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News from our Backyard

Summer 2017


Supporting Disadvantaged Kiwi Kids

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*KidsCan CEO and Founder,
Julie Chapman.*

CEO's Report

I hope you have had a great start to 2017 so far. We have been working hard to get our food, clothing, shoes and health products out to the schools, so the children we support can start the year in the best position to learn.

I am often asked if we hear stories about how providing a 'hand up' can impact a child's future. What is the tangible difference that KidsCan and our donors make? I would like to share with you one of the many messages we receive from children who have benefited from KidsCan's support. I love this as it highlights how providing something as simple as a pair of shoes can help ignite passion for a school subject and set a student on the path to a rewarding career.

"Hi KidsCan, I went to intermediate school in Wellington in 2014.

"You helped so many of the kids in my school so much. I knew kids who would get to eat because of your programmes. One of my best friends was the second oldest of 5 kids, every day she would have to walk for 40 minutes to get to school, after getting all her siblings ready for kindy and primary school. She got to wear a warm coat and shoes without holes in them because of you.

"I personally got one of your jackets and a pair of shoes, I kept the jacket for almost an entire year and then gave it to a close family friend once I grew out of it and they still use it today. Because of having correct shoes, I got to participate in the art programmes and wood work classes. I carried on with my passion for art and building after intermediate and I'm now working towards building my own little house.

"I don't believe that I would have found my passions for these things if I hadn't been part of those classes and you guys were the reason I could go."

This inspiring story and the thousands of others we hear are the reason I get up in the morning to come to work. The KidsCan team is dedicated to ensuring that children living in hardship have the same educational opportunities as their peers. In 2017 with the support of our donors, sponsors and our partner schools we will do even more and I want to thank you in advance for being a part of it.

Julie Chapman
KidsCan CEO and Founder

We now support 621 schools!

Welcome to these new partner schools:

- Bishop Viard College
- Tarawera High School
- Wiri Central School
- Wesley College
- Ruapotaka School
- TKKM o Puau
Te Moananui-A-Kiwa
- Nayland College
- St Claudine Thevenet School
- TKKM o Ngati Rangī
- South Auckland Middle School
- Waiotira School
- St Patrick's School
- Meeanee School
- Whangaehu School
- Auckland Girls' Grammar
- Taita College
- Matura School
- Okoia School
- Eltham School
- Ruapehu College
- Mayfield School - Blenheim
- Panmure District School
- Riverhills School
- Te Wharekura o Ruatoki
- Waiau Area School
- Te Kura Maori o Nga Tapuwae
- Rosehill School
- Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Wairarapa
- Mangere College

Support a Kiwi kid in need

Our practical programmes are available to over 137,000 New Zealand children at school but there are still more waiting for our help. 50c a day can create brighter futures. Support a child today.

kidscan.org.nz | 09 478 1525





Opinion Piece

What should we do when the hardship is hard to see?

Judge Andrew Becroft, Children's Commissioner

I'm going out on a limb and guessing that most of us can't imagine what life's like for the tens of thousands of New Zealand children in genuine hardship. The sad truth is their lives can be pretty much invisible to those of us working in nice offices and living in good homes – or any homes for that matter.

But what about the child you see whose shoes are falling apart? That might be one of your few clues of the significant disadvantage too many children are experiencing.

If you're reading this newsletter, I'm probably preaching to the converted. But you won't know if that child in the broken down footwear is getting the proper food they need to grow. No presents for their birthday. Not going to the doctor when they're sick.

That's one of the truly insidious things about child poverty: its invisibility.

The new year marked six months in my new role as Children's Commissioner. Alongside the JR McKenzie Trust and Otago University, we've just released the annual Child Poverty Monitor. While the situation hasn't got worse, it's no better either.

I am genuinely disturbed by the extent of the issue and the significant challenge we face as a country.

By any measure there are around 85,000-90,000 New Zealand children doing it really tough. Those are the ones both in low

income households and in material hardship – going without seven or more things they need, such as shoes, proper clothing, good meals and doctor's visits. If they're in a car it probably won't have a Warrant of Fitness.

Of course we do get insights into child poverty. In December, there were lines of people queuing for Christmas food parcels and children's presents outside Auckland City Mission. A few weeks earlier, I visited the Mangere East Family Centre and spoke to families who are finding it very difficult to get by. This was not the 1960s and 1970s New Zealand of my childhood, or even early 1980s Mangere where I worked in the community law centre.

