

iosis. turnaround

Newsletter • April 2024



Kia ora

This year, we're proud to celebrate 18 years of transforming family life. That's 18 years of helping families break the cycle of stress and violence; helping children find foster families, helping parents learn to become safer, stronger, and more loving; helping school students in South Auckland to cope and flourish... and so much more that we do to help whānau to turn their lives around. Check out 18 things we're celebrating to acknowledge how far we've come on page 4.

On the subject of school children, our Social Workers in Schools (SWiS) are a fundamental part of our service. It's a challenging job and they really put in the hard mahi to ensure students have the best opportunity to flourish at school. The 15 South

Auckland schools we partner with work closely with SWiS to provide the best outcomes for students, and the wraparound support that these schools provide our social workers is to be applauded (read more below).

Finally, I'd like to welcome Rochelle, who has replaced Wayne as our Finance Manager. In a small, hands-on organisation like ours, every role is crucial, so thank you Rochelle for becoming a vital part of our team as we continue working to transform family life, every day.



Tunumafono
Tracey-Leigh Peters - CEO

Teaching life skills – helping school students cope with school life.

For many children, the start of the school year can be an anxious time, with new teachers, new friends, new subjects, new uniforms – and of course, extra financial obligations on parents, which also places additional pressure on the children.

Fortunately, the students of 15 low-decile primary and high schools in South Auckland have an extra level of support on hand through our Social Workers in Schools (SWiS) programme. While our SWiS work for Iosis, they're based at the school so they can provide students with access to support during the school week and in some cases, throughout their school years.

Cecelia, a social worker with Iosis has been at St Anne's Catholic School in Manurewa for nearly two years. "Being part of the Iosis team really helps. It means I've got access to a wraparound support system should the children or their whānau need more specialised services," she says.

If children are affected by challenges their parents face at home, the Iosis connection means support can also be provided to the parents. Often parents engage with Iosis's practical parenting programmes and services such as counselling, while Cecelia works alongside the child.

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Cecelia believes a real strength of the SWiS system is the long-term support they're able to provide students throughout their school years.

"Like all of us, children have their ups and downs. A child, after receiving support, might go on to flourish for a period of time but then have a hiccup, or they might come across something they're not sure how to handle. It's reassuring for them to know we're on the spot when they need us," she says.

Sifa is a Social Worker at Manurewa High School supporting students throughout their high school years.

"I love my job and while it can be challenging, every time I help a student, I'm reminded why I enjoy it so much," says Sifa.

He says that more and more students are struggling today. "So many of them are coming to school today without having their basic needs met. On top of this, they're dealing with complex social issues, for example social media," says Sifa. "When I went to school, if you'd had a rough day, you could try and put it behind you. Today, if a student is being bullied, teased, or mocked it's much harder for them to escape it. Two years on from Covid, we still have kids who are too anxious to get out of the car."

Sifa says he is lucky to work at a school that prioritises the wellbeing of students. Manurewa High School provides a breakfast and lunch club, as well as a uniform fund, plus the library is open before and after school so students can complete their homework at school. "All of these things add up to make a difference and in supporting students to attend school and ensure they're capable of learning" says Sifa.



'Who can help me?' booklet for schoolchildren

– a unique way to support your local schools.

We're seeking sponsors from our community to support the publication of the SWiS booklet 'Who can help me?' With many children struggling with issues at home and at school, this invaluable book will help them learn that they can turn to our social workers for help if they need it.

Ways you can give...

\$3,500

gives you exclusive sponsorship, including acknowledgement on the front cover, logo and paragraph on the inside back cover

\$1,000

makes you a primary sponsor – includes logo and a sentence acknowledging your generous support (limited to one)

\$500

makes you a secondary sponsor – includes logo on the back page (limited to 3)

\$200

makes you a tertiary sponsor – includes logo on the back page (limited to 5)

Please support us – so that we can better support local school children.

If you can sponsor this important cause, please email Mel at supporters@iosis.org.nz

Ngā mihi nui... thank you for helping us

Prayer needs

We pray for our wonderful team of Social Workers in Schools, as they support children in South Auckland to cope with the pressures of school and home life. And, as Mother's Day approaches, we pray for the many amazing wahine in our community – ngā mihi me te aroha nui mō te rā o te whaea.



