



Over the years I have often described Transform as a lighthouse on a hill, directing ships away from the rocks and potential ruin. This year is no different. We have tended to our light with fervor and a lot of prayer, so we stay illuminated for all those wanting instruction and tools to make better decisions for their vessels to stay intact and on course. Reaching a positive new destination without shipwreck can be easy for some while others struggle to hold the wheel in place due to the pull of both internal and external circumstances like the currents, storms, and waves of daily living. Many individuals have passed our light house over the last financial year, some staying longer than others but the value of what they have obtained has always been valued and appreciated. 2021 had just as many challenges as the precious year. We did our best to practice what we preach and remain steadfast in the journey by being resilient no matter what challenges came our way. Which included the lockdown of three major staff for weeks on end. With changing government regulations, we implemented additional health and safety measures to keep everyone safe. Despite this, the men's and women's program adapted to the restrictions and were still able to see dramatic life change in people's lives. Two women on the last program of 2021 had their self-esteem built up, so much that they were able to rediscover who they were and that they could fulfill the dreams they thought were dead and gone. Both have now enrolled in tertiary study and are on the journey to fulfilling these dreams and providing for

Newsletter April 2022

Transform Aotearoa has people at its very heart.

We are dedicated to building healthy whānau and helping people take the next step in their personal journey towards wholeness, by providing practical tools and support in provincial New Zealand.

In seeking to walk alongside and foster healthy and whole communities across all generations, we are helping provincial communities in our nation to flourish. Through our personal development programs, up-skilling opportunities and group support, we are calling out the greatness in each one, and in turn, seeing hundreds of lives and families impacted for good.

www.transformaotearoa.org.nz

their children. One of the men gained enough mana and pride to land himself a great work opportunity through our local business contacts. He is now a contributing member of the workforce and is loving the routine and the regular income without relying on WINZ assistance.

This year we saw a growing need in the community to start an after-school program to help teenage girls who have been enticed by all manner of reasons to leave their lanes. By the end of the program the facilitators were so impressed with the outcomes of the program that in all their working careers had never seen such positive life changes accomplished. Due to this success, we have decided that this course should be run every term in future.

An organic addition to Transform's programs was the men's life group. Originally planned for monthly gatherings but was quickly realised that was

not going to build relational community for men they had hoped for. The group began to meet daily just to do life. By going to the gym, chopping firewood, and getting coffees at a local café. The relationships have been developed and a few of the men have started going to church and are now embarking on a spiritual journey reconnecting them to their creator. This group has had so much success that a local minister and a police officer both want to get more involved with this entry level program.

After Danny being a contractor for the past two years, Transform decided to employ him in a permanent capacity. As an organisation we felt that our intellectual property that's been invested in him was too valuable to have another agency snatch him away. He is currently facilitating men's programs, Strength for boys in the local high school, and the men's daily life group. With a youth program developing for the new financial year for teenage boys. He is also pursuing tertiary study that will benefit him in his role.

We have welcomed Brian Gilliland to the team as Funding Coordinator. He replaces David Jepsen who stepped back in January to invest more time into his business. We are very grateful for all his hard work applying for funding into the wee hours of many mornings to make sure Transform had the adequate funding to run programs. Thank you for the systems and your time that you put in place that has made the handover to Brian fairly seamless. We wish David all the very best for his future business developments. Brian is a retired businessman and keen to get underway with his new role. We are thankful he has stepped into this position with enthusiasm.

Transform gained a new Board member this financial year Brett Fleming from Trinity Lands. He shares the same passion and vision as Transform for the community and brings to the table a wealth of knowledge and business innovation and know how. Welcome to the team Brett.

During the year we made an international connection with our new friend Derrick Popley from Alberta Canada. He has an outreach program to the indigenous Indian community on surrounding reservations. He was searching for a culturally sensitive personal development program to

428

People reached through Transform Aotearoa in the last year

implement on the reservations without recreating the wheel. His search led him to us. He has taken the essence of what our program offers and adapted it to fit the indigenous people. Current concerns have delayed his efforts to deliver the program as reservations have been in complete lockdown. He is hopeful that 2022 will be more accommodating.

With increased visits to the mechanics for repairs on the Transform Swift cars it was decided it was time to upgrade. We purchased two Toyota Aqua's in 2021 that have been a dream to drive. Sadly, in December Lamens's vehicle was stolen and used as a getaway vehicle in a series of break - ins over the region, only to be dumped in Matamata. After many repairs Lamens got his car back in February. It has now been fitted with an immobiliser.

Transform is completely reliant upon our funders and supporters with no way to support the work we do ourselves. We are so grateful for the small donations that arrive in envelopes to the considerably sized ones donated by Trusts, Businesses, organisations, and estates. Thank you for your partnership in all we do in the South Waikato district.

"On a weekly basis I hear of lives that have been transformed for the good through all that is done by the team at Transform. All the help, funding and support they can get will no doubt benefit countless more individuals and our wider community through their passionate hard work". Ps Markus Schonberger.



From the Heart Warming Friday Files

Changed my life . . .

I asked one of our CAP addictions men what Transform has done for him. He smiled and said, 'it's changed my life'. He has had a colourful past to say the least being involved with gangs and drugs. Due to connections with Transform he has secured full time employment which he is most grateful for, and now earns an honest living to provide for his family. He said he has now got tools to navigate life with and things have been going really well. He even expressed a desire to attend the Gospel Chapel with the facilitators. He let it slip that he has a praying grandmother. I said Well you did not have a hope then. If you have a praying mother or grandmother, they are like bull dogs at heavens gates and do not stop until they see results.

Coming to life . . .

Another new lady who gave the tissue box a workout this week shared that she feels like she is coming to life inside again and that the last 18 years she has been dead. "The colour inside me is beginning to return". She is excited about her journey and cannot wait to meet the new her at the end of the year. Life has not been kind to her, and she said what she has learnt so far has opened her mind to what the future is going to look like and it's not a dark hole.

Face the music . . .

One of our men had to front up to Court this week. Lamien was by his side for moral support as he was expecting to lose his license and face the music for some bad choices. Lamien was addressed by the Judge and spoke of how Transform is actively helping this man, he has been very responsive and committed to making changes. Including getting his license back and enrolling in upcoming programmes that will increase his chances of gaining better employment opportunities. The Judge was impressed by the progress and dropped the charges with conditions, one of them being that he continues to attend Transform's programmes. Lamien said this guy was shaking by the end of Court and flabbergasted by the outcome.

Worth and value . . .

This week I witnessed a beautiful moment as one of our ladies shared to the rest of the group how coming to Transform and doing the ladies programs has made her understand her true worth and value as a person. She no longer takes rubbish from people or mixes with those who try to drag her down and will stand up for herself which her old self would never have done. We know for a fact that her story helped others in the room, to see it is possible to 'be your best self' and block out the negative stuff in one's life.

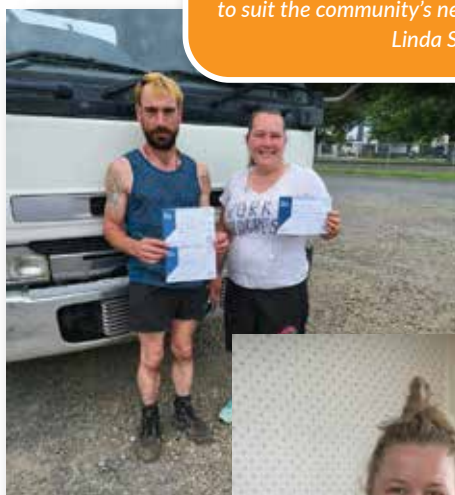
Cannot ignore . . .

Danny was sharing with me this week that he has been followed home recently by college teens on scooters asking when he is going to start another young men's group like the Strength program Transform runs in the schools? These teens are actively seeking more positive influence; mentoring; personal development in their lives, which is a credit to them.

When young people intentionally seek out positive influencers, we feel we have a duty to them to step up to the plate and deliver. This is such a good problem to have and thankfully Transform has a solution. Watch this space!

"The positivity that Transform Aotearoa reflects within the community is invaluable and it is anticipated that they will be ongoing and expand to suit the community's needs".

Linda Steele YJ Social Worker.



Driver Licencing
HT- Class 2



Barista Training



Recent Graduates



I have learnt more in two sessions than all the times I've been in prison. Each night after class I stop and reflect on the information I've been taught.



"I'm so grateful to have met Transform and the tools I've learnt in this space of time, also my growth and change since being here."



"This program has inspired me to stand up for what I believe in and to be a better wahine."



"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to gain a HT certificate to help my future plans."

Programs we offer

Womens Programs:

- Whakahonohono Mai
 - Te Moana Kura
 - Tū Māia
- Women Of Worth
 - Cooking on a shoestring

Mens Programs:

- Te Kaupapa
- Whakamana
- Te Ana Raiona
- Mens Life Group

Community Programs:

- Te Reo
- Driver Licencing
- Heavy Transport Licencing
- CAP - Christians Against Poverty
- Barista Training

Parenting and Whanau:

- Building Awesome Whānau
- Teenage Years

Youth Programs:

- ShineGIRL and STRENGTH
- Teen Youth Programs
- Heroes and Giants

Our Supporters

We are extremely grateful to the individuals, trusts and community funders who financially support us, including:

