

News from our Backyard



Autumn 2016

In Our Own Backyard™

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CEO's Report



KidsCan CEO and Co-Founder, Julie Chapman.

As winter approaches, the team at KidsCan is busy sending raincoats, shoes and socks to schools all over New Zealand. We want to ensure that children can arrive at school warm, dry and ready to learn. We know, from talking with our partner schools, children are often kept home when it's raining and they don't have adequate clothing.

The raincoats we provide are waterproof and fully fleece lined. Schools tell us that some children sleep in their raincoats at home, as their houses are cold and damp and the raincoat is the warmest item of clothing they have.

The shoes and socks we provide do more than just keep little feet warm and injury free. They allow children to participate in activities with their peers, like sport and class trips. Being able to participate is a huge thing for kids, it makes them feel included and equal with the other children in their class.

This winter, thanks to the support of our regular individual donors and supporters, thousands of raincoats, shoes and socks will be provided to the children. To everyone who has made this possible, we thank you for your support.

Until next time, keep warm.

Julie Chapman
KidsCan CEO and Co-Founder

**50 cents
a day can
change things**



KidsCan currently has 14 schools, that's 2,604 kids, waiting for support this winter. Support a child today.

kidscan.org.nz or 09 478 1525

KidsCan National Mufti Day is back!



We are excited to be holding our fourth KidsCan National Mufti Day, on Friday 2nd September.

Last year over 162 schools and various corporate supporters joined together to raise nearly \$60,000, enabling KidsCan to help support even more Kiwi kids in need. This year, plans are underway to make this day even bigger and better.

Get your school, business, university, daycare or any other group you belong to, involved in this fun day by wearing mufti or coming up with your very own fancy dress theme.

Register at kidscan.org.nz/muftiday
All registrations before 30 June will be in to WIN early bird prizes. So get creative and join in the fun for a great cause.

A first hand account of life below the breadline – Renee Hei Hei



Renee Hei Hei and her family, like many others, know how hard the day to day grind can be.

"We'd go without..." Renee says. "If I cook up mince and the kids are still hungry I'll dish it up. Andrew will always

go, 'Mum, what about you and Dad?' and I say to him, Dad and I are fine."

By going without Renee and her husband do what all good parents do, put their kids first. She made sure that every day they had a basic school lunch, even if it was only a piece of bread with margarine.

Renee works as a Teacher Aide at Kihikihi Primary School in Waikato, and her husband has a job too so she counts herself as one of the lucky ones.

Every week she budgets down to the final dollar but eventually the money, then the food, runs out. After paying

the mortgage and the bills, Renee's left with \$110 to feed a family of six.

Despite being a working family Renee and her husband aren't able to get ahead and any talk of money being spent on luxuries just isn't true.

For Renee, and many other families, the cost of education (from uniforms to school camps to stationery) and most importantly feeding and clothing children is an ongoing challenge.

As of term 2 this year, Kihikihi School will be receiving KidsCan support which is great news for Renee, her children and the school community.

Schools update

KidsCan School Communications & Research Executive, Amanda Farmilo, recently visited 15 of our partner schools in the Manawatu and Wairarapa regions, and she shared her first hand stories from her travels.

"Wherever I go, I get great feedback on the raincoats we provide –the kids are so proud to wear them. We are told by the schools that the raincoats help to reduce stigma in the playground – they are an equaliser amongst the kids."

"Many low decile schools struggle to provide opportunities for their students outside of school, because many families can't afford the cost of fees and transportation. Two of the schools I visited on this trip had really positive stories on this front. One school in Palmerston North has arranged for all other schools to visit them to play sports. Another school in Woodville, with the help of a group of parents, set up a local soccer club, alleviating any transportation issues so everyone can participate."

"A major struggle low decile schools face is convincing parents that education is important. Many parents have had bad experiences at school and don't see

the need to force schooling on their children. One school in Levin is trying the new approach of hosting 'kete' evenings where parents bring along a basket of items that are meaningful to their child to share with the teacher. It's about breaking down barriers, and learning about the child as a person first, before targeting their schooling."

"My favourite quote comes from the principal at Roslyn School in Palmerston North, who said, 'It's nice that someone out there knows what low decile schools go through.' She was grateful for the

'little practical things that make such a difference' like tissues and head lice treatment. Another school principal said 'We are so grateful for what we get. At the end of the day, it saves us money that we can put towards learning.'

"These schools face so many barriers to educating their students and so many of them are doing such great things to remove these obstacles and create brighter futures for the kids."

Amanda Farmilo, KidsCan School Communications & Research Executive.



Dr Russell Wills, Children's Commissioner



Global financial crises come around each decade, as cycles do. What has changed is how we respond to them.

