



## A little Christmas joy for our most vulnerable families

**Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, over 100 Iosis families received Christmas Boxes during one of the most difficult Christmas seasons for Auckland families.**

A recent survey<sup>1</sup> commissioned by The Salvation Army showed that nearly one in four Kiwi families can't afford to celebrate Christmas. Nearly 45 per cent of respondents say that it's a time of financial struggle and ten per cent said they went without so their children could celebrate Christmas. Not surprisingly, more than half of all households say that money is their biggest stress of worry.

"When we see results like this, we fear for our most vulnerable families," says Iosis CEO, Tunumafono Tracey-Leigh Peters. These families

are already stressed and struggling and Christmas adds another layer of stress on top of that. Our Christmas Boxes really do make a difference – with food on the table and gifts to give their children."

Lili Lemalu, the manager of LIFE Community who run the Christmas Box project, which light up lives at Christmas time. 'Christmas Box' is a simple idea that makes an enormous impact to families who have said that they were cancelling Christmas until they got the food box," she says.

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# CEO's message

2019 is well and truly upon us – and it's shaping up to be another busy year of both challenges and successes. Something you may not know is that we meet every



Tunumafono Tracey-Leigh Peters

morning as a team for karakia and waiata to set us up for the day ahead. It's just one way we live out our values here at losis – values that inform our work, our relationships and our own personal values. We incorporate these values into everything we do, so we've shared them with you on page 4.

You may be aware that New Zealand has the worst rate of family and partner violence in the world. Every year, 525,000 New Zealanders are harmed – a shocking statistic that we all need to work together to reduce dramatically.

That's why I'm pleased to report that losis, along with Friendship House and Te Whare Ruru hau o Meri Trust, has been selected by the Ministry of Justice to participate in a test service. Taking place from February until August this year, the test involves working with families to address family violence issues where a Police Safety Order has been issued.

We couldn't have achieved this without the faith, commitment and unflinching energy of our amazing staff and supporters. Thank you again for helping to transform the lives of families – every single day, you help us to make a difference.

**Tunumafono Tracey-Leigh Peters**  
CEO

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"Imagine a food box having that much of an impact on whether families celebrate Christmas or not." Christmas Box covers the basics for Christmas (a selection of non-perishable food items for breakfast, lunch and dinner). This empowers the parents or caregivers to buy gifts for their children and be seen within the family to be the gift givers."

One of the families who received a Christmas Box this Christmas included a young single mother with seven children: she's living in emergency housing to protect her children from their abusive and controlling father and provide a safe environment for them. Another went to a father with five children who took in three nephews as well as raising his own children. And another went to the parents of an 18 year-old with cerebral palsy. Both parents were working until recently when the mum fell ill and became partially paralysed. With the loss of one income and two people requiring care in the household, they've been struggling.

"The Christmas Boxes gave these families – and many more – a little bit of joy at Christmas," says Tracey. "Thank you to our many wonderful supporters who made it possible." 🌀

<sup>1</sup> Salvation Army nationwide Pureprofile survey with 1,000 New Zealanders aged 18+, October, 2018.

## Prayer needs

- We pray for our families, in particular the children as they start a new school year.
- We pray for our SwiS team as they work to support children and their families attending our local schools.
- We pray for Bonnie Robinson as she steps in to the role of Chair of the Board.
- We pray for Wayne Boyd as he celebrates 10 years of service to losis.

# New test service aims to reduce family violence

**New Zealand has the highest rate of family and intimate-partner violence in the world – with around 525,000 New Zealanders harmed every year. Which is why Iosis is proud to be selected for a new test service that aims to reduce family violence through earlier intervention.**

Iosis is one of only three organisations selected by the Ministry of Justice to participate in the six-month test service, which runs from February until August this year in Counties Manukau. The test involves working with families to address violence issues where a Police Safety Order has been issued. The goal is to provide an opportunity to perpetrators to change behaviour through early intervention, so that families, women and children can live safely without the fear of violence.

Jillian Parsons is a counsellor and facilitator for Merivale and teaches the Women’s Supporting Safety Programme. She believes the test service is a significant step in addressing family violence. “To keep families safe, we need to better resource and educate our women to learn how to keep themselves safe in order to keep their children safe. This programme will enable us to be on the

‘front line’ much earlier in family violence situations – and go a long way towards keeping both women and children safer.”

The service prototype was developed by a team that included family violence specialists, kaupapa Maori, people from perpetrator programmes, contract managers from Ministry of Justice, and people with experience of family violence (including victims, perpetrators and whanau). Iosis, along with Friendship House and Te Whare Ruruhou o Meri Trust, will play a role in helping to build the service, tools and resources to ensure it is fit-for-purpose before being rolled out nationally next year.

We’re proud to be part of this innovative and much-needed test service and hope that it will start the journey towards real behaviour change for the perpetrators of family violence – and the families affected by it. ©

## Wayne Boyd celebrates 10 years at Iosis

**Wayne Boyd, our Finance Manager, celebrated his 10-year work anniversary in January.**

Wayne’s calm and considered presence has been invaluable in ‘guiding the ship’ during this time – and as you can see by the photos, he’s a great team member who gets fully involved in daily life at Iosis. Wayne’s role with Iosis is now half time – he also has a half time role with the Northern Association of the Baptist Churches of New Zealand. ©



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# Meet Jasmine, our Workplace Chaplain



**Meet the wonderful Jasmine Fidow-Maiava, who holds, not just one, but three important roles at Iosis ... and it's soon to be four!**

As our Workplace Chaplain, Jasmine leads devotions once a month with the Iosis staff and also makes herself available to meet with individual staff members. She provides a confidential sounding board for our team – particularly those of us 'at the coal face' who are working with people in very challenging circumstances.

Jasmine also runs the spirituality group at Merivale, consisting of practical sessions with Merivale's mothers. As most of these women have experienced trauma and overcome significant challenges, Jasmine says they talk a lot about forgiveness.

Thirdly, Jasmine also provides administrative Support at Merivale. This important role provides support to our frontline staff who work directly with the mums, enabling them to focus on their roles while Jasmine takes care of organisation and paperwork.

On top of all that, Jasmine is in her second year of a counselling degree at MIT. This year they undertake practical studies and she successfully applied to do this at Iosis – so she'll also be here as a counsellor. Jasmine is one very busy lady but much appreciated in all of our lives! ☺

## The value of having values

For any organisation, having a clear set of values that guides how the organisation behaves is important. For organisations like Iosis, it is perhaps even more so as we work each day to help transform the lives of families facing extremely challenging circumstances. Here, we share our values and what they mean to staff as they go about their day-to-day work.

### Whakapono - Faith

We follow Christ as our model and leader.

*"Our faith in Christ helps us to see beyond life's challenges."*

Jasmine Fidow-Maiava

### Whanaungatanga - Connected

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

*"Our relationships hinge on trust – our clients learn that we're here to help them."*

Tunumafono Tracey-Leigh Peters

### Pono - Honesty

We are honest with families, partners and ourselves.

*"Honesty means so many things. For many of the people we help, it means being courageous in the sharing of their story."*

Jillian Parsons

### Manaaki - Respect

We seek equal and fair treatment for all: valuing the uniqueness of each person.

*"We engage with each and every parent that walks through our doors with respect and without prejudice."*

Pearl Segi