

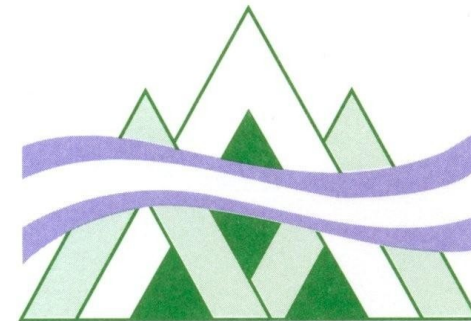
ANNUAL REPORT 2008—2009



ACROSS
TE KOTA HITANGA O TE WAI RUA

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ACROSS
TE KOTA HITANGA O TE WAI RUA

Anglican and Catholic Community Social Services

OUR VISION

to help people improve their lives.

OUR MISSION

to express the caring heritage of the Anglican and Catholic churches, recognising and honouring the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in our work and providing a professional service that enables individuals and families to meet their needs.

OUR PRIORITIES

be just, fair and compassionate.
 respect others.
 work collaboratively.
 show leadership.
 value excellence.



Expenses

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
ACC Levy	2,077	1,314
Advertising	3,174	2,560
After School Programme	5,128	6,951
Annual Report	540	314
Audit Fee	1,600	1,300
CDDF Loan - Interest	7,244	8,365
Computer Expenses	362	929
Computer Replacement	213	400
Conference and Travel	3,311	2,610
CYF Bednight Board Paym 307545	85,727	109,965
CYF Expenses + PES 307545	52,085	80,050
CYF SW Supp NDOE 305499	10,860	4,432
Depreciation	7,478	6,003
Insurance	1,687	4,855
Interest & Bank Fees	457	956
MCH BBS Support 308496	6,344	9,862
MCH Carer Relief Payments	2,102	6,225
MCH Post Natal Sup 308496	1,114	-
Motor Vehicle	13,100	10,404
MSD Strengthening Families 06-07 & 07-08	37,232	-
Newsletters	456	948
Office Equipment	771	280
Operating Costs inc R&M	10,655	8,496
Power	3,442	3,079
Printing Postage & Stationery	6,357	7,811
Professional Services	180	1,440
Rates 294A Church Street	384	316
Rent 294 A Church Street	41,500	26,500
Salaries	400,067	427,452
Salaries - Kiwi Saver - Employer Contribution	2,527	-
Staff Profess Assoc Membership	2,463	-
Staff Supervision	4,913	5,990
Staff Training	3,703	3,750
Strengthening Families Contract	-	6,499
Subscriptions	1,175	1,070
Sundry Expenses	4,552	6,510
Telephone, Tolls & Internet	7,388	8,033
Volunteer Expenses	573	-

Total Expenses 732,941 765,669

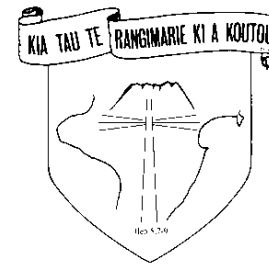
Net Surplus for the Year 34,858 10,966

Financial Report

Statement of Financial Performance—for year ended 30 June 2009

<u>Income</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Across Holdings Dividend	41,500	26,500
Across Supporters Trust	18,231	19,151
Anglican Care (Tindall Foundation)	-	5,000
Anglican Diocese of Wellington	-	-
Counselling Contributions	3,325	5,161
CY & F Bednights Contracts	262,123	411,049
CY & F Family Counselling	30,369	18,961
CY & F Family Wellbeing	139,036	121,008
CY & F Service Units	59,070	-
Donation for Services	-	770
Estates, Trusts & Grants	6,950	18,800
Interest	25,994	24,314
Invoiced Services	9,001	9,754
Kiwi Saver-IRD Tax Deduction	1,366	-
MidCentral Health Bereaved by Suicide Support	17,842	17,442
MidCentral Health Carer Relief	5,254	12,300
MidCentral Post Natal Support	6,000	-
Minimum Operating Reserve	13,185	-
MSD Campaign Response Fund	18,000	-
MSD Strengthening Fam 06-07 Contract	18,667	15,295
MSD Strengthening Fam 07-08 Contract	21,362	6,700
MSD Strengthening Fam 08-09 Contract	4,000	-
NZ Lottery Grants Board	44,500	39,100
Pahiatua Community Trust	2,860	-
Palmerston North Anglican Trust for Children	5,000	12,000
Palmerston North Catholic Diocese	12,000	12,000
Sundry Income	2,164	1,330
Total Income	767,799	776,635

Foreword



In its quiet but effective way, ACROSS continues to carry out so well this arm of the Church's work in society.