KidsCan is doing great work to support disadvantaged children's needs through schools. And there are many other groups also doing excellent work in the community. We all need to push harder than ever this year to get more people helping as well.

As a child, I went to Rongotai College in Wellington. Back then and now, the boys there come from a mixed income community; some from well-off families and others are struggling. I'd hate to look in now and see a kid walking by with broken down shoes.

That boy might not have lunch with him. He might not have been to the dentist for years. He might be shivering at home during the winter. The shoes might be the only clue to all that.

I'd challenge anybody to look at the children at their old school and think it's ok if they're living in poverty.

Pork Pie Charity Run

It's happening again! 60 MINIs and their intrepid teams will muster in Kaitiāia at Easter for the fifth Pork Pie Charity Run and the second run in support of KidsCan. After 6 days and 7 nights on the road, only the best prepared, the fittest, the strongest, the desperate, cunning, and the most courageous will arrive in Invercargill.

Over 2,500kms of New Zealand's roads will be travelled. The teams will encounter some of the country's biggest pot holes, wettest valleys, climb through cold mountain passes, cruise along South Island straights, pass through our biggest cities and friendliest rural towns in their trusty MINIs, all while raising funds for disadvantaged Kiwi kids.

They have a huge fundraising target to reach so please support them along their way at givealittle.co.nz/event/porkpiecharityrun2017





Schools' Update



“It’s wonderful to reflect on the successes of 2016 – the biggest one being that KidsCan now supports 621 low decile schools across New Zealand!”

“This means that KidsCan programmes are now provided in 58% of all decile 1-4 primary, intermediate and high schools in New Zealand, including 78.4% of all decile 1 schools and 76.1% of all decile 2 schools which is over 143,000 children. Our staff members were able to conduct visits with over half of these schools during the year, an experience which is valuable for learning about the needs in school communities and keeping schools up to date on all the ways in which we can support them.

“These visits, along with letters we received, have provided some great feedback from schools about the positive ways in which KidsCan is impacting their students. One of the most exciting things we hear regularly is that attendance levels increase because of the support we provide!

“When KidsCan surveyed its partner schools in 2016, 75% reported the most common food issue they have is children arriving at school

without having had breakfast and without any lunch for the day. The top two issues are nutrition/hunger and head lice infestations, with oral hygiene and skin infections being third equal.

“The beginning of the year can be a particularly stressful time for those families on low incomes, as there are many extra costs associated with getting children set up for a new school year. We know there are many Kiwi kids who are heading back to school without the basic essentials that they need, and we will continue working hard to raise funds this year to support as many schools and children as possible.

“In 2017 a key focus will be on improving our food, health and clothing programmes. We received some fantastic feedback via the survey, which will help to inform these changes. It is important that KidsCan continually review products and processes to ensure that we are meeting the needs of students living in hardship.”

Amanda Farmilo
KidsCan School Communications & Research Executive



Programme update

Health for Kids

“Our Health Champions, parents and school staff report seeing a lot more head lice at this time of the year which can happen from sharing hats and towels. Some tips for keeping head lice at bay:

- Ensure children brush their hair every day and encourage them to run a nit comb through their hair after every shower.
- If you don’t have access to head lice product, you can use the wet combing method by smothering hair with conditioner and combing out the lice and eggs.

“Did you know skin infections are one of the most common reasons children are hospitalised in New Zealand and many of these are preventable? The KidsCan team works alongside staff from the Hawkes Bay DHB to try and ensure minor skin infections do not get worse and require hospital treatment. Some tips from our Skin Champions include:

- Don’t leave it too late. If a child has a sore that looks red, is hot or seems to be getting bigger, see a doctor straight away. It’s free to take children to their doctor if they are under 13.

- Make sure children keep their finger nails short and clean. Encourage washing hands regularly.
- Try to keep children from being bitten by mosquitos. Insect bites are common and can get infected easily.
- Keep sores and scratches clean and covered. Sores should be cleaned using fresh, clean water.”

Julia Haydon-Carr
KidsCan Health for Kids Programme Manager

In the past two years our Nit Busters programme has performed:

65,093 head lice checks and **28,000** treatments

Take a peek once a week

KidsCan

We are always looking for new and practical ideas to improve children’s health. If you have any suggestions, please email them to julia@kidscan.org.nz

In Their Own Words



In our own Backyard
Supporter Profile

**Eddie
Rosser**

How did you first get involved with KidsCan?

“My partner and I had been contributing to a global children's charity and decided we would like to contribute to a New Zealand children's charity. We wanted to support an organisation that was providing something of real benefit to children in need. KidsCan fitted this bill nicely.”

What was your first impression of KidsCan?

“Outside of the home, schools provide the greatest opportunity to positively influence children's lives. We really liked the way KidsCan partnered with schools to support children.”

How long have you been a supporter?

“For over seven years now.”

Opinions towards child hardship have changed recently. Why do you think that is?

“Maybe more people are realising that there is a large number of children in New Zealand that are often going without the basics.”

What would you say are some of your strongest beliefs about child hardship in New Zealand?

“In any society, children are among the most vulnerable but also have the greatest potential to change their future prospects if they are provided help and encouragement. Many children are missing out on educational opportunities because they aren't able to access the essentials.”

What do you do in your spare time?

“We have two small children, an energetic Labrador and are renovating our house so don't seem to have much spare time. However, we try to fit in some running or cycling.”

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

“It's a great feeling to know that you are helping improve the opportunities and prospects for at least one child in our own country.”



KidsCan Staff Profile

**Stevie
Wheatley**

Marketing Admin

How did you first get involved with KidsCan?

“My partner had just started to get back into work after he broke his back, so I wasn't needed as his 'carer' anymore. I decided it was time to get back into work, got a phone call and an offer from KidsCan for a three-month temp job – I started the next day! The three months went by so fast and I ended up being offered a permanent position.”

What's your first memory of working for KidsCan?

“Walking into the office at probably one of their busiest times of the year, the lead up to Christmas. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming. The cohesion between all of the teams was great to see and is amazing to be a part of.”

What do you find most challenging working with children living in hardship?

“Knowing that there are children who don't have a choice. Visiting schools in low decile areas and witnessing first-hand how grateful the kids are for a jacket, some warm socks and sturdy shoes, and the ability to have food when they need it makes the job so rewarding but also heart-breaking to see such a need of basic items.”

What might people be surprised to know about you?

“I love Microsoft Excel! The fact that it can make a tedious or laborious job easy and quick is great. There is always something new to learn.”

What do you do when you aren't working?

“We have a small farm running cattle, sheep and pigs. So when those guys are looked after, I like to play with the dogs, ride dirt bikes, stand-up paddle board and do some target shooting.”



Supporters' Corner



KidsCan Christmas Cracker Appeal

The festive season has come and gone and so has our Christmas Cracker Appeal. A big thank you to everyone who gave back at Christmas and purchased KidsCan Christmas Crackers! You can feel good knowing you have helped Kiwi kids going without. Plus, some lucky supporters won a prize!

Exciting news – the lucky Jessica Newton from Oamaru was the winner of a family trip to Hawaii. Congratulations Jessica! We hope

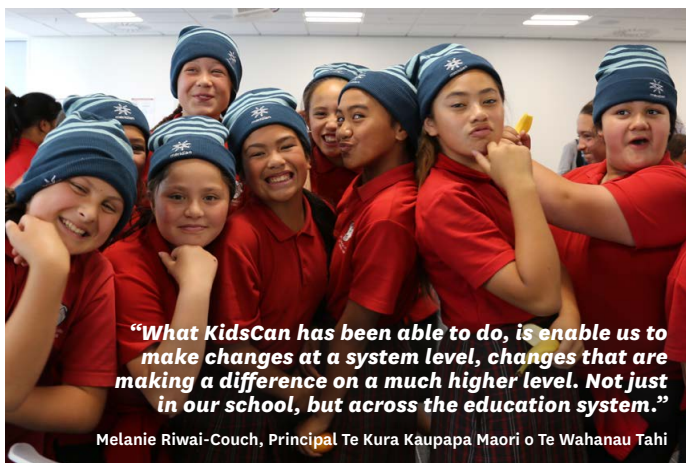
you have an amazing holiday and thanks for your support. We had some fantastic prizes up for grabs all thanks to Vortex Spas, Flight Centre Foundation, Jumpflex, Revlon, Harvey Norman, Planet Fun, The Coffee Club, Fujifilm, Bauer Media, Onceit, PQ Blackwell, Citta, EasiYo, Slingshot and Tasti.

Thank you also to our retail partners; Countdown, Harvey Norman, The Coffee Club, Smith and Caughy's, Toyworld, Cash Converters, Citta Design and New Balance – this appeal wouldn't be possible without you.

A memorable day with Meridian

We recently visited the Christchurch office of our Principal Partner, Meridian Energy, along with the principