

iosis. turnaround

Newsletter • December 2023



Meri kirihimete from our CEO

As 2023 draws to a close, I'd like to thank our staff, volunteers and supporters for your amazing mahi throughout another challenging year.

Funding constraints and staff shortages have severely impacted our ability to keep up with the huge demand from our community this year. Despite this, our team continue to have a life-changing impact on the whānau we serve, and seeing our clients learn to transform their lives is incredibly rewarding.

Clients like Elizabeth (see lead story), who has graduated from several of our programmes and is a shining example of the transformative effect of our services.

As the year ends, we bid farewell to our departing Finance Manager, Wayne Boyd, who is retiring after

15 years (see article on page 4). Wayne has been a valuable member of the Iosis team and he leaves large shoes to fill.

Finally, please join me in praying for whānau as they cope with the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis. I also pray for more funding in 2024, so that our hard-working team can continue to make a meaningful difference to family life. Meri kirihimete and all the best for 2024 ... from our Iosis family to yours.

Tunumafono Tracey-Leigh Peters - CEO



Help transform lives this Christmas, for good

Christmas is a time of care and compassion. A time to celebrate family life, and to be grateful for being able to provide a stable, safe, and loving environment for our whānau.

For mother of six, Elizabeth, this will be a very special Christmas with her children... and a celebration of how Iosis has helped her truly change her family's life for the better.

After a tough start in life and years of battling addictions and domestic violence, Elizabeth was determined to change, for herself, and for her children. Brought up by a solo mum, she says her childhood was "all over the place", and she has also been "all over the place" during her adult life too.

Elizabeth has had eight children, two of whom were premature babies and passed away. Her oldest child is 25 years and her youngest is five, and the family live

in a Kāinga Ora home. During her adult life, she has struggled with addiction and domestic violence which she says hasn't led her to be a very good parent at times.

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However, things are changing for Elizabeth. Through Iosis, she has learnt that there is a different, better way to parent her children, bringing a more stable environment and a sense of joy to her family life.

"Iosis has been my rock," she says. "The people are amazing, and I have learnt so much from them. They are really caring, but they're also straight-up and can tell it to you like it is."

Elizabeth has graduated from several Iosis programmes, including Getting a Grip on Addiction, Non-violent Communication, and our Triple P parenting programme – and she found them all incredibly helpful.

"The non-violent communication programme was great," she says. "It helped me to see situations differently and taught me new skills to manage my anger. I use these skills often and I am so grateful to the programme leader."

She says one of the most valuable things she learnt was recognising her own patterns of behaviour. "I really looked forward to those sessions and didn't want them to end. I wish it could have gone on forever," she says. When you hear other people's

stories, you realise that you are not the only one having it tough. Some people are going through a lot."

"I've learnt that I'm in charge of my own life, and I don't need to stay in situations that aren't good for me or my children," she told us.

"It's been hard, but I have made changes

"The programmes will change your life, in a huge way. But if you come, come because you want things to improve. If you have that attitude, things will get better." - Elizabeth



thanks to the support of Iosis.

I still have my moments, but I've learnt a new way of parenting and supporting my children."

Elizabeth's story is just one of many success stories as we work to transform family life, but there are so many more families that need our help. That's why, this Christmas, we're asking for your support.

With your help, Iosis can support more parents like Elizabeth to transform their family life through our free services including parenting and family violence programmes, parent coaching, social work, and counselling.

Any gift you can give, large or small, will make a difference – and mean that by next Christmas, more vulnerable families like Elizabeth's will be able to celebrate being together, being safe, being loved ... and transforming their lives, for good.

Please donate whatever you can to help more whānau bring aroha and joy back into their lives this Christmas, visit www.iosis.org.nz or call 09 269 0050 to make a gift.

Prayer needs

We have a dream to create a men's coffee group so that men who have completed Iosis programmes can still meet together and learn from one another in a safe setting. Please pray for us as we seek to raise funds to make this a reality.



Building homes. Building hope

We're thrilled to report that our building project of 21 social housing units in Manurewa has been completed.

Proudly sitting on a site owned by Iosis in Hutt Road, these 21 units provide brand new homes for whānau in the local community – many of whom were waiting to get onto the Social Housing Register. This Iosis initiative has increased the number of dwellings on this site from one to 21 homes.

