



# Challenge 2000

## Christmas Newsletter 2020



### A message from the Director

When the COVID-19 lock-down started back in March, the government confirmed what many have told us over the years: that Challenge 2000 is an essential service.

I'm very proud of the tireless work our staff and volunteers did during that very uncertain period, carrying on their support of numerous young people and families under such unusual and trying circumstances.

We couldn't have done this essential work without the generosity and kindness of Challenge 2000's friends and supporters. Ka nui te mihi ki a koutou katoa! Thank you very much!

We wish you and your loved ones a blessed and peaceful Christmas. And we look forward to your continued support in 2021 as we strive to keep growing compassion and justice here in Aotearoa-New Zealand.

*Damian Dempsey*

### A message from the Founder

"You're a Star" is a very common affirmation heard and said at Challenge by staff and whanau. Stars are huge celestial bodies that produce light and heat from the churning nuclear forges inside their cores.

Challenge is a smallish body of people who have a huge core and who have been light and heat in the cold and darkness in 2020's unusual and challenging times. I am incredibly proud of who we are and what we have done. Thank you to Damian our new leader, to our staff, Board and volunteers who always turn up, are kind and freely give what they have. Together may our presence provide the light for our brothers and sisters who suffer or struggle for a time. YOU ARE STARS!! Thank you.

*Kitty McKinley*

### Food Parcels

During the COVID-19 lockdown, our food distribution service became a full-blown, large-scale foodbank. The demand is still high, with volunteers, staff and community members coming in to cook and bake fresh meals for whānau. On occasion, we have to get creative in the kitchen, being given crates of a particular produce that we have to use quickly!



### MASSISS and YWISS

We currently have social workers and youth workers at 6 secondary schools in the Wellington region. COVID-19 has made it a particularly tough year for a lot of young people, so our staff have been working non-stop! Creative ways of getting alongside and serving these young people have included coaching sports teams and running 'breakfast clubs.' Holiday programmes continue to be popular.

### Marist Challenge 2000 Gap Year 2020



Each year, Challenge 2000 runs a Gap Year programme for up to 8 young people. Over the course of the year, they have explored pathways for future careers, studied towards a qualification in youth work, undertaken service projects, and obtained driver's licenses. Personal as well as professional growth is key to the programme, so retreats and community placements are a highlight. Placements this year included Dunedin, Hiruhārama, Kaikoura and Outward Bound. Find out more about the Gap Year programme at [www.challenge2000.org.nz](http://www.challenge2000.org.nz).



### Youth Justice

Challenge 2000 is Wellington's largest provider of Youth Justice programmes and services. This year, we've continued to help young people via supported bail (alternative to being held in custody) and mentoring programmes. We've also been supporting young people who have to serve a sentence in the community. Recently, we ran an adventure camp that included mountain biking, canoeing, and a chance to play in the snow. One young person described this as the 'best time of my life!'

## Community Work

Challenge 2000's community work sees us walk alongside and provide support for families from varied backgrounds. As well as strengthening existing relationships with many whānau, 2020 has seen us develop new connections, including with refugee and migrant families. COVID-19 was an added stress for many. We had to be creative to keep in contact, making heavy use of phone and social media, as well as delivering food and well-being parcels. Post-lockdown, some of these families have been an active part of our community service, helping organise events, cook food and the like.



## Mates and Dates

Mates and Dates is a healthy relationships programme for teenagers, aiming to help them to grow in emotional maturity and the ability to resist pressures and make good decisions in line with their values and beliefs. Challenge 2000 has partnered with ACC, providing facilitators to deliver the programme in numerous secondary schools around the Wellington region.

## Transition to Adulthood Service

The Transitions Service supports rangatahi who are in the care of Oranga Tamariki, to navigate the journey from long-term care or youth justice residences towards more independent living. During 2020, we have supported numerous young people to find safe and stable living arrangements, recover from trauma, acquire life skills and develop behaviours to support their well-being.

## Youth Ministry

Our Youth Ministry team have run multiple workshops and retreats in Catholic Schools, as well as assisting parishes with liturgies and supporting other youth development events. The team was extra creative during the COVID-19 lockdown, producing high-quality videos to help young people and their families honour Easter and Mothers' day and ANZAC days.

## Education

Challenge works with the Ministry of Education and other agencies to deliver holistic individual education programmes for young people who are unable to be in mainstream or alternative education. We have facilitated part-time and full-time educational programmes ranging from a period of weeks to the entire year.

## Youth Houses

Challenge 2000 operated 4 youth houses this year. Each house runs as a whānau-type community, sharing responsibility for common well-being, decision-making, and day-to-day tasks. Demand for this holistic, wrap-around support of young people has increased markedly over the course of 2020.

## Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

There aren't enough words to express how much we appreciate all those people who help us every single day. Thank you for saying YES!  
You have made a difference in the lives of people in 2020.

## YES! I'd like to support the work of Challenge 2000

Challenge 2000 relies on community support for much of its work. Anything that you can donate to our work will be sincerely appreciated. If you wish to contribute, a cheque may be sent along with this form. If you would prefer to donate by automatic payment, then please **direct credit to: Challenge 2000, 010519 0057660 00** or call Challenge 2000 on (04) 477 6827 for details about the assistance we most need. **We also have a givealittle page: [givealittle.co.nz/org/challenge2000](https://givealittle.co.nz/org/challenge2000)**

*Gifts over \$5 are tax deductible. Thank you!*

**Please send cheques to:**  
Challenge 2000  
PO Box 13059, Johnsonville  
Wellington, 6440

Please find enclosed/I have made a deposit of (please circle one):

- \$20  
 \$50  
 \$100  
 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Want to read more? Check our website [www.challenge2000.org.nz](http://www.challenge2000.org.nz)**