

Churches helping people

August 2020

We are a Christian-based organisation. All of our team are volunteers who come from many different Hawke's Bay Churches and denominations.

The need for our service never stops!



As we look back over the year that has been, it has been very eventful and unusual. Who was to know that Covid 19 was on its way with the opportunity to rise to the challenge and be part of Team New Zealand. Constant hand washing, contact tracing, thinking outside the box, and assessments by phone, are all new skills that we have acquired during this time.

New Storage Unit



One of the key events for us at Christian Lovelink has been the rental of the unit next door to our home base. This has been such a blessing, allowing our residential carpenter *John*, to shift into a much needed bigger space. A new storage space for linen has been also constructed together with a connecting door between the two units. Overall this has allowed us to have a less cluttered main storage space and to be able to more easily and safely to navigate the main areas.

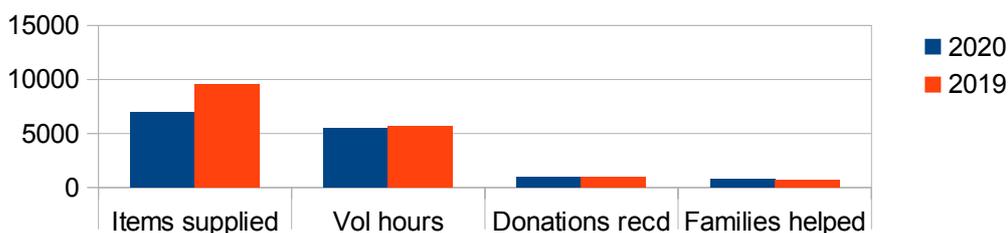
Statistics 2020

Onto to what is for some the less interesting area of Statistics (to 31 March 2020). While statistics do not tell the individual stories of the people helped, they do give a picture of how many people have been assisted in the name of Jesus Christ, our core belief/value.

Statistics for the year		2020	2019
Active volunteers	Decrease 7%	43	46
Volunteer hours	Decrease 3%	5496	5669
Families assisted	Increase 8%	776	714
items supplied	refer notes below	6947	9561
Donations received		947	972
Referring Agencies		20	19

Christian Lovelink

FY2020 (to 31 March 2020)



The items supplied has seen a big drop, **but this is actually not the case.** It is due to a regrouping of how the figures are recorded. Previously all items given were individually recorded, but now there are the new categories of **Kitchenware** (everything needed for a kitchen and covers 27 items), **Tableware** (everything for the table) and items such as under-blankets being given automatically with a bed/linen request. This makes it a lot easier and quicker both to input and dispense the items needed. Boxes of these items are pre-made ready to go.

Main individual statistics

Sheets (pairs)	1316	Towels	618	Duvets	475
Blankets	358	Beds	348	Pillows	253
Sets of Drawers	238				

Matthew 25:39-40 'When did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?' And the King will reply. 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.'

AGM 2020

The AGM in July went well and was reasonably well attended despite the cold weather. Maurice Craig and Frida Dobson both finished their 3 year terms on the Board, but stood again and were re-elected. We welcome Keith Woodcock from St Colomba's Church to the Board.

Julia McPherson from Family VIP (formerly known as Women's Refuge) was the guest speaker and shared some really startling statistics and insights into her sphere of work. She spoke of a recent situation where they were able to set up a safe house in less than 24 hours, thanks in part to the beds and bed linen supplied by Christian Lovelink . They were just finishing making the beds when the new family walked in. An amazing result!!!

Blanket SOS...

We were so blessed to be the beneficiary of the blanket SOS put out by Stuart Nash MP for Napier. In the days prior to this, the stock of blankets held by Christian Lovelink was nil and was a huge concern with winter in full swing. Our thanks to Stuart, his office staff and all those who donated. Thanks to them our cupboard is looking so much better. 63 of those blankets already given out (to July 20), helping between 20 & 30 families (estimate based on 2 blankets per request).