In the late 1980s, the international fashion in economics was to cut public spending, particularly for social welfare programmes. New Zealand was one of many economies that cut benefits to parents in the late 80s and early 90s.

What we now know is that changing economic levers does little to get parents back into work, but does a great deal of harm to their children. In New Zealand, child poverty nearly tripled. Shortly afterwards, as in many other countries, rates of infectious disease in children rocketed. Behaviour and development were also affected, reflected in a huge increase in

referrals to pediatricians for these issues, though formal data isn't collected. Child abuse rates rose as families struggled to cope.

Public attitudes towards families on benefits also hardened, following the political rhetoric. Leadership matters.

However, in New Zealand we have seen a remarkable change in the last five years. Public awareness and concern about poverty and inequality rose sharply, to be the leading concern of intending voters before the 2014 general election. Business leaders and philanthropists, mostly anonymously, are contributing to these families at unprecedented levels. KidsCan is a particularly inspiring example of this.

It seems to me that neoliberalism was a suit of clothes we had to try on, because everybody else was. But it didn't fit. It's not us.

New Zealand is a country that loves its children. The belief that how well you do in life should be determined by your talents and hard work, rather than by how wealthy your parents are, is deeply ingrained in our psyche. It sits poorly with us that inequalities have become so embedded and that they affect children's outcomes to the degree they do.

We all need to do our bit. KidsCan is an exemplar partnership between an NGO,

schools, communities and businesses. There are others, large and small, and we should do all we can to support them.

But we should not need them. In the end, if we want our children to all do well we need to invest in them. Our youngest children in severe and persistent hardship should be the priority. Parents' income needs to be sufficient to meet families' needs, whether a benefit or from paid work. Neither meet this test currently. We need major investment in housing at the bottom end, both in supply and quality, and the cost has to be fair. We must invest in parents and parenting. And when children are old enough, we need to support parents back into paid work, and ensure their children are well cared for while their parents work.

The impact on children of this investment is known, quantifiable and large. The long term impact on our society is also large, economically and socially.

As I come to the end of my term, I'm inspired by the hard work of the thousands of Kiwis who work tirelessly for our most vulnerable children every day. We are rediscovering who we are as a nation - a nation that loves its children and demands that our leaders do more, so all children reach their potential. That's the country I want to live in and that our children deserve.

Health for Kids programme update

Our Health for Kids team continues to grow, with 37 Health Champions in eight regions dedicated to combating head lice! We are also happy to welcome Andrea Noakes, previously the Hamilton Team Leader, to the team as Health for Kids Co-ordinator, working with Ashley Clark on the day-to-day running of the programme.

As a result of trialling different products last year, we discovered the Super Nit Buster Comb, which our staff believe is the best comb available on the market, to quickly and easily get rid of head lice. This comb is being used in KidsCan Nit Buster clinics and is available for parents or schools to buy from the KidsCan website.

We continue to receive requests from schools and Early Childhood Centres to join the programme and although we currently

do not have the capacity to extend our support, we are happy to provide advice and suggestions around controlling head lice.

We are grateful for the ongoing support that we receive from many kind donors who provide us with extras for the programme. We have been lucky to receive pillowcases from Jenny Bartlett and her team for children who may not have a pillowcase, or a change of pillowcase (key when treating head lice). Families are always so appreciative of the extra practical support we can provide them.

We are continuing to make progress in the battle against head lice and look forward to bringing you more updates next time.

Julia Haydon-Carr,
KidsCan Health for Kids Manager



The KidsCan Super Nit Buster Comb, available for \$15 plus \$4 postage from kidscan.org.nz

IN OUR OWN BACKYARD SUPPORTER

Sophie Matthews

How did you first become involved with KidsCan?

After seeing KidsCan on Campbell Live I looked it up and liked what I saw: help with breakfasts and raincoats and all the basics being covered for those who didn't have them. I also liked how affordable it was to help. I can help two kids in my own backyard for \$30 a month.

What was your first impression of KidsCan?

It was of a (slightly small, back then) organisation doing its best to help these kids. I remember seeing a video of food being delivered and being encouraged that someone was doing something about the issue while others wanted to eschew responsibility.

Opinions around child hardship in New Zealand are changing, why do you think that is?

Media exposure. When the work of KidsCan appeared on TV, while people were debating the topic of kids going to school without breakfast or lunch, there was a clear contrast between talking about the issue and doing something about it. Between those two actions, it was obvious what the right thing was.

What are some of your strongest views around child hardship?

Kids are in need. We should be doing something to help. I've never experienced the hunger these kids have, yet I recall times when I forgot my lunchbox and how hungry I felt then. Obviously it was minor in comparison but it wasn't pleasant. When I heard about kids going without meals it made me remember those moments and imagine how much worse it must be to have those hunger pains multiplied and reoccurring each day.