"Our Hutt Road development has been an extremely rewarding project for the board and team at Iosis," says Andrea Page, Iosis Chairperson. "As a small agency in South Auckland, we have been able to contribute significantly to one of the greatest needs amongst our community – housing. This means 21 families from South Auckland now have a new, safe and warm home."

Andrea would like to acknowledge Emerge Aotearoa who came on board in partnership with Positive Properties during the later part of the development, and will manage the accommodation going forward. "Social housing is a specialised area so once the project was off the ground, we sought a partner that was experienced in managing social housing accommodation," she explains. Emerge have all the credentials we were looking for in a Community Housing Provider (CHIP), the most important of which was a shared vision and values. The relationship with Emerge allows Iosis to serve the community by doing what it does best – providing social



Our 21 warm, modern, new homes for families in Manurewa.



Wayne Boyd, Finance Manager, Iosis hands over the keys to Andrew Tills of Emerge Aotearoa.

services – while Emerge are experts in social housing. It is a wonderful outcome for all concerned."

Our thanks to all our supporters for helping us get this life-changing project off the ground.

A warm Iosis welcome to Kate Bennett

Kate Bennett joined Iosis recently as Practice Lead for the Iosis Whānau Centre (formerly known as Merivale). Kate has previously worked for Monte Cecilia Housing Trust as the Social Work Team Leader, a very busy role that focused on helping whānau in transitional housing move from the Social Housing Register and into a home of their own.

As Practice Lead at the Iosis Whānau Centre, Kate is enjoying having a more focused role and working with a smaller team. "It's extremely rewarding to be working for an organisation that has such a clear and compassionate mission," she says. "It was one of the main reasons I was drawn to the role."

Kate's responsibilities include supporting the work of the Iosis team and clients at the Whānau Centre, so that the process of transforming family life is as

impactful as possible. "We want the experience for mothers and their children to be a positive and enjoyable one. When they arrive they often don't feel this way, but by the end of their time at the Centre, they have turned their lives around."



Kate is loving her new role helping young women to become better mums.

Haere rā and ngā mihi nui to Wayne Boyd

This Christmas we farewell our Finance Manager, Wayne Boyd, who is retiring after 15 years at Iosis. He started working with us in January 2009; initially full time for the first five years, then part-time as he also took up another role as Finance Manager for the Northern Baptist Association (NBA).

Wayne has had a long and active involvement with the Baptist community – as a part of his role with NBA, he has also managed the finances for Baptist Action and Baptist Foundation, plus he has previously been treasurer at Eastview Baptist Church. We asked Wayne a few questions about his time at Iosis.

What were the highlights and challenges of your time at Iosis?

Keeping the Iosis finances on an even keel with the ongoing vagaries of Government funding and variable other income sources. And through unexpected events such as the discovery of asbestos at our then site for Merivale in 2015, which led to a rapid relocation! Over the last two to three years, a challenge has been managing the finances to enable the construction of the 21 social housing units at our property in Hutt Road, Manurewa, which is only now coming to completion. While the build itself went very well in a difficult construction environment, funding the project was very challenging due to rapidly rising interest rates, and we were thankful for the assistance of the Baptist Union to see us through. Although we haven't realised the financial return we had hoped for, we have certainly provided the local community with a wonderful asset for the future.

What makes Iosis so special?

As I think we would all agree – 'He tangata, he tangata, he tangata! It is the people!' People are drawn to working in social services because they're committed to making a difference in the community, and that is very evident in the culture of Iosis. I have been privileged to put my skills to use to provide a solid financial platform to enable our people to do what they do so well.

What will you miss the most about Iosis?

The people! The laughing, the singing, and the food.

What you are looking forward to in your retirement?

Initially a rest ... my energy levels aren't what they were! It will be great to get out of that Monday to Friday mindset, after 52 years. And then the usual



As these photos show, Wayne has been an integral (and sociable) part of our team.

things – spending more time with the mokos, at our holiday home in Matarangi, some travel, and seeing how I might involve myself in more worthy causes. And of course, it's time to finally get around to those jobs that never quite seem to get done.

