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## MERRY XMAS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

Firstly I want to thank all our supporters for their ongoing encouragement and assistance throughout the previous twelve months and wish you all a Happy Christmas and good start to the New Year. Your generosity is overwhelming and truly appreciated. Thank you also to all the other community providers who we routinely refer our clients for additional services. I am sure that they, like us, worry about the clients on their waiting lists that they are unable to offer services to through lack of additional capacity. In our case it puts children and families at further risk through poverty, mental health, families violence issues and the stressors that accompany these that impacts on their parenting abilities.

The downside in our economy will clearly make it even more difficult to raise much needed funds for our child abuse prevention services as folk look at their priorities.

It is been very full year for our service. Sadly more maltreated children have hit the headlines through their tragic deaths. Nia Glassie, in particular will be remember because of the extreme torture that she endured.

We now have a new government! We have yet to hear what they intend to do about child homicide and child maltreatment in Godzone. The economy paints a grim picture and they have made it clear that there isn't not a lot of fiscal wiggle room. Our status in the OECD countries concerning this issue remains extremely embarrassing. Government has said they want to strengthen front line work. I doubt that there is a single community agency working with vulnerable children and families who has no waiting list for services and sufficient funds to carry out their core function of supporting families to parent effectively.

There are a number of questions that do need to be asked – Is it insufficient funds? Is this the wrong mix of services? Are we failing to understand what works for which families and under what circumstances? Or is it that despite our best efforts our services fail to make a difference and if so why? **Libby Robins, Director**

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## WELCOME TO NEW TRUSTEE ANNE CARROLL

Anne is well known to us, having been a board member in our earlier years. Anne's background has been predominantly in mental health, originally as an occupational therapist. Until relatively recently she was very active at community board level in Papanui/Shirley. We look forward to accessing her wide knowledge of the community in the months ahead.

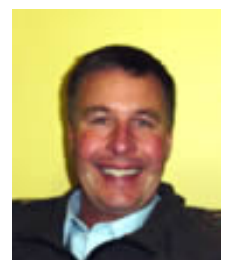


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## TRIBUTE TO INSPECTOR ANDY MCGREGOR

It is with regret that we bid farewell to Andy McGregor, who resigns from our Board of Trustees to take up a promotional position in Wellington. Andy was seconded by District Commander Sandy Manderson to represent the Police and in turn to replace the previous District Commander Paul Fitzharris on the board.

I personally attended Andy's Papanui Police Station farewell function and heard first hand how involved he was in the community. His dedication to making life better for those less fortunate was clearly one of his driving forces. All who knew him, not the least Family Help Trust, will clearly miss him and his cheerful demeanour. Go well Andy



## RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY

Bill and I recently attended a very interesting seminar, organized by Christchurch City Council and featuring US guest speaker Mark Friedman. Mark's excellent presentation featured some simple self-evaluation tools, which will assist services with performance measures. The simple message was "how much was delivered, how well was it done and was anyone better off"? All recipients of city council strengthening communities fund will be expected to report along these lines from hereon in. It is also intended that the Ministry of Social Development through their Pathway to Partnership strategy and funding will use this framework. Many community agencies have been well aware of the move.

For those agencies, which already have quite sophisticated information collecting systems and databases, it will be interesting to see how the new framework will compliment or sit alongside these existing processes. While I look forward to this development I am hoping that it will simplify our existing reporting requirements, not add to them.



## ROTARY CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH

On 5<sup>th</sup> December, Rotary held their annual street appeal. Family Help Trust was delighted to be selected to benefit. Given that child homicide is almost a permanent fixture in the media, it was appropriate that funds went to an agency dedicated to prevent this national disgrace. Thank you! You are champions!



## BUSINESS FORUM 08

Duncan Cotterill's sponsored event in September 2008 was an outstanding event with the Hon Dr Michael Cullen and Hon Bill English discussing the economy. It was excellent to have such an amicable tone and the absence of political point scoring. Thank you Duncan Cotterill for your generosity.



## A Child's Story:

Joy entered our service 18 months ago as a 17 year old expecting, her first baby. Staff at the young mothers residence where she lived, were very concerned because of her behavioural and mental health issues, as to how she would be able to live independently and manage the care of her baby. Child Youth and Family were significantly involved.

With Family Help Trust's weekly input and a lot of personal resolve from Joy herself, 18 months on the picture is looking very different. Since our involvement Joy has become less anxious and is able to focus on those things that she can do well rather than on what she can't do. Joy's goals for herself and baby have been broken down into bite-sized tasks and she is well on the way to achieving them. Joy and her son are living independently and she is managing her parenting role very well. Child Youth and Family are no longer involved and are happy that baby Tom is no longer at risk. Joy has moved into part-time employment, has begun to study and has come off the benefit. Tom is in home-based daycare when Joy is working. She still has trouble with her anxiety at times but has overcome many fears to be able to function really well in the adult world. We are very proud of the achievements that she has made with the support and encouragement of her Family Help Trust social worker.

**Bill Pringle (Clinical Manager)**

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