

# ACROSS



## Te Kotahitanga O te Wairua

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### SEPTEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

#### EDITORIAL

In its ongoing programme (Aroha tētahi ki tētahi - Let Us Look After Each Other) promoting the needs of all New Zealanders, the New Zealand Council for Christian Social Services recently released information entitled; **Made Poor in New Zealand?**, it read:

"Made Poor in New Zealand?" is the provocative headline being used by the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) in the latest instalment of its information programme about social justice issues in Aotearoa New Zealand. supported by the release of a information sheets called **"Facts About Poverty"**

"On the one hand the systems for monitoring and reporting on levels of poverty in this country have become more and more sophisticated. Yet on the other hand the every day plight of those on the lowest incomes, including beneficiaries, seems to have almost been forgotten," says Trevor McGlinchey, NZCCSS Executive Officer.

This message has been presented in an **OPEN LETTER TO ALL POLITICAL CANDIDATES** (links to PDF) with the support of Church leaders on 8/9 September.

*Abridged: NZCCSS*

#### ***In our last Newsletter we spoke of all - Doing our part...***



Recently (over the week 14-20 September), Caritas (the Catholic Agency for Justice and Peace and Development) launched Social Justice week. Caritas still has available resources from Social Justice Week which this year focused on poverty in our affluent society.

Caritas also released a new report detailing how changes to the benefit system over last 18 years have *not* benefited some of the poorest in our midst. Read their media release or full report at *The Unravelling of the Welfare Safety Net.*

Social Justice Week 2008 resources available include: Parish and Youth Resources and School resources

We can all promote the need of others in some way no matter how small we may think our part is.



**ACROSS**  
TE KOTAHITANGA O TE WAIRUA

**At ACROSS** we work to support families (parents and children) by helping people help themselves. After almost 20 years working in our community we are able to do our part by working with and alongside other agencies.

**Our Mission** (to respond to social need) is constantly changing as the needs in our society change – opportunities sometimes present themselves to respond; next month, for example, we are starting a **postnatal depression therapy/ support group** for mothers.

Our upcoming AGM below is a time to look back and look ahead to how we can continue to play our part.

The Board of:  
**ACROSS TE KOTAHITANGA O TE WAIRUA**  
Invites you to its  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
To be held at the Catholic Diocese Centre  
Amesbury St  
Palmerston North  
On Wednesday 22 October 2008  
At 12.30pm



**Social Service Providers**  
**Aotearoa Inc.**  
*Children, Family, Community*

The SSPA Conference was recently held in Dunedin, an opportunity for community organisations to get together and discuss a range of issues – the theme was on partnership, particularly in relation to recent government announcements on increases in funding.

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***Your support...***

If you would like to make a donation towards our work please complete this tear off slip and **Send to: ACROSS, PO Box 1140, Palmerston North 4440**

- I / we enclose a donation of \$ .....
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***Thank You ...to those who have provided us generous support: members of ACROSS Supporters Trust, Catholic Diocese of Palmerston North, Milverton Trust, J R McKenzie Trust, PN Anglican Trust for Children, Ministry of Social Development***