



# Challenge 2000



## Christmas Newsletter 2021

### A message from the Director

As I write this message, I have lights on the mind. Our Christmas lights have recently gone up at home. And the new COVID-19 traffic light framework is about to replace alert levels, requiring more careful planning here at Challenge 2000.

2021 has been another year during which COVID-19 has loomed large. Life has felt a bit stop-start for many of us. Anxiety, struggle and even despair have been more prevalent.

Two things that haven't stopped through these unprecedented times have been (1) the dedicated hard-work of our staff and volunteers, and (2) the kindness and generosity of our friends and supporters. That's all been green for go. Thank you!

On behalf of us all at Challenge 2000, I wish you a merry Christmas. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may the light that is more powerful than any darkness leads us into a brighter new year. Mā te atua koutou e manaaki e tiaki i ngā wā katoa.

*Damian Dempsey*

### A message from Kitty

In our 21<sup>st</sup> birthday magazine Luke Crawford our kaumatua quoted a whakatauki that described our Challenge Whānau, staff, volunteers, Board members, supporters, generous donors and those we work with. He wrote:

*'It is the feathers which enable the bird to fly! You are the feathers of this bird which is Challenge 2000. It is a Godly bird, a bird of the people, it is a bird of caring and love for this land of Aotearoa'.* This year and all the previous years the bird that is Challenge 2000..... does fly, soars, dives and sings from the top of trees. She flies when a vulnerable one falls out of their nest, when a call is made, when Covid comes, when others need nurturing, love and care. Challenge flies because you, who read this, are our feathers. Thank you, thank you, for flocking together with us!! We are grateful and need you.

I would also like to honour those friends who died this year and their families. Lorraine O'Hagan, Greg Gilpin, Dorothy Clingin and John Luxton. Thank you for travelling with us on our journey. And to everyone: please have a restful, positive, hope filled Christmas, breathe and believe all will be well.

### MASSISS and YWiSS

MASSISS (our school-based, community social work service) operates in six colleges around the Wellington region. Over the course of the past year, our social workers provided support to 880 young people and family members. YWiSS (our school-based, youth focused team) is in five Colleges in Porirua and the Hutt Valley. Youth workers provide support to Year 9 and 10 students who are at risk of disengagement from schools. All our team work closely together to provide a caring, intensive service. Work includes coaching sports teams, grocery deliveries, school pick-ups and drop-offs, holiday programmes and practical support like buying dehumidifiers, helping with drivers' licences, providing furniture and responding to deaths, house fires and other family crises. COVID-19 has made the "normal" challenges of poverty, housing, and food insecurity even worse for those we serve. Our school-based social and youth workers have been creative in finding ways of keeping our young people engaged and safe during lockdown. It has been challenging but rewarding work!



### Youth Ministry

Our Youth Ministry team has been busy supporting children and young people, schools, community groups and parishes. They have run liturgies, facilitated workshops and retreats on leadership and transition from school to college, provided developmental programmes to 80 families, offered workshops on Te Tiriti, values, poverty, social justice and racism as well as providing youth workers in local primary schools. COVID-19 meant extra creativity was needed, so the team made and posted videos for the confirmation programme and Father's Day, as well as organising Covid safe events.



Want to read more? Check our website [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 have continued to offer supported bail (an intensive programme which is an alternative to young people being remanded in custody), mentoring, court supervised camps and supervision with activity (an intensive wrap-around programme for young people who have been sentenced in Youth Court). We also made a submission to a Parliamentary Select Committee that contributed to the withdrawal of the Oranga Tamariki (Youth Justice Demerit Points) Amendment Bill. Our recent Court Supervised Camp was a highlight. The camp used rivers as a metaphor, encouraging the young men to learn how to navigate unpredictable rapids, turbulence, currents, crises, to work as a team and to rely on others. Time on mountain bikes, in the snow and discussions resulted in learning for all.



## Mates and Dates

Mates and Dates is a healthy relationships programme that aims to help college-aged students grow in emotional maturity, understand who they are, what healthy friendships look like and how to make good decisions in line with their values. This year, Challenge 2000 facilitated this programme for 1,923 students across 10 secondary schools in the Wellington region. Feedback from young people and teachers has been overwhelmingly positive, emphasising the importance of this programme. For Challenge staff, this programme has also provided an opportunity to promote awareness and insight in a positive, developmental and preventative way.

## Food Parcels

During 2020's COVID-19 lockdown, our food distribution service became a full-blown, large-scale foodbank supporting over 250 families! In 2021, the demand is still high, with volunteers, staff and community members providing funds and goods and cooking and baking fresh meals for whānau.

