

The Advocate

Welcome From the CEO

Already we are racing rapidly through a new year and, if our experience of these first two months is any indication, it seems that 2010 will be even busier than last year for Christchurch Women's Refuge.

The post-Christmas period is always busy for us, but this year even more so. That is in contrast to the pre-Christmas period when women at risk try to keep the tensions within the family in check, so that Christmas won't be spoiled. But the additional stresses that the holiday period brings from increased expenditure, having children off school and/or having family at home cannot help but erupt in households where violence has become a method of "handling" problems. Once the festivities are over, January and February inevitably bring the calls for support.

This holiday season was different in that our Safe House was consistently busy even in the months leading up to Christmas and the number of police reports we received was very high. Our Safe House continued to be full over and after the holidays and the crisis line has been ringing constantly, translating into a large increase in our core 'community' work (providing support to women who don't need or wish to access the Safe House).

The recession has definitely had an impact. Think about all the ways that you or someone you know have been affected – perhaps struggling to pay bills, cutting back expenses, doing without non-essentials, maybe even the

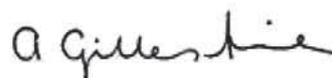
loss of a job, a cut in pay, or giving up dreams of owning a house – and then add a violent home situation to the mix, and imagine how much worse it could be.

For many of the families we see there is simply not enough money to go round and more and more we must now include information and advice on budgeting in our Support Plans for clients.

We have also seen a developing trend in which young people have moved back into their family home and are imposing the abusive behaviours they have experienced and learned back onto their families.

All in all 2010 promises to be another challenging and demanding year for our clients – and our staff. But we are up to the challenge – and always appreciate your help in rising to it.

I hope that you enjoy reading the first of our newsletters for 2010, and I wish you a safe and happy year.



Annette Gillespie
Chief Executive Officer



CEO Annette Gillespie

A Very Special Christmas Tree

Christchurch Women's Refuge entered a very special tree in the annual Christmas Tree Festival, held in Rangiora in mid December. A multitude of sparkling silver, gold and glass angels drew many appreciative eyes, but this tree had a message – it commemorated those who have been killed by domestic violence in the last ten years.

Refuge staff struggled to find enough branches to fit the 75 angels (representing children) and 170 name cards for each woman, child and man known to have been killed since 2000. Thanks to its beautiful decorations and powerful message, the tree literally stopped many people in their tracks.





Payroll Giving is Here!

Payroll Giving is now available as a way to make regular charitable donations. It is easy, voluntary and – because your donation goes directly from your gross pay to your charity of choice – painless!

In late 2009 employers received information from the Government about the new system. Once an employee indicates that they want to take part, the employer will deduct the donation, check the charity's eligibility on the Inland Revenue website (Christchurch Women's Refuge is already registered as a charitable organisation), give the staff their tax deduction, pass the contribution to the charity and obtain a receipt. The scheme is administered through the PAYE tax system, so tax rebates for donors are immediate, rather than annual.

In January payroll software companies provided the changes necessary to enable the process to get underway. At present, however, Payroll Giving is only available to organisations that file their PAYE returns online.

Payroll Giving is already in place in other countries such as the UK, USA and Australia, where it has had very positive results for charitable organisations. Some companies even match their employees' donations as their own charitable gift (now 100% tax free for companies).

For more information on how the scheme works, visit www.ird.govt.nz

Recent Events

WHITE RIBBON RIDE

On Sunday 22 November 2009 a large group of keen motorbike riders and Christchurch Women's Refuge got together to raise awareness about White Ribbon Day (25 November) with a local White Ribbon Ride into Cathedral Square. White Ribbon Day is an internationally recognised day which promotes taking a stand against violence towards women.



Wayne Potter from Rolling Thunder Harley Davidson shop put out the call for a local get-together, before South Island riders headed north to join the three-day 'national' ride from Wellington to Auckland. As expected, the bikes and their riders encouraged a lot of attention from passers-by, who took the opportunity to check out the bikes and learn more about White Ribbon Day and its importance.

Thanks to Wayne and all the riders, as well as Mayoress Joanna Parker (Christchurch Women's Refuge's patron) and local MPs Clayton Cosgrove and Brendon Burns who supported the ride.