Highlights of our Annual Report

We are pleased to present our Annual Report, demonstrating the transformative impact of our services. Below are the key outcomes as we celebrate another year of helping whānau overcome challenges and make changes for their family, for good. To read the full report:

<http://iosis.org.nz/annual-report-2023>

Our values



Whanaungatanga

Connected

We seek to form the kind of relationships that connect us to whānau as whānau.



Manaaki

Respect

We seek equal and fair treatment for all, valuing the uniqueness of every tangata.



Te Māia

Courage

We are courageous with whānau, partners and ourselves.



Te Whakahaere

Stewardship

We are committed to investing our resources and time efficiently and effectively.

Our vision

‘Future generations of New Zealanders raising strong healthy families.’

Sadly, many parents lack the resources, skills and support to look after their children, leading to a cycle of stress, frustration and violence that’s passed on to the next generation, and the next.

At Iosis, our goal is to break that cycle. We’re committed to freeing families from long-term damage that negatively affects the next generation, to help them overcome personal and parenting challenges and change for the better.

Our approach

Iosis works with families to help them make the changes needed to be safe and nurturing for their children. Through our three-pronged approach of Whanaketanga (Becoming), Whakapapa (Belonging) and Whakapono (Believing), we walk alongside whānau on their journey towards transforming family life, for good.

I orea te tuatara ka puta ki waho.

A problem is solved by continuing to find solutions.



Outcomes 2023

- Making a difference, every day

The numbers say it all – whānau are engaging with our services to make changes for the better.



Counselling

118

adults & children
attended a
counselling
session



Iosis Whānau Centre (formerly Merivale)

5

mums referred

0

mums entered

1

mum completed
the programme
with their child



Financial Mentoring

202

people attended
a session with a
financial mentor

263

sessions



Intensive social work

14

families
received
support from
our social
worker



Parenting Group Programmes

192

attended the
programmes

92

completed the
programmes



Parent Support

51

families received
support



Children's Supporting Safety programme

2

children
completed
assessment

1

completed
programme



Non-violence programmes

31

men and

5

women completed the assessment

20

men and

3

women completed the programme



Adults Supporting Safety programme

14

completed assessment

8

completed the programme



Social Work

92

families received support from a community social worker



MenD

60

men attended the programme

15

completed the programme



Foster care

6

children were in short to long term care and

4

children in respite care



"Thank you to all those who partner with us in our work. **Together, we are truly transforming lives."**

Tunumafono Tracey-Leigh Peters, CEO

What does Christmas mean to our staff?

We asked our staff what Christmas means to them. One thing that everyone has in common is time with whānau for love, laughter and great food.

"Christmas is a time to remember Jesus birth and the love, hope and joy he has brought to my own life. It's a chance to spend some quality time with my son and family and create memories. A time to relax, eat good food and enjoy the sun (hopefully we'll have a warm summer!)."

Tunumafono Tracey-Leigh Peters, CEO



"Christmas is my favourite time of the year. A time of reflection and to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. Spending quality time with my loved ones, exchanging gifts, eating good food, and feeling blessed."

Pearl Segi, Operations Team Leader

"It's a time to break bread and truly be together. This Christmas is extra special as my partner and I are expecting a baby girl to join us on Christmas Eve. She will be the first grandchild for my parents and our families first pepe. I feel grateful and blessed."

Vaimatagi Iosefa, SWISS/MASSISS Manager

"Christmas for me is a time when family come together to spend precious time with each other. It is one of my favourite times of the year."

**Kate Bennett, Practice Lead,
Iosis Whānau Centre**

"My family is spread throughout different countries, but we always find some way to connect together. For my grandmother who can no longer travel, the best part of the day is the video calls with all of her children."

Sarah Hughes, Executive Administrator

If you can, please donate to our Christmas appeal

The cost-of-living crisis has made this year extremely difficult for the vulnerable families we work with in South Auckland ... creating even more stress for families who are already finding it so tough. So any donation you can give to our Christmas appeal, no matter how small, would be very much appreciated.

Simply fill in the enclosed form and return it to us in the Freepost envelope provided. Thank you and Merry Christmas from all of us!



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Transforming family life
for good