We are all indebted to a dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters for what is being done, and I ask God's blessing on them all, and on all who come to them.

In its quiet but effective way, ACROSS continues to carry out so well this arm of the Church's work in society.

P J Cullinane
Bishop of Palmerston North



In what must be one of the most testing economic of times of the decade perhaps even longer, Across has risen to the challenge to provide quality care and support to those who are in need. There is no doubt the increased demand has called for greater efforts by the staff and we are fortunate to have a team that have risen to the challenge.

We are told there are signs of economic 'green shoots' appearing but that unemployment isn't forecast to decrease in the near future. That being the case ACROSS still has much to do and in order to achieve its goals it will need all the support it can get from churches and the public. We thank ACROSS for a job very well done this past year and prayerfully wish staff all the best for the future.

Tom
Bishop of Wellington

Chairman's Report

It is with pleasure that I present the nineteenth Annual Report of ACROSS Te Kotahitanga O Te Wairua.

ACROSS has continued to develop and provide professional social services predominantly focused on assisting the needs of children and families.

Under director Graeme Munford ACROSS has continued to respond to needs and to provide innovative services as required. The agency takes pride in its unique Christian character and the values that it brings based on the caring and compassionate heritage of the Anglican and Catholic churches. This special flavour is by which it differentiates itself from other providers.

The Year in Review

Last year we saw the onset of a financial crisis and subsequent recession that continues to impact on the lives of many New Zealanders.

The consequence of a retrenchment in the economy has affected those receiving benefits. Many of whom are responsible for caring for children less than six years of age. There is concern that benefits do not cover the cost of raising families. Another consequence is the large number of our young people who are unemployed.

The effects have impacted disproportionately on low income families and our youth, those with little assets and resources to fall back on. The subsequent increased risk of poor health and a decline in educational and social outcomes longer term will affect us all as a society.

Financial stress within families has been one factor of the increased demand for the services of ACROSS.

A non government agency like ours continues to be part of the solution by providing services to lessen the social impact on children and families.

Policy and finance committees have met regularly. The policy committee continues to review and construct robust policies enhancing good governance. The finance committee monitors income and expenditure tendering sound financial advice and stewardship.

Across has maintained a sound financial position thanks to the continuing support of the churches and the Across Supporters Trust, many who continue to contribute on a regular basis.

During the year the board farewelled long serving Finance Committee member Wayne Cameron and acknowledged his valuable contribution of time and advice which has contributed to the sound financial position the agency is in today. The board appreciates and welcomes Peter Horgan, who has made himself available to join the finance committee.

During the year a farewell was held for Sister Jeanette Conheeney a staff member for twenty years.

A presentation was made in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the work of ACROSS and clients over the many years.

The year in review



Board members (2008-09)

Roger Clark (St Patricks Parish) Chairperson
Barry Stevenson (All Saints, PN)
Barry Allport (St Matthews, PN)
Mary Eastham (Community representative)
Rachel Lohrey (Community representative)
Max Tregonning (St Peters, PN)
Eileen O'Connor (Our Lady of Lourdes Parish)
Ethne Mather (St Marys Parish)

Acknowledgements

ACROSS Supporters Trust
Catholic Diocese of Palmerston North
Milverton Trust
J R McKenzie Trust
PN Anglican Trust for Children
Ministry of Social Development
Anglican Care Network
Anglican Social Service and Community Development Board
All Saints Church
Anglican Parish of Pohangina
NZ Lotteries Grants Board

The year in review

Concluding comments

Our Constitution states that ACROSS was originally formed to respond to growing social need among families and to meet the needs of children, it states among its objects, "... to act for the relief and distress of poverty... among family/whanau and individuals... and to work for the elimination of root causes of these problems" Originally established as a charitable trust (and now registered with the Charities Commission) the aim of ACROSS is to have resources available to provide, counselling, family support, support groups and foster care for children and young people. None of these aims have changed, our logo depicts that commitment; it represents the Manawatu river in the foreground with the Tararua and Ruahine ranges behind – ACROSS - *Kotahitanga O Te Wairua* is quoted in one of our founding documents as 'solidarity in spirit', referring to the connection between the Catholic and Anglican churches and its intention to *provide a joint social service to encourage, uphold, educate and integrate family and iwi life in Aotearoa – New Zealand especially for those groups at crisis point.* Almost 20 years on that vision and mission carries on.

Agency Team

Graeme Munford Director
Bee Barrett Senior Social Worker
Jinny Andersen Senior Administrator
Karen Pettersson Administrator
Rose Allan Counsellor
Sharon Elkington Counsellor
Brian Annear Social Worker
Mel Fieldsend Social Worker
Feiona Fraser Social Worker
Wyllis Russell Social Worker
Shu Fei Lin Foster Care Worker



Staff changes – this year we farewelled Sr Jeanette Conheeny who had worked as our Receptionist at ACROSS for many years and had seen many changes, we wish her well in her new venture; Karen replaced Jeanette in April - two of our social workers Rebecca Kooge and Kylie Mac Manus moved on in the earlier part of the year and Mel Fieldsend joined the social work team in April. This year Lynn Gill and Maureen Hale continued their work part time on the children's programme. We also hosted both social work and counselling students completing their practice hours in the agency – this year we provided training for two social work students and one counselling student

Chairman's Report

This year we also farewell board member Max Tregonning, Anglican appointee of St Peters Parish. The board wishes to thank Max for his expertise and the contribution of time and effort over the years. We welcome John Gawith to the board as replacement.

Marjorie Dawson resigned during the year and we welcome St Mary's appointee Ethne Mather.

Looking Ahead

One would hope that the reshaping of the MSD Pathways to Partnership strategy will not lose its fundamental objectives and that it will provide long term funding certainty of essential service providers as well ensuring improved effectiveness of service delivery and better outcomes for children and families.

ACROSS continues to foster and develop existing collaborative partnerships and professional working relationships with the Ministry of Social Development, Child Youth and Family, and Mid Central Health.

The discussion with Manchester House to explore ways of working together did not materialise.

The agency has recently undertaken a supporting management and governance role with Birthright Central enabling the organisation to continue to provide services in keeping with their mission statement.

It is fitting to once again acknowledge and give thanks to the generous support by the Anglican Care Network, Anglican Social Service and Community Development Board, Catholic Diocese of Palmerston North, the continued support by members of the Across Supporters Trust, Milverton Trust, J R McKenzie Trust, PN Anglican Trust for Children, and the Ministry of Social Development.

I would like to thank my fellow board members and staff for their work commitment and passion, by continuing to ensure that ACROSS fulfils its mission statement and vision based on Christian values.

Thanks also go to Auditor Daryl Pinny, Grant O' Donnell, lawyer, Wayne Cameron and Peter Horgan, Accountants, and Kevin Frost employment consultant for their ongoing contribution of time and professional expertise.

ACROSS is in good shape to continue to provide compassionate, professional support services to individuals, children and families in need.

I would like to move adoption of this report.

Roger Clark
Chairperson



From the Director

We have had an extraordinary busy year at ACROSS, the number of people seeking services has increased, we have seen a change in the way we receive funding through government, and the recession has meant grants available for our work are harder to come by... but we are still here... and the support we receive from those who get in behind our work with families has not diminished. We owe a vote of thanks to our staff, church supporters, those who belong to our Supporter Trust and the many community organisations with whom we work; our relationship with other key stakeholders in particular the Ministry of Social Development remains positive and we thank them for their support.

ACROSS has now been operating in Manawatu for over 20 years and we have learnt a thing or two over that time – not the least of which is that the more things change the more they stay the same... while much of our work with families involves support of those struggling to make ends meet – and harder economic times have had their impact - many of those with whom we work still face the same challenges they always have irrespective of the state of the economy, concerns around the care and safety of children, violence in the home, issues around mental health, people living on their own without support around them, all remain areas of need. As well as touching on all the above concerns in our day to day work the key areas we work in, in other words, our core business is still family support, counselling and foster care. Over the last year or so we have added support groups to that list, we now have programmes for children, people bereaved by suicide and those suffering from postnatal depression. We are frequently asked about what we do differently from other organisations in the community, the short answer is that we do some things the same and some things differently – there will always be a need for a safety net for people in the community; we cast that net as widely as possible, which means working closely with other organisations. For example, we have recently taken on a role in supporting Birthright (Central) in PN who work with single parents –Birthright will be sharing offices at ACROSS from the start of November. We believe this type of collaboration is essential among community groups if we want to continue to be effective in our work. In this report you will note that referrals for counselling have increased over the last year – more people are seeing the benefit in seeking this type of help and compared to last year overall the number of people we have seen come through our door had increased. We have put more emphasis on being ‘solution focused’ in our practice and this may have reflected in the drop in number of children being looked after by foster parents.

The year in review

Community development

We continue to belong to a number of networks providing services and programmes throughout the community. We believe this sort of linking with other groups is vital. Many of us are doing similar work and pooling resources and ideas is an excellent way of responding to needs in the community. Our support of Birthright in Palmerston North, an organisation who works with single parents is one example of this type of collaboration.