Together in faith: Eastview Baptist Church

In this issue, as part of our regular series focusing on the generous churches and businesses that support Iosis, we profile Eastview Baptist Church in Botany – a church community that has loyally supported Iosis for many years.

"We live our lives collectively as a society: if one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. Here at Eastview Baptist Church, we understand the importance of the community work Iosis is involved in and we fully support it," says Ben O'Connor, EastView's Lead Pastor.

"Being involved with Iosis brings joy to our community," he explains. "Many of our congregation

love having a reason to knit and create winter warmers such as hats and scarves; others generously give clothing, blankets and hot water bottles." For many years, Eastview has also sent monthly donations directly to Iosis. "Local missionary work such as that of Iosis is dear to our hearts," explains Ben.

"Tracey-Leigh Peters has been a welcome visitor to our church services and has shared the plights of the families Iosis works with and how their services transform family life.

What's more, many of the members of our congregation have been associated with Iosis over the years, including Wayne Boyd, Wendy Barthow and Sarah Cowan. And we fondly remember the kitchen equipment sales that Karen organised to raise funds," he says.

To all of those at Eastview who have supported our cause, and on behalf of the many South Auckland children and families you've helped, a huge 'thank you' from Iosis. Together, in God's name, your ongoing generosity has helped us improve the lives of countless families.



Hats on: Eastview Church members love knitting to keep those in need warm and dry

A warm welcome to Rochelle Dixon

Rochelle joined our team late last year as Finance Manager, replacing Wayne Boyd. We're delighted to have Rochelle on board, as she brings a wealth of experience in finance and administration through previous roles with non-profit organisations such as Rosehill College, The Bible Society of New Zealand, South Seas Healthcare Trust and Saint Kentigern College. Rochelle is a proud member of the local community and is already enjoying being a part of the Iosis family and the life-changing work it does.



Iosis staff member Rochelle Dixon

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Celebrating 18 years of transforming family life, for good.

This year, Iosis celebrates 18 years of hard mahi and life-changing results as we work to transform family lives. To mark the occasion, here are 18 things we're celebrating...

- 1 Our incredible staff who go above and beyond every day to help families in South Auckland.
- 2 Aharei and the other mums who have graduated from the Iosis Whānau Centre as strong, loving and capable parents.
- 3 Our new social housing development which provides a home for 21 South Auckland families.
- 4 The many parents that we've helped to overcome domestic violence, addictions and unhealthy relationships to become safer, more loving parents.
- 5 Our amazing foster carers like Telina and Rodney, who provide safe, warm and loving homes for the tamariki and rangatahi in their care.
- 6 The generous supporters of our Christmas appeal, who enable us to help more families in need.
- 7 Our regular givers who enable us to plan ahead and meet the needs of vulnerable families in our community.
- 8 The dedication of our senior leadership team who have ably steered us through these challenging few years.
- 9 The positive news that social workers will receive pay equity in the near future.
- 10 Our Financial Mentor, Karen, who continues to support families struggling with money.
- 11 The transformative impact of MDCAT, a group of South Auckland agencies that work together to support whānau in crisis.
- 12 Our Social Workers in Schools team who go above and beyond to support tamariki and rangatahi in South Auckland schools.
- 13 Teina, our inspirational Kaihautu Māori advisor, who has developed a framework to guide our staff in their work with whānau Māori.
- 14 Mothers like Elizabeth, who has graduated from several of our programmes and become a better parent to her six children.
- 15 The commitment, strength and aroha of our counsellors and social workers, who run our life-changing programmes.
- 16 Our tireless operations team, who work behind the scenes to make everything we do possible.
- 17 The love of our Father, who guides us through challenging times and to have the strength and resilience to do the work we do.
- 18 Every parent, individual or whānau that turns to us for help – taking that first, vital step towards transforming their family's life, for good.

Every day, we're making a difference ... now, that's worth celebrating!

Gifts in Kind

If you have a business or business contacts who you think may be able to help with 'gifts in kind', please get in touch. **You can contact us at Ph 09 269 0050 or enquiries@iosis.org.nz.**



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