What would you tell someone who is thinking about donating to KidsCan?

If you want to support a charity where you will see your money making a difference, support KidsCan. There are many worthy causes but the fantastic newsletters will encourage you that your money has been well spent and that there are people out there meeting needs and making lives better.

The Great New Zealand Baking Book

Our friends Thom Productions and PQ Blackwell, have followed up their popular The Great New Zealand Cookbook with the The Great New Zealand Baking Book! Packed with all the favourites we know and love from 60 of our finest bakers, like Passionfruit Melting Moments by Hester Guy (see recipe below).

And importantly, a portion of all proceeds will be donated to KidsCan to support our 'Food for Kids' programme and help teach Kiwi kids baking skills. Look out for it at your local book store!

Passionfruit Melting Moments

Ingredients

250 g butter, softened
1 tsp vanilla extract
80 g soft icing sugar
250 g plain flour
75 g cornflour
4 passionfruit

Butter cream

100 g butter, softened
110 g soft icing sugar

Method

Pre-heat the oven to 150°C (140°C if fan-baked). Line three baking trays with baking paper. Beat butter, vanilla and sifted icing sugar with an electric mixer until pale. Stir in the combined sifted flours in two batches. Remove pulp

from passionfruit – reserve 1 tablespoon of pulp for the butter cream and stir the rest into the mixture.

With lightly floured hands, roll the equivalent of 2 level teaspoons of mixture into balls and place on oven trays about 3 cm apart. Dip a fork into a little extra flour and press biscuits lightly.

Bake for about 15 minutes or until biscuits are a pale straw colour (the secret is to cook the biscuits in a slow oven so they barely colour). Stand biscuits on the trays for 5 minutes, then transfer to wire racks to cool.

To make the butter cream, beat butter and sifted icing sugar in a small bowl with an electric mixer, until pale and fluffy. Beat in reserved passionfruit

pulp. Sandwich biscuits together with a teaspoon of passionfruit butter cream. Dust with a little extra sifted icing sugar, if desired.

Store, well covered, in the fridge.



Supporters' corner...

Meridian gift 5,000 sun hats to the kids

It's so important that the kids are protected from the sun, and for many children hats are a luxury that their families can't afford. This issue was raised by many of our schools and our amazing Principal Partner, Meridian Energy, came to the party and kindly donated 5,000 sunhats to children in 114 KidsCan partner schools! The sun hats have a unique print designed by OpenLab (Massey University students) with designs selected by the children of Meridian staff members.

Meridian staff went along to Cannons Creek School in Wellington and Wharenui School in Christchurch to deliver sun hats to the kids. The hats were named, helping to avoid the spread of head lice amongst students and promote good health - it also gives the children something special to call their own. Thanks so much Meridian for helping to keep the kids safe and protected from the sun!



Vodafone Warriors blitz KidsCan schools

On the 26th of February, our good friends and supporters the Vodafone Warriors, visited nine of our lucky partner schools.

The kids were surprised with visits from high profile players such as Simon Mannering, Konrad Hurrell, Manu Vatuvei and Shaun Johnson, who delivered messages around the importance of sleep, hydration and belonging to a group.

The kids loved having the Vodafone Warriors visit and hearing from some of their heroes. Nice work boys – you made some kids super happy!



Cycling for a good cause

A group of Wellington based cyclists – the FFC Racing Team – recently completed a challenging 700km bike ride from Christchurch to Queenstown, all in support of New Zealand children living in hardship.

The 'Meridian FFC Ride for KidsCan' was made up of forty cyclists who raised more than \$150,000 for children in the Wellington region, including enabling KidsCan to take three schools off our waiting list.