Our relationship with government and non government agencies (e.g. through Ministry of Social Development Strengthening Families programme) and with other grassroots providers (e.g. through our links with networks such as NZ Council for Christian Social Services) means we stay connected with what is happening on a number of levels both for people person-

ally and across the whole community. We cannot escape the effect economic and social policies have on people in their day to day lives, we believe it is our responsibility to draw attention to these issues.

The year in review

Family assessments

A new development in our work has been in the area of family assessment. Usually these assessments focus on the capacity or ability of families referred to meet the needs of their children; they include referrals for early intervention where family members and children are seen as vulnerable or at risk. Staff work to try and identify the right support to put in place and the degree to which families are able to take advantage of support offered.

Support groups and programmes

We continue to offer a bereavement support group for people affected by the loss of someone by suicide – funded by the MidCentral District Health Board this group meets once each fortnight and is facilitated by one of our counsellors. We also introduced a postnatal depression group this year and plan to hold another group at the beginning of next year.

Our children's programme has run successfully and over the last year. Based at a local primary school, designed for children aged 8–10 who may be struggling with self esteem. Next year we intend to have the programme based at ACROSS.



From the Director

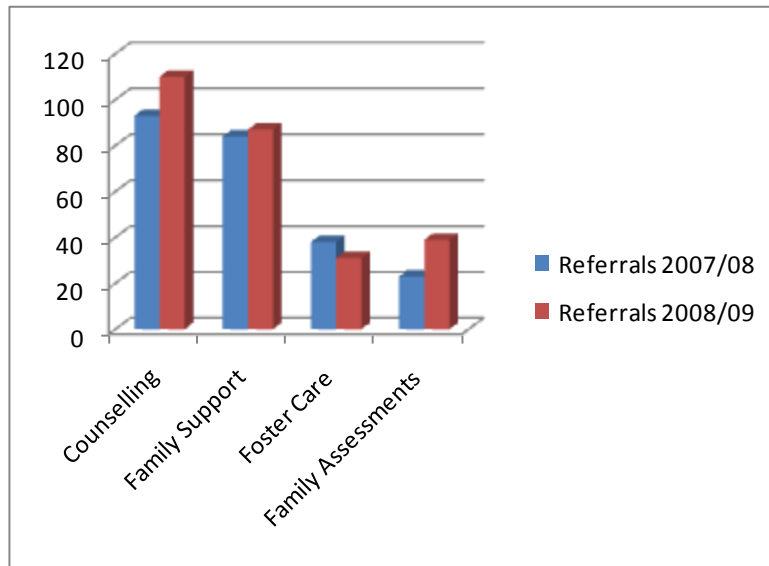
Our newsletter goes out four times a year and we wish to thank all those who respond by making donations – we also want to thank all those people and those who continue to belong to our Supporters Trust who contribute each month by automatic payment – we invite people again to join the Trust – we think this is great way to sponsor our work and give something back to the community. We are also extremely grateful for those who support us in other ways – Wayne Cameron who worked on our finance committee for many years handed over his Chair of the group this year – we thank Wayne again and Peter Horgan for coming on board. We are also fortunate to have an excellent governing body – our Board represents almost every Anglican and Catholic parish in Palmerston North as well having other community representation.

We look forward to a new year –charting new territory is a challenging but exciting way to kick things off.

Graeme Munford
Director



The year in review



NUMBER OF REFERRALS

	2007/08	2008/09
Counselling	93	110
Family Support	84	87
Foster Care	38	31
Family Assessments	23	39

ACROSS delivers counselling services, provides information and advice to parents, operates support groups for those suffering postnatal depression and bereaved by suicide, accepts mental health referrals, provides respite care for families, recruits and trains foster parents to care for children and at risk young people, completes assessments on child abuse and neglect and works with families to reduce risk to the safety of children including family violence.

The year in review

Counselling

Over the last year referrals have increased by approximately 10 percent. It is likely that we are seeing more people dealing with the added stress which comes with harder economic times. We have an increasing number of enquiries for counselling for children and we have counsellors available who are to work both with children and their parents. We also continue to see both couples and individuals, people may self refer or be referred by someone else (e.g. their doctor). As we are a community service there is no cost to see a counsellor although many people choose to make a donation.

Family support

Much of our support of families involves providing parenting advice and information and getting alongside families to provide help when it's needed. In practical terms this means seeing that children are getting the sort care they need and that wherever possible families themselves are in the best position possible to meet their children's needs.

Our aim is to see people are helped to get support which will benefit them long term, the focus is on enabling people to access support that will have the most benefit for them. Overall, requests for this type of support have increased from last year.

Foster care

ACROSS continues to recruit and train foster parents who provide care for children who for various reasons need to come into our care. Referrals for respite care have increased over the last 12 months although the number of children in longer term care (i.e. over three months) has dropped.

