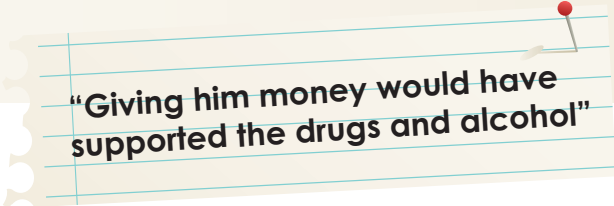


Celebrating the wealth of Franklin

How rich is our community? We are by world standards one of the most wealthy in practically every area. We don't have to walk 20km to the nearest well for bore water. Food? We go to the shop - medicine, doctors, education, it's all here. . . . But let's get to the fabric of our community's wealth, the bare bones of real riches, US, the people of Franklin. . . . Rich? Indeed! We all belong to the super-wealthy, because to coin a well know phrase 'money can't buy you love' or that unique community spirit, the innate quality in us all to help each other without expecting something in return. This edition of eLocal sings the praises of those heroes who walk among us, working tirelessly helping those who need it. And let's face it, we all need a little help from time to time.

To profile all the people, organisations and clubs who together weave the caring fabric of our community would take a huge volume. This month eLocal offers its pages to bring a spotlight on just a few. People who work together to make a real difference in the lives of others. We salute you all.



"Giving him money would have supported the drugs and alcohol"

TOUGHLOVE WORKS QUIETLY IN FRANKLIN – TURNING LIVES AROUND

"He was not the person we knew – it was ugly"

Aiden (not his real name) was a beautiful baby who talked early and was a contented preschooler. He had loving parents and an elder sister who was a high achiever. Aiden was bright, with a keen sense of humour, but written work was difficult. SPELD tuition at primary and intermediate significantly helped his reading and comprehension skills and he displayed excellent auditory memory and practical skills. But the promise fell apart when he started high school. The work was more difficult and bullying took its toll. By the time he was 14, the happy lad who was fascinated with dismantling things to see how they worked and how they could be repaired, was completely disrupting his family and driving his parents to distraction, growing more and more obstinate.

"We could feel him change – he was no longer part of our family, not the person we knew. It was ugly," says his mum, herself from a difficult family background. "I didn't want to go down that track again with my family."

At 15, Aiden dropped out of school with no qualifications. He attended courses but left three days before finishing a valuable and expensive course. Deaths in the family further upset and alienated him. His parents turned to ToughLove, desperate and frustrated by his behaviour and their inability to have any control.

"We quickly realized we had to change, to bring change," recalls Aiden's mum. "Their success relies on strategies such as goal setting, boundaries, consequences for actions, consistency,

giving and receiving support and bottom lines that are clear, simple and actionable - and love. Confidentiality too, is what makes ToughLove work and its approaches bring benefits right throughout the family."

Aiden went to live in a garage with a group of other dropouts. With the guidance and support of Pukekohe ToughLove, his dad visited him twice a week, just to keep contact.

"I didn't growl at him or give him money, which would have supported the drugs and alcohol. Even if I saw him down the street and wanted to take him home and wash him, I had to resist the urge and just keep connected. It was the only way not to lose him."

When Aiden stole money from his parents, his mother went to the garage and stood outside shouting "give the money back now." He did. Improvement was gradual. Aiden moved in with a friend's family. He came and went, but he was more polite to his family and his parents knew where he was. When he gained a treasured apprenticeship suiting his talent with analysing and repairing, ToughLove continued its support as he struggled with the bookwork, but revelled in the practical. Aiden excelled and qualified. Now in his late 20s, he is engaged to be married and makes a major contribution to his employers' business. Life for this troubled young man has taken a whole new direction.

ToughLove contact George 09 238 8955, 027 285 5535 or Margaret 09 238 7623 a/h



Here to Help