

The Advocate

Award Acknowledges "It's Not Ok" in Canterbury.

After three years as a finalist, this year Christchurch Women's Refuge was finally named a winner in the 2009 Champion Canterbury Awards. Christchurch Women's Refuge won its category of Medium-Large Enterprise in the Charity section, which was once again kindly sponsored by AMI Insurance.

This award is a welcome endorsement of the work we undertake with women, children and young people who have experienced the trauma of domestic violence. More importantly, it is a public acknowledgement by the local business community of the importance of family violence as an issue that must be addressed.

Not that long ago domestic violence prevention would never have been awarded such high profile recognition. Many people preferred

not to think about the issue, or chose to believe that it could never happen in their neighbourhood or social circle. Championing the rights of abused women and children and demanding change on their behalf was not popular.

At Christchurch Women's Refuge we have always believed that fundamental change at a societal level is necessary for the prevention of domestic violence, so it is truly heartening to see that the wider community is catching up with us regarding the issue. As a community we have finally brought domestic violence out in the open where it can be acknowledged, talked about, addressed and dealt with.

I want to thank all of you – individual supporters, businesses, funders and other social services agencies – who have helped us and worked with us to change lives and to improve our society by reinforcing that domestic violence won't be ignored or tolerated in our community. That an agency such as Christchurch Women's Refuge can now share a stage with some of the most influential businesses in Christchurch shows that together we have made a real difference that we can all be proud of.

There is still a lot of work to do, but we firmly believe that together we can bring about the social change necessary to make domestic violence truly unacceptable in our community.

A Gillespie

Annette Gillespie
Chief Executive Officer



CEO Annette Gillespie and Board member Madeleine Hawkesby-Browne receive the Award from AMI Insurance

Adopting a New Family First Focus

As part of its commitment to continually improve and remain relevant to clients, Christchurch Women's Refuge has recently undertaken a review of its service delivery and structure.

As always, service to clients is the Refuge's principal focus and it must also ensure that it maintains the ability to grow or adapt its services while remaining financially viable. This recent re-evaluation has resulted in a restructure that will support a more efficient and streamlined operation. Service delivery will become more holistic and family-based and clinical staff will deal with both women and children/young people instead of specialising in one client field only. Such a change is in line with international sociological thinking which prioritises the wellbeing of the family unit.

Christchurch Women's Refuge will continue to work for social change through collaboration, community education, raising societal awareness and political lobbying. Such activities are critical to early intervention in family violence and are a crucial adjunct to the Refuge's crisis services.

Management and Board are confident that this shift in focus will ensure that Christchurch Women's Refuge is in a secure position to offer long-term, sustainable service delivery of the same high quality to current and future clients.

The Fun of the Fair

The North Canterbury Soroptimists chose Christchurch Women's Refuge as one of the charity recipients of funds raised at their 16th annual Craft Fair, held on Tuesday 20 October.

After a great deal of hard work and despite slightly inclement weather, the Fair, which took place at Rangiora A & P Showground, was a great success with a good turnout. There were nearly 60 stalls – fortunately many were indoors – which included handcrafts and original art, gourmet foods and beauty products, jewellery and accessories, plants, garden products and pre-loved books.



Christchurch Women's Refuge was chosen as a recipient charity because it offers its services throughout the Canterbury, Waimakariri and Hurunui Districts and has an office based in Rangiora. Funds raised from the Fair will be used to support the North Canterbury service.

North Canterbury Soroptimists are part of an international organisation (www.siswp.org) which works to advance human rights and the status of women. Christchurch Women's Refuge thanks them for their kind support.

Welcome New Brand Development Manager

Welcome to Julie McCloy who started at the Refuge in mid-August. Julie's role is a newly created one and combines responsibility for seeking and accounting for funding grants with a new focus on raising the Refuge's profile.



Julie McCloy - Brand Development Manager

Julie is a born and bred Cantabrian. She studied at the University of Canterbury and College of Education and has worked most of her adult life in Christchurch, apart from three and half years in the UK and Europe.

Julie brings with her a wide range of marketing, communications and branding experience gained in a variety of roles. Her most recent position was Communications Manager at Lyttelton Port Company. Prior to that she worked in marketing roles for waste recovery charitable trust TerraNova and its commercial arm Meta NZ, and before that for the Christchurch College of Education.

While the move into the not-for-profit sector is largely a new one for Julie, she is excited by the changes ahead and the opportunities to help Christchurch Women's Refuge get wider acknowledgement for the essential and often overlooked work that it undertakes.

White Ribbon Day – 25 November 2009



Wednesday 25 November is White Ribbon Day – the international day of acknowledgment that violence against women is not OK.

White Ribbon Day celebrates the many men willing to show leadership and commitment to promoting safe, healthy relationships within families and encourages men to challenge each other on attitudes and behaviours that are abusive.

Visit www.whiteribbon.org.nz for more information.

Thanks to our Supporters

Thanks to everyone who has made a donation over past months. Your contribution – no matter how large or small – helps the Refuge support others to live lives free of violence.

Thanks also for the many offers of goods. Unfortunately the Refuge cannot always accept all items offered as storage space is limited. If you have goods you wish to donate please phone (03) 353 7501 to find out more, or visit www.womensrefuge.co.nz

Christchurch Women's Refuge is very grateful for the constant support it receives. If you would like to help us in our work, there are a variety of ways – making a direct donation, organising a fundraising event, adding a fundraising component to an 'ordinary' event (e.g. a BBO or party with friends), arranging a bequest, payroll giving etc. Visit our website for more ideas and information.

INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Patchwork Quilt Club of North Canterbury is a regular supporter of Christchurch Women's Refuge and recently the Club created a wonderful quilt for the children using the Safe House. The quilt features each letter of the alphabet as a separate work of art with interactive pieces to play with.

Creating the quilt took several months to complete, so special thanks go to Nanette, Heather, Bunty, Jeanette, Irene, Laurel, Jenny, Shirley, Joy, Raewyn, Janette, Merle, and Elly.



Quilt donated to the children of the Safe House from the Patchwork Quilt Club of North Canterbury.

Items we are always looking for include:

- Disposable nappies – variety of ages
- Toilet paper and sanitary items
- Non-perishable foods

Special thanks also go to St Margaret's College, who made Christchurch Women's Refuge their charity of choice for the year. In the last year St Margaret's students and supporters have raised almost \$3,000 for the Refuge. The college has also recognised the importance of domestic violence prevention by regularly inviting a speaker from Christchurch Women's Refuge to talk to students as part of their Life Skills programmes. Our sincere thanks to the students and staff (particularly Jo Diftord and Jean McDonald) for their ongoing support.



FUNDERS

Christchurch Women's Refuge would like to acknowledge the financial support we have received from Trusts and other organisations in the first quarter of the financial year (July – September):

- The Perry Foundation;
- The Southern Trust;
- J & M Ferrier Trust;
- Canterbury Community Trust and
- The Eureka Trust.



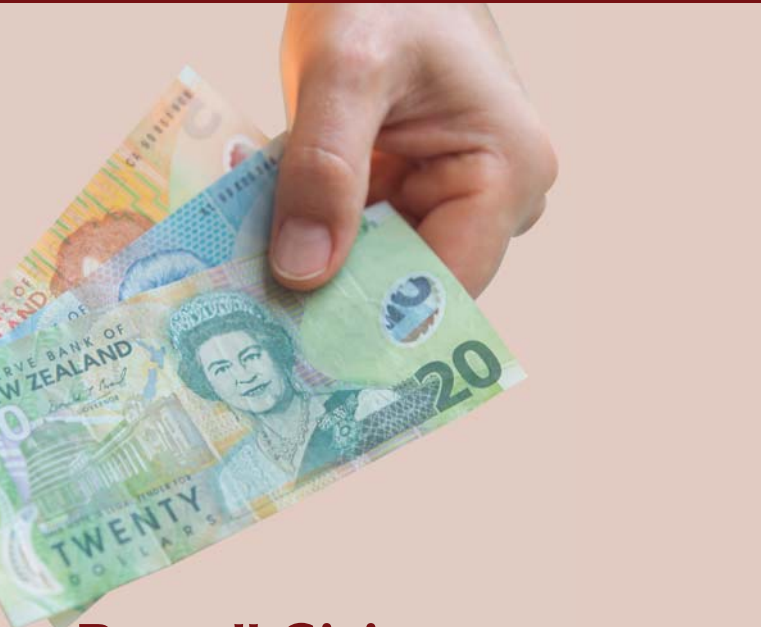
Thanks also to AMI Insurance for their \$1,000 donation to all finalists in the Charity section of the Champion Canterbury Awards. The grants we receive are our main source of income and without them we would not be able to undertake our valuable work.

LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Refuge has also had some wonderful support from local businesses who have donated goods for our Safe House. The Safe House becomes home for over 150 women and children each year and it is important that it feels like a 'real' home as much as possible.

Thanks to the following businesses for their kind contributions:

- Wayne from The Spice Trader (www.thespice trader.co.nz) donated an array of spices and herbs to our Safe House, helping to make the meals there something special.
- Headquarters hairdressers ran a promotion in Christchurch and Dunedin inviting people to trade in their bottle of supermarket shampoo for a salon bottle. All the collected supermarket shampoos were given to the local women's refuge. The response was huge and Raewyn of Headquarters in Riccarton (www.headquartershair.co.nz) noted that once people knew their shampoos were going to Refuge, they often bought new bottles especially to donate.
- MInt Health and Fitness Club (www.mInt.co.nz) kindly donated bath robes to our Safe House. These great robes were welcoming and comforting.
- The Cleaning Warehouse (www.cleanware.co.nz) donated several large cartons of single use toiletries for the 'welcome' packs that are assembled to await new residents at the Safe House.
- Postie Plus (Spotlight Centre; www.postieplus.co.nz), Asics Outlet Store (www.asics.co.nz) and the Bendon Outlet Store (www.bendongroup.com) in Dressmart (www.dressmart.co.nz) donated new clothing, shoes and underwear. All were very well received.



Payroll Giving Commences in 2010

From January 2010 payroll giving will be available as an option for charitable donations. This is an easy and beneficial way – both for donors and recipients – to give money, as donations go directly from a person’s gross pay to their chosen community organisation.

The scheme will be administered through the PAYE tax system, so tax rebates on your donation are immediate rather than annual. Payroll giving is voluntary and will only be available for organisations that file their PAYE returns online.

In October employers will have received information from the Government about the new system. If you would like to support Christchurch Women’s Refuge through payroll giving then ask your employer more about the scheme. You may even like to suggest that they match your donation!

Christchurch Women’s Refuge Joins Jigsaw

Christchurch Women’s Refuge is happy to announce that it is now officially affiliated to Jigsaw Family Services.

Jigsaw is a community based network of independent local agencies whose main focus is the prevention of child abuse, neglect and family violence. They also have a strong commitment to helping families provide the safe and nurturing environment that children need to reach their full potential.

Christchurch is the only Women’s Refuge to be affiliated to Jigsaw. This is acknowledgement of the commitment to children and families that is paramount in the services offered by Christchurch Women’s Refuge. Over half the Refuge’s clients are children and separate, parallel violence prevention children’s programmes are available for them.

The affiliation also acknowledges and extends Christchurch Women’s Refuge’s strong history of collaboration and partnership with other agencies. To find out more about Jigsaw visit www.jigsaw.org.nz



Receive *The Advocate* by Email

If you would prefer to receive your copy of *The Advocate* by email please contact us by emailing Julie@womensrefuge.co.nz or calling (03) 353 7501.



Join the journey to a violence free society

Charities Commission Number CC 30026

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please post to:

Christchurch Women’s Refuge Inc., PO Box 32 034, Christchurch 8147

Here is my donation of \$25 \$75 \$150 \$200

Other amount (please enter) \$ _____

Cheque payable to Christchurch Women’s Refuge

Or charge my Visa MasterCard Expiry date ____ / ____

Card No.

Name of cardholder _____

Please send me information about making a gift to Christchurch Women’s Refuge in my will.

If you wish to discuss a donation or make automatic payments please contact Julie on (03) 353 7501, at Julie@womensrefuge.co.nz or visit www.womensrefuge.co.nz

Thank you! We will send you a receipt