This year during lockdown we delivered over 70 parcels a week on average (pre-lockdown we were doing around 10) and often provided additional food/petrol vouchers, books and phone credits. We would not have been able to do this without all our incredible donors! It made us feel so blessed to see Aotearoa coming together to help others in this time of need.



## Marist Challenge 2000 Gap Year 2021



In partnership with the Society of Mary, Challenge 2000 has a well-established Gap Year and internship that caters up to eight young people. In 2021 we had 6 young people in the programme, exploring pathways for future careers, studying towards a qualification in youth work, working on service projects, and gaining practical skills. Personal as well as professional growth is key to the programme, so retreats, counselling, personal supervision and community placements are highlights. Placements in September this year included Dunedin, Anakiwa (Outward Bound), Whakatane, Otaki, Stockdale Farm and Kaitoke Gardens. All participants learnt and grew a lot throughout the year while making a contribution to our communities.

## 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. Our students have studied core subjects and learned important skills while preparing to reintegrate into school or take their next step in life.



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## Community Support

Challenge 2000's community-based work sees us walk alongside and provide diverse forms of support to individuals and families from varied backgrounds and cultures. Our work includes intensive, re-integration and social and community interventions tailored to fit the young person and their whānau. Over the past year, we worked alongside 70 young people and Whānau via this service. Much of this work falls outside our government funding. We are grateful to our community of donors who often make the impossible possible.



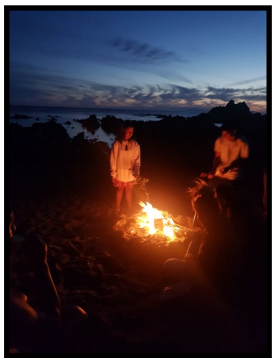
## Newlands and Linden after school programmes

In partnership with Wellington City Council, Challenge 2000 youth workers facilitate afterschool youth programmes at both the Linden and Newlands Community Centres two days a week per centre. We provide a safe place for rangatahi to hang out, catch up over some kai, do fun activities and connect with each other. This is an important way of connecting with young people, hearing their needs and training youth leaders.

## Mana Enhancement-Mastery Engagement Programme

In partnership with Te Puni Kōkiri, Challenge 2000 offers a mana-enhancing programme underpinned by kaupapa and tikanga Māori. During the year, 500 taiohi completed a 10-week MEME programme facilitated by Challenge 2000 staff.

With the support of Challenge 2000's school-based staff, the MEME team also facilitates the four-day Manaaki Marae programme during school holidays, enabling students to earn NCEA credits while deepening their understanding of manaakitanga.



## Community Youth Houses

Challenge 2000 operates 3 youth houses and 1 family support house that are home to young people, Challenge 2000 staff and members of the wider Challenge 2000 whānau. Each house runs as a family-type or youth community with members sharing responsibility for common well-being, decision-making, and day-to-day tasks. For 2022, we are looking for more live-in community members. Contact us to find out more!

## 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 independent living. During 2021, we supported 25 young people to find safe and stable living arrangements, recover from trauma, acquire life skills and develop behaviours to support their well-being. We need more community mentors to support this work.



## Missions

Our hard-working, "yes, we'll do it" missions team has been busy in 2021. Clearing sections, providing car parking/driving services for weddings and tangi, practical hands-on skills training and work experience for youth, delivering groceries and also by example, developing a sense of service and responsibility to the community. Need help? To check out more, go to [www.challenge2000.org.nz](http://www.challenge2000.org.nz) or visit the Challenge 2000 Facebook page!



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## 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 2021 and we invite you to keep on helping us to help others.



Sponsor a week's grocery shopping for a family of 5	\$230.00
Or a week's rent for a family of 6 in a three bedroom home	\$650.00
Sponsor a year of disposable nappies for a baby	\$930.00 (\$18.00/wk)
Public transport – Bus fare in Porirua for a school student	\$640.00 (\$16.00/wk)
Sponsor a child by purchasing equipment and uniforms for sports	\$312.00 (\$6.00/wk)
Sponsor a school uniform and resources	\$850.00 (\$16.00/wk)
Sponsor a young person in a youth house for a month	\$500.00 (\$125.00/wk)
Pay a family power bill for one year	\$2,900.00 (\$55.00/wk)
Contribute on a monthly basis to Challenge 2000's social work intervention costs e.g. car, youth worker and counsellor salary	\$50.00
Sponsor a child to have speech, drama or music lessons for a year	\$780.00

**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 donate 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. If you wish to obtain a tax receipt then please email [info@challenge2000.org.nz](mailto:info@challenge2000.org.nz) with your address and name.*

**Thank you!**

**Damian and all the Challenge Whānau**



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