



*Served with love...cooks Martha, Davareen, Vicki, Matilda, Noelene, Bonie and Cecelia*



*Lovey, Bronwyn and Rangī sort out donated clothes*



*Faye (back), June, Dawn, Mike and Vicki packing in the food*

very grateful to be welcomed and helped. Often they've tried all else and we consider it a privilege to be able to help them. People often don't realise, but just giving a little food to those who struggle before a crisis helps avoid that crisis when the unexpected happens. Now, more people are coming to us before things get really bad and that's the best way.

"A lot of people we've helped come back here to help others. They have made friends here. A little bit of kindness goes a long, long way. We offer common sense and immediacy, a fence at the top of the cliff instead of an ambulance at the bottom. There are no forms to fill; administration is kept to the basic. People are people here; there are no 'numbers.' If there's something we don't cover, we can refer people to other agencies we network with for support. People are so stressed. Bills are mounting and kids are going hungry. Sadly, there are elderly who are alone and neglected. Food is the last thing people should have to stress about. If a young mum has left home for safety reasons, our role is to keep her and her children safe. Everyone has a right to dignity."

Erin and friends Rokati, Rangī, June and Frank saw the need for such a centre in Pukekohe 11 years ago. There is no government assistance but CCC manages to operate anyway. Independence gives them a vital flexibility and a trusted, widespread influence covering all aspects of need, including youth and schoolchildren. Food parcels go to schools who request them for breakfast and lunch programmes. Meals are prepared and delivered to those who are ill. Onsite budgeting, anger management, positive parenting and economical cooking classes are available and a Plunket nurse calls to chat to new mothers. For all its work, CCC is totally dependent and grateful to the generosity of local businesses and individuals.

Erin: "CCC has no paid staff. A real blessing is the unity among the staff, we come from different backgrounds and cultures but we all have one aim; to help serve and encourage (which is our mission statement). All our 112 volunteers and the people from the community who use CCC develop a real sense of ownership about this place and

often stay on as helpers after their own need has been met. There is a feeling of 'I have been helped, I would like to help'. This has contributed to the growth of our Ministry as with more helpers we can do more work' says Erin. "We simply look at the need and ask 'what would Jesus do?'"

You can help CCC fill the need in our community – there are many ways to help. The Christmas Appeal is open until Tuesday, December 15 at 7pm, when volunteers finish packing Christmas food parcels. Chickens and tinned food are urgently needed. Erin is also looking for someone with a 'green thumb,' a gardener to show CCC how to develop a community garden and grow their own vegetables. Call 09 239 1901 or email [cccpukekohe@gmail.com](mailto:cccpukekohe@gmail.com) ■

## PROFESSIONAL NOTICE

Dr John Muir wishes to advise that Dr Bhavia Jattan M.D.S. ( Otago) will be joining him in his Orthodontic practice at 33 King St. Pukekohe, starting in January 2010. For caring and professional orthodontic treatment for you and your children see the registered specialist orthodontists who service the Franklin and Hauraki Plains areas.

Appointments with Dr Jattan may be made by phone to 09 238 7987.

