelled on the Fonofale example, the Pasifika equivalent to Te Whare Tapa Whā, the group helps prevent social isolation and enables mothers to share stories and to support one another. New mums can tap into the experience of second- and thirdtime mothers in the group. Not all second or third generation Pasifika parents are members of Pacific churches or may have only limited experience in a Pacific community, making a group such as this particularly important.

Pasifika Mamas espouses strong, positive family values, catering to stay-at-home mums, new mums, and young mums of Pasifika heritage, as well as other mothers with Pasifika children. Mothers need only identify as Pacific, or have children who do so.

The group enhances the wellbeing of mamas and pepe by providing support and community from a Pasifika viewpoint. Sessions have included education on financial capability, outings to local libraries, visits to pre-school music groups, lessons on the joy of infant massage, and talanoa/ korero (talking) sessions. The mamas say they feel comfortable in the group and enjoy the change of scene and the opportunity to socialise.

The Blanket Bank is an initiative that CMM took over from



the New Brighton Project in September 2022 to prevent this valuable service from shutting down. The Blanket Bank provides warm bedding to whānau and individuals that struggle to keep warm on cold Christchurch nights. Requests come from a wide range of people including single people, extended families, the working poor, and other agencies.

Winter has been a particularly busy period for the Blanket Bank

with a high number of requests, distributing on average three blankets per household. More than simply a blanket distribution service, Blanket Bank staff direct clients to other services for extra support they may find helpful.

The Community Response Team looks forward to creating new opportunities for more local outreach that enhances and supports the wellbeing of our communities in the coming year.

Social Services

young people supported who are transitioning out of state care or experiencing homelessness

This year we have continued to develop the services we offer alongside providing quality support to families through our team of social workers and psychologists. We are proud to have a highly qualified and skilled team who provide effective support based on best practice.

To ensure we offer the most effective support we can, we have invested in training the team in new evidence-based interventions, including Play Therapy and Video Interaction Guidance. It has been wonderful to see families who are unable to access these therapies elsewhere seeing positive change for their children.

Our Youth Housing service has expanded to offer Transitional

578

Housing for 16 to 24 year-olds. This service provides housing and support to young people who are unhoused and usually living in Emergency Accommodation motels before they come to us. Many have small children, which can result in very challenging and unstable situations; being able to offer warm, safe housing and the support they need to find a permanent home is transformative for them.

In the east of Christchurch, we are proud to have continued our work with Kahu Matarau, which supports whānau with very complex needs. An independent Developmental Evaluation is to be published shortly, with key findings that include: improved safety for tamariki, fewer children entering state care, improved parenting, increased engagement in education, improved



support systems, significant personal change, and better relationships with Oranga Tamariki.

20

During these tough financial times we have seen our Incentive Saver initiative grow. This programme provides financial literacy education while also encouraging people to start a regular saving habit. If they are successful in their saving we provide a bonus by matching dollar for dollar their savings up to \$500. This year 45 people participated in the programme and after six months 80% of graduates are still saving regularly.

Our successful collaboration with the Christchurch City Council has continued this year, with several great initiatives. Firstly, through the Mayor's Welfare Fund we have accessed funding for 20 children to receive specialist assessments and supports for learning difficulties or to develop social skills. The Mayor's Welfare Fund also provided 52 families with food vouchers to get them through the expensive Christmas period. We have also partnered with the Council's SwimSmart swimming lessons to provide 30 children with free swimming lessons.

financial mentoring sessions provided to individuals and whānau



Community Housing Christchurch

CMM helped nearly 60 whānau and older people maintain their tenancies in the last year, bringing to 152 the number of whānau and individuals supported since CMM began providing the Sustaining Tenancies service in July 2020.

CMM is one of four providers of this Government-funded service in Canterbury and one of two in Marlborough. Sustaining Tenancies services are tasked with doing what needs to be done to ensure that people at risk of losing their tenancies remain in their rentals.

A number of factors put vulnerable tenants at risk of losing their tenancies. These range from being in rent arrears, violating lease terms or having unauthorised pets, to suffering the effects of poverty, overcrowding, mental health and addiction issues. In other instances, tenants are unable to find homes that comply with Healthy Home standards or are made homeless when a property is put on the market.

Sustaining Tenancies has significantly enhanced the lives of these tenants. The people CMM works with now enjoy housing security and a sense of belonging. Clients are often empowered to make changes in their personal lives that have significant positive impacts. As one CMM client says: "I feel so settled in my home now, I feel safe and secure. A year ago, this wasn't the case, I was frightened and my confidence and self-esteem was nonexistent. I had terrible anxiety over neighbourhood tension and violence. My Sustaining Tenancies worker supported me to help solve these terrible problems."

In the year to June 30, a total of III whānau and older people were or became tenants in CMM housing, with just over half being whānau in transitional housing or social housing for families. The other half were kaumātua in CMM's Whare Tiaki or older adults living in the Wesley Village affordable housing complex. whānau and older people living in CMM housing in Christchurch

42

households supported in transitional housing in Christchurch

Alongside our housing stock and compassionate tenancy management, the housing division continued to offer wraparound support for tenants, such as helping tenants understand their rights and access available resources.

CMM is unwavering in its commitment to provide housing that is safe, secure, stable and affordable. Once in housing, our tenants are able to establish roots, form social connections in their neighbourhood and enjoy the peace of mind that comes with the security of living in a decent home and belonging to a community.

Housing First Ōtautahi

This year marks five years since Housing First Ōtautahi was launched to provide support for people experiencing long-term homelessness in our city.

Having housed over 280 people during this time and now with 30 team members supporting 267 kaewa (clients), the service has achieved countless positive impacts for some of our city's most vulnerable people.

The past year has seen many new developments, including the opening of He Oranga Rua in September 2022. He Oranga Rua is a seven-unit housing complex for kaewa who have previously struggled to maintain tenancies and embraces the concept of 'second chances', which can be expressed as creating a space for belonging, learning and growth. In the time since this project was launched, only one kaewa has left the complex, with the remainder continuing with their journey of recovery.

The Commons Project celebrated its one-year anniversary in April, marking a period of awesome community development initiatives. Weekly events at The Commons Gap Filler site provide a space for the city's most vulnerable residents to connect, engage with services, share kai and enjoy a range of creative pursuits.

These events foster a valuable sense of community for those experiencing isolation and provide an important opportunity to check in with those who are sleeping rough, allowing us to reach more people in need of support and who may otherwise have slipped between the



people being supported

cracks. The Commons Project continues to expand, hosting a recent movie night event that was a huge success, with over 100 people attending.

To acknowledge World Homeless Day in October 2022, we produced a Photovoice Exhibition, featuring photographs taken by six individuals experiencing homelessness. The photographs were accompanied with video stories that captured the meaning behind the images. With this exhibition we invited the public to 'see the world through the eyes of someone experiencing homelessness.' Following a successful display period at Tūranga, the exhibition travelled around libraries across Ōtautahi early this year, sparking important conversations about the harmful stigmas associated with homelessness.

We're grateful for the continued partnership of the many organisations and services that collaborate with us and support our mahi. Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini.



36

Kaewa graduated from our service



Housing - Te Tau Ihu

203

households supported who are living in emergency motels in Marlborough, Nelson and the West Coast



This year the Te Tau Ihu (Upper South Island) team have supported over 340 whānau who were experiencing homelessness or were about to become homeless. This is

a significant increase on last year due to the increasing number of unhoused people in Te Tau Ihu.

Given the increasing need for our services, the Te Tau Ihu team have expanded this year, bringing on a Housing Social Worker to support the team with their kaewa (clients) with complex needs. A new Emergency Housing Social Support and Housing Advocate role has been established in Blenheim in response to the team identifying homeless whānau who are 'falling through the cracks' and who don't meet criteria for existing services, or who are unable to access them for various other reasons. Additionally, we established a further Emergency Housing role on the West Coast.

The team have worked hard to bring on more housing and to develop 'out of the box' solutions in a very turbulent environment where there often is little to no housing available. Under these challenging circumstances, being part of a large organisation that is committed to advocating for kaewa with disabilities, those experiencing discrimination, and those denied the basic human right of having a roof over their head, is inspiring and motivates us to overcome the barriers our clients face.

The feedback we receive from clients validates the need for the services we provide and the extent to which the support the team provides enables them to achieve positive outcomes in their lives. Among the feedback we received recently are:

"CMM were the only ones willing to come to the party, the support we received was flippin' awesome."

"Since CMM found us this home (and CMM worked damn hard for us) I am very close at getting to where I want to be. We are very happy here. CMM has been taking me out and about showing me where and who I can connect with to make my goals a reality."

The team's mahi and dedication has paid off, supporting over 130 whānau into longer term housing throughout the year.

Alongside housing and social support, the community development team have been busy arranging regular community events that have been well attended, including kaewa-led hāngī and day trips throughout Marlborough to support kaewa with community integration.

The team have forged strong relationships within the community that provide kaewa access to doctors and other health and social services to support their wellbeing.

WesleyCare



of residents rate their overall experience of living at WesleyCare as good or very good

WesleyCare aged residential home and hospital continued providing a high standard of compassionate professional care in spite of challenging circumstances.

In early 2023, WesleyCare's former Manager, Cath Swain, retired from the position. Cath left a well-run and maintained facility that is characterised by care and compassion. Her replacement, Donna Coxshall, quickly came to appreciate her supportive team, the family environment of WesleyCare, and the high ratio of nurses to residents.

Having endured considerable disruption during the Covid-19 pandemic, WesleyCare, along with other aged care sector providers, continues to face the double hurdle of attracting adequate government funding and competing with higher pay rates in other healthcare sectors that employ nurses.

Nevertheless, the CMM Board remains committed to providing residential care that is accessible to all, irrespective of financial circumstance. The high regard in which WesleyCare is held has not abated and is demonstrated by the ongoing financial gifts from families of residents past and present, as well as from Methodist parishioners across the central South Island.