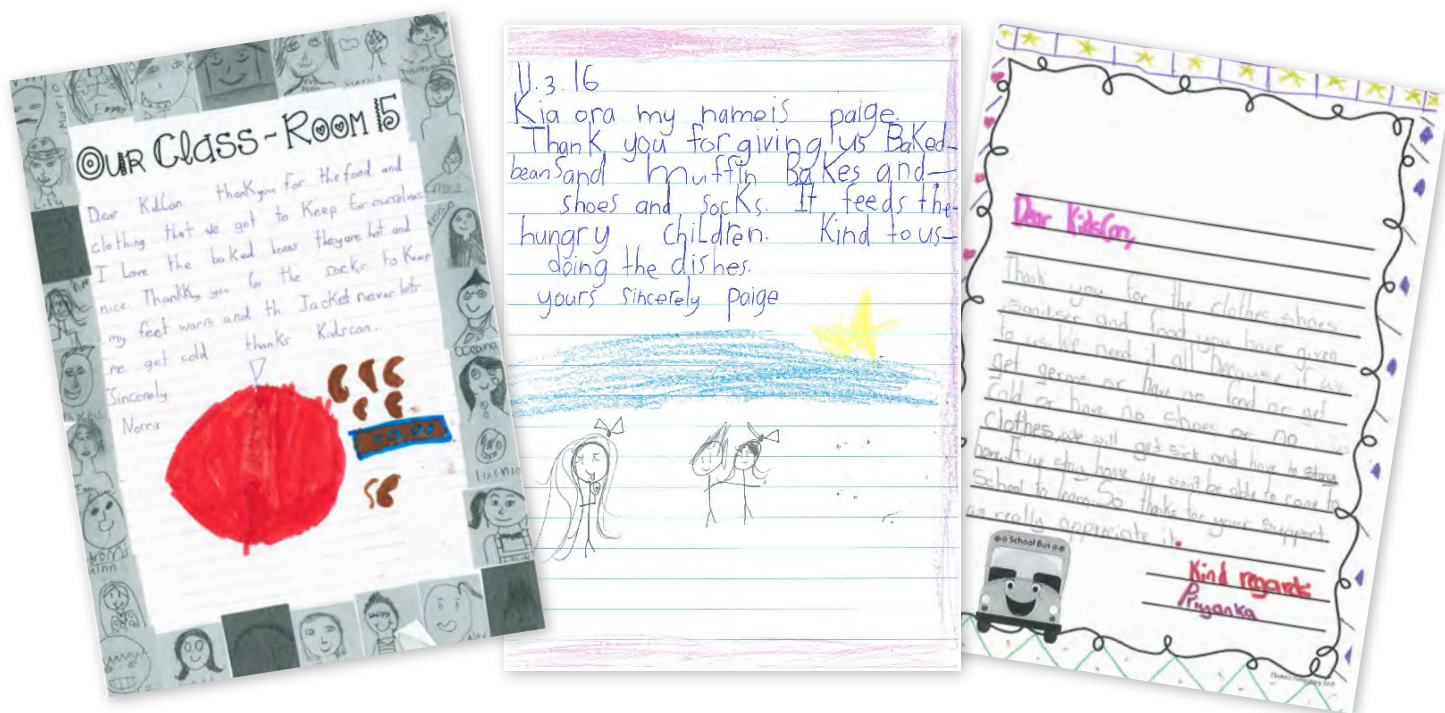
FFC Racing Team cyclist Gary Baird says, "As a group of friends who love riding we're proud to be raising funds for a worthwhile charity while doing something we love."

Thanks to our Principal Partner, Meridian Energy, who were the principal sponsor of this event. And a BIG thanks to the FFC Racing Team for all of your hard work, both on and off the road - you are absolute legends!



Thank you letters!

We love receiving thank you letters from our partner schools. It never fails to put a smile on our faces!



Fundraisers in the community

KidsCan is lucky to have so many fantastic businesses, schools and individuals who show their passion for our cause by fundraising for us! We love the creative and different ways of raising much needed funds for disadvantaged New Zealand children. Here are some of our most recent fundraisers. If you would like to fundraise for KidsCan and help support Kiwi kids in need, please visit kidscan.org.nz



Russell and Adam cycled over 3,000km from Cape Reinga to Bluff raising \$3,045!



The lovely girls from Taradale Intermediate, with our Carmen, who raised \$389 for KidsCan by selling cupcakes.



Jenna Edward, from ANZ, rode 650km from Wellington to Auckland - raising a huge \$2,600 for KidsCan!



Whitireia New Zealand fundraised for KidsCan with a bake sale, raffle and fashion show raising \$546!



Jerome Hatcher and Amy Buist, from Petone Working Men's Club, presenting a \$2,500 cheque to KidsCan from their recent fundraiser.

Thank you

KidsCan Charitable Trust would like to acknowledge and thank our donors, trusts, businesses, organisations and those who wish to donate anonymously, for all your donations and contributions to KidsCan over the past quarter. With your continued support, we will be able to reach out to new schools and help more NZ children in need.

- * Auckland International Airport Limited
- * Cathedral Grammer School
- * CoreLogic NZ Limited
- * Distinction - Education Furniture
- * Dove Charitable Trust
- * Flight Centre
- * Greenlea Foundation Trust
- * Harbourside Restaurant
- * Kwanto Limited
- * Lactic Turkey
- * McConnell Dowell Constructors Ltd
- * Meridian Energy Limited
- * Ochre Recruitment
- * Public Trust Auckland
- * Soft Solutions Ltd
- * Sustainable Solutions
- * The Coffee Club
- * Trillian Trust Inc
- * Trust House Charitable Trust
- * United States Airforce
- * USANA Health Sciences (NZ) Corporation
- * VELC - Very Early Lunch Club

KidsCan Key Partners



KidsCan Key Fundraising Partners



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