ANNUAL GIRLS' NIGHT OUT RAISES RECORD DONATION

On 26 November last year Christchurch Women's Refuge was lucky enough to once again benefit from a women-only charity fundraiser organised by Denise, Mel and Hillary Bleach and Lisa Barton.

These four women have organised this annual event for five years in a row and the success of the event is evidence of what can be achieved when people really want to make a difference.

The night provided an affordable opportunity to socialise, win some truly amazing prizes and also help out two local charities. Christchurch Women's Refuge benefitted from door and raffle sales and the City Mission received donated gifts. This year proved the most successful event ever (so far), with 120 people attending and over \$3,300 raised to help Christchurch Women's Refuge.

Thanks go to DB Breweries for generously donating the venue which, despite being bigger than previous venues, was still filled to capacity.

Special thanks to Mel, Denise, Hillary and Lisa who once again organised a fantastic event. Thanks also to all the sponsors and the dozens of donors of the amazing raffle prizes.

FASHION FRIDAY LUNCH

Christchurch Women's Refuge was the fortunate recipient of the last Fashion Friday Lunch for 2009. On Friday 27 November approximately 50 people attended a lunch at Piko Piko restaurant in the Millennium Hotel to enjoy a three-course meal and view fantastic fashion from Freesia, Head Over Heels on High and Saviour. There was also a silent auction to entice a little Christmas spending and a raffle with great prizes up for grabs.

The lunch was organised by Sue Reid, who has organised several other lunches for different causes throughout the year. It was a wonderful break to the day and allowed people the chance to network, relax, perhaps win a prize and show their support for Christchurch Women's Refuge at the same time.

A special thanks to Sue and also Metropol, Spotlight Model Agency, Face Cosmetics and all of the other sponsors and gift donors.

Term I Groups Fill Fast

Domestic violence group education programmes have started again for the year, with four groups running at either the Christchurch or Rangiora offices during the first school term. The groups all filled up quickly and clients are already being registered for Term II.

Each term Christchurch Women's Refuge offers a minimum of four groups and, in some terms (like Term 4 of 2009), up to six group programmes run simultaneously.

The 10-week education programmes are approved by the Ministry of Justice for Protected Persons (i.e. women or children named on a Protection Order; these clients are referred to as 'mandated' clients). Christchurch Women's Refuge is the only refuge in Christchurch to have this approval for children's groups. However, despite only receiving funding for mandated clients, the agency still offers its programme to

women and children without a Protection Order; it must then seek to fund the \$1,270 cost per woman or \$1,100 per child itself.

Parallel programmes are offered for women and children, and include topics such as understanding types of abuse (e.g. sexual, emotional, psychological, financial, physical) and abusive behaviour; legal support and advocacy to other agencies; the impact of domestic violence on the woman and children; realising who is responsible for the abuse; what constitutes appropriate behaviour; developing safety plans; building a deeper understanding of the strengths and strategies women can utilise to make changes and keep themselves – and their children – safe; and much more.

Separate programmes are offered for children in recognition of the fact that their issues are different to those of adults. It is crucial to address children's needs in depth in order to break the ongoing cycle of violence in which young females often grow to become victims and young males grow to become offenders (Christchurch Women's Refuge offers support to young adolescent males under 18 years old to help address this issue). Where it is more appropriate, individual or sibling support is also available.

Thanks to our Supporters

As always, the Refuge has had some wonderful support from local businesses and individuals who have donated goods that we required for our Safe House or clients. Particular thanks go to:

- Crown Dental (www.crowndent-med.co.nz), for tooth brushes
- Pacific Brands (www.pacbrands.co.nz), for manchester
- Toy World Tower Junction (www.toyworld.co.nz), for ongoing donations of toys
- Gothic Heights Motel (www.gothicheightsmotel.co.nz), for towels and manchester
- Suzanne Grae (www.suzannegrae.com.au), for new women's clothing
- The Millennium Hotel (www.millenniumhotels.co.nz), for pillows
- Becon Canterbury Ltd (www.drywaste.co.nz), for offering discounted recycling and refuse disposal.

Thanks to everyone who has made a donation over past months. Your contribution – no matter how large or small – helps the Refuge support others to live lives free of violence.

Thanks also for the many offers of goods. Unfortunately the Refuge cannot always accept all items offered as storage space is limited. If you have goods you wish to donate please phone (03) 353 7501 to find out what is needed.

CHRISTMAS THANKS

Christmas is a particularly challenging time for those needing Refuge services and many clients literally have no money for presents, or even food. Support from the local community once again made a big difference and Christchurch Women's Refuge sincerely thanks all of the individuals, schools and preschools, community and church groups and businesses who made donations of gifts, food or money.

Thanks also to the local businesses who offered entertainment vouchers for the use of clients in the Safe House. The Safe House was full throughout the holiday period and the opportunity to enjoy a day out at no cost meant a great deal to the residents.

FUNDERS

Christchurch Women's Refuge would like to acknowledge the financial support it received from the following Trusts and other organisations in the second quarter of the financial year (October – December 2009):

- Christchurch Casinos Charitable Trust
- Christchurch City Council
- Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS)
- The ANZ National Bank Staff Foundation
- The Maurice Carter Charitable Trust
- The Ministry of Social Development/Child, Youth and Family
- The Pub Charity
- The Tindall Foundation

The grants we receive are our main source of income and without them we would not be able to undertake our valuable work.

Items we are always looking for include:

- Disposable nappies – variety of ages
- Toilet paper and sanitary items
- Non-perishable foods
- Women and children's new underwear – variety of sizes



Refuge Welcomes Japanese Visitors

Christchurch Women's Refuge is often asked to talk to community or professional groups about domestic violence, and in early February it kept an annual engagement to talk with Japanese visitors whose work somehow brings them into the field of family violence.

For approximately eight years Christchurch Women's Refuge has hosted groups from Japan. The group composition changes year-to-year – lawyers, university professors, social workers, family court employees or, as this year, local government councillors.

Ten visitors attended a session at the Refuge's main office in Christchurch to get an overview of the family violence in New Zealand, how New Zealand as a society deals with it and how Christchurch Women's Refuge responds to it. Christchurch Women's Refuge was the first refuge established in New Zealand (actually, the first outside the United



Kingdom) and so has 37 years of experience, as well as current client-based knowledge, to inform sessions such as these.

The New Zealand experience is helpful to those working in the field of domestic abuse in Japan, where family violence was only criminalised in 2001 and is still largely regarded as a private matter.

Upcoming Events

COURT THEATRE FUNDRAISER

Christchurch Women's Refuge is running a fundraiser at the Court on 15 April. Support the Refuge and enjoy the comedy 'The Female of the Species', which has received great reviews from Auckland to London and in-between. You need to book directly with Christchurch Women's Refuge, so please visit www.womensrefuge.co.nz for more details.

APPEALING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Women's Refuge Annual Appeal takes place in mid-July. Christchurch Women's Refuge hopes to field a strong street presence throughout the city on Friday 23 and Saturday 24 July. If you are able to help as a collector then please visit the website or phone 364 7306 for more information.

Support the Refuge

Christchurch Women's Refuge is very grateful for the constant support it receives. If you would like to help us in our work, there are a variety of ways – a direct donation, organising a fundraising event, adding a fundraising component to an 'ordinary' event (e.g. a BBQ or party with friends), arranging a bequest, starting payroll giving etc.

Visit www.womensrefuge.co.nz for more ideas and information.

Receive *The Advocate* by Email

If you would prefer to receive your copy of *The Advocate* by email please contact us by emailing Julie@womensrefuge.co.nz or calling (03) 353 7501.

Join the journey to a violence free society

Charities Commission Number CC 30026

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please post to:

Christchurch Women's Refuge Inc., PO Box 32 034, Christchurch 8147

Here is my donation of \$25 \$75 \$150 \$200

Other amount (please enter) \$ _____

Cheque payable to Christchurch Women's Refuge

Or charge my Visa MasterCard Expiry date ____ / ____

Card No.

Name of cardholder _____

Please send me information about making a gift to Christchurch Women's Refuge in my will.

If you wish to discuss a donation or make automatic payments please contact Julie on (03) 353 7501, at Julie@womensrefuge.co.nz or visit www.womensrefuge.co.nz

Thank you! We will send you a receipt



CUT ALONG THE LINE