Volunteers

We would like to give honour to our volunteers for all the hard work they do to keep Christian Lovelink going.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers, many of whom are retired, who make all this possible. Without them, most, if not all of this, would not happen. It puts me in mind of the Hymn title "Great is thy Faithfulness" and their faithfulness to this cause is both humbling and awesome. We have a number of volunteers who have given over 10 years service to helping the community through Christian Lovelink.

We help...

Our assessors are meeting families to determine their most immediate needs and this can vary from one or two items or in some cases a complete house load of items. Some have moved to the Hawkes Bay from other cities and have brought only their clothes and basics that can fit in the car. No matter what their circumstances, we listen without judgement, and with great connections with other agencies, we assist to meet their most basic needs from the clearing house.

Our aim is to show them the Love of the Father; John 13:34-35 *“A new command I give you; Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another”*

We work closely with agencies such as Child Healthy Housing, Family VIP, Te Tai Whenua, W.I.T (Whatever It Takes), Work and Income, and many other community-based organisations. A full list of the agencies we work with is available from the Office if you would like to know more detail.

Donations Welcome...

Requests for assistance never stop, so if you have surplus household items we would really appreciate these as there are many vulnerable and needy families in our community who are requesting help from us. We will accept anything from one or two items to full house lots.

We need quality beds, furniture, crockery, cutlery, pots and pans, cooking utensils, blankets, duvets, duvet covers, pillows, towels, face cloths and tea towels. We are happy to pick up items from you – please phone us. Sets of drawers and dining suites are always in huge demand and go out as fast as they come in.

All donations are gratefully accepted. However, some things are not practicable, so please do not be offended if we cannot take some items so generously offered. We usually do not take any electrical items, but when picking up complete house lots we will take everything. Items that we are unable to use will be passed on to one of the local op shops.

Christian Lovelink does not take curtains. The place to drop them off is the Curtain Bank at 33 Dunlop Road, Onekawa. They are open on Tuesday and Thursday Morning. Phone 06 843 0041.

House Lot Requests

A house lot request is where the family has nothing other than the clothes they stand up in. Transitional housing is where Christian Lovelink is most likely to receive a request for this. The need for this is increasing (often by the week), which is of great concern, especially during the winter months. In one recent week, we received requests for 3 house lots, 2 of them under urgency (less than 24 hours to get the request supplied).

The request for a single house lot will often tie up clearance house staff, delivery staff and the truck for that day, with no other requests being able to be actioned until the next day. If several such requests are received in one week, this has a marked on flow effect to all other areas of need.

In terms of need and future proof planning for Christian Lovelink this is an area of significant importance.

Shout outs

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following organisations/firms/individuals that have either helped us out as a once off or with ongoing support

Beds R Us Napier	Aka Taylor Furnishings . They donate the beds which have been traded in. 348 beds were given out this year. Without this firm's generosity, this figure would be much lower.
Central Linen	For their bulk donation of sheets. 1316 pairs of sheets were given out this year. Again without their assistance, this figure would be much lower.
Conroy Removals	Help with additional storage facilities.
Laminex Group	Donation of wood for bed bases.
Men's Shed Napier	They assemble bed bases for Christian Lovelink.
Mosaic	Donation of 14 chairs which are always in high demand.
Napier Brake & Clutch	Maintains the truck.
Napier Pine	Donation of wood for bed bases.
Peter Norris Joinery	Cuts the wood up for the bed bases.
Scenic Hotel Te Pania	Have donated beds and linen.
Stuart Nash	Blanket appeal.
St Vinnies & Cranford House	Donation of goods which they cannot use in their shops.
Wright Lawn Care	Mows the lawn at the clearing house .

You can help by...

Volunteering in the clearing house to sort donated items.

Gifting funds to be used for our rent/petrol/power etc.

Contact us today: christianlovelink@xtra.co.nz (06) 843 9803 027 532 2611

Thank you