Thanks to their generous responses to our focused appeals, we've been able to increase availability of specialised healthcare equipment such as shower chairs, overhead hoists, and bariatric care equipment, none of which is funded by Government. WesleyCare is also unique in that has a full-time Chaplain and the use of Wesley





Chapel. The Chapel recently hosted the christening of a resident's grandchild, making it possible for the resident to attend.

Visitors to our recent open days were enthusiastic in their praise of WesleyCare and our "pleasant and helpful" staff. One visitor commented that the staff they met were indicative of a committed and contented workforce. Visitors also found the spacious sunny lounges, the variety of activities and the beautifully presented building and grounds appealing.

We were delighted to discover that 96% of residents rate their overall experience of living at WesleyCare as good or very good. Residents themselves tell us they choose WesleyCare for its welcoming and warm "feel", its good reputation, affordability, and having had a good experience during an earlier respite stay.

WesleyCare remains an employer of choice, with former staff members returning to work here over the course of the year, recognising its pleasant working environment in a labour market in which they could work anywhere. A stable workforce means that we are able to provide residents with consistent levels of care and maintain the high level of service we are renowned for.



THANK YOU

To all our incredible supporters, volunteers and staff who help us make a difference.



In the year since taking over operation of the Blanket Bank we've seen enormous generosity from a wide range of supporters, donating blankets and bedding to help keep whānau in need warm. Thank you to all those who continue to gift items, we're grateful for your ongoing support.



We wished a happy retirement to WesleyCare Manager Cath Swain who steered WesleyCare through a challenging few years during the Covid-19 pandemic, demonstrating calm and compassionate leadership.



Recurring donations from our Mission Partners (regular supporters) **fund our core Community-Led Development programmes**, supporting hundreds of tamariki, whānau and adults across a range of initiatives.

A huge thank you to our Board members for their leadership and commitment:

> Pam Sharpe (Chair) Martin Hadlee (Deputy Chair) Andrew Donaldson Andrew Hercus David Caygill Jan Wright Losana Korovulavula Roz Wilkie Sarah Kelleher



Staff from different **CMM teams often come together to support each other's mahi**, such as in the case of school holiday programmes at our Guild Street Housing Community where staff help deliver awesome activities for the tamariki.



Last Christmas 160 families received personalised Christmas hampers thanks to the kindness of all those who took part in our Support a Family initiative. Thank you to everyone who put together a hamper, helping to relieve the financial burden from families at a stressful time of year.

Thank you to all those that donated towards our 2023 WesleyCare Appeal. Your support enabled the purchase of new shower chairs that have made bathing safer and more comfortable for WesleyCare residents with limited mobility.



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

WHERE OUR OPERATING INCOME OF \$30.64M CAME FROM:

	%	Şm
Government Contracts & Grants	49%	14.87
Aged Care Fees	29%	8.99
Rental Income	17%	5.10
Other Income	2%	0.67
Grants & Donations	2%	0.61
Interest Income	1%	0.40
	Total	30.64

WHERE OUR OPERATING COSTS OF \$26.20M WERE USED:

	%	\$m
Community Housing	39%	10.29
Aged Care	38%	9.90
Social Services	15%	3.93
Finance and Administration	6%	1.49
Early Childhood Education	2%	0.59
	Total	26.20

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023 WE RECEIVED GRANTS FROM THESE GENEROUS TRUSTS AND FUNDERS:

Central South Island Synod Christchurch City Council Farina Thompson Charitable Trust Jones Foundation Manchester Unity Welfare Trust Board Maurice Carter Charitable Trust Methodist Church of New Zealand My Baby's Village Community Fund NZ Lottery Grants Board Philip Brown Fund Rātā Foundation Sister Rona Fund The David Ellison Charitable Trust The Tindall Foundation Wayne Francis Charitable Trust





Mission



356 individual donors made one or more donations throughout the year We received **23** gifts from people who kindly remembered the Christchurch Methodist Mission in their Will 409 children and 283 adults received Christmas hampers through Support a Family 2022

The operating income and costs shown above have been taken from the financial statements of the Christchurch Methodist Central Mission (the "Mission") for the year ended 30 June 2023. In addition to the operating income, the Mission received non-operating income of \$0.25m from bequests, interest on designated funds

and grants for capital projects. Mission funds (assets less liabilities) total \$43.3m of which \$33.6m comprises property, plant and equipment. The full financial statements, including

an unqualified audit opinion, for the year ended 30 June 2023 are available on request from the Mission.

Tō tātou tirohanga (Our Vision)

A just and inclusive society in which all people flourish





Tō tātou whāinga (Our Mission)

To promote and enhance the dignity of all people through:

Providing compassionate care, support and empowerment of those most vulnerable in our community

Building communities, neighbourhoods and a wider society that are fair and inclusive

Challenging injustice and working for social transformation

Christchurch Methodist Mission

A member of the Methodist Alliance 🗱 Charity Service Registration CC30787 Christchurch Methodist Mission PO Box 5416, Papanui Christchurch 8542 03 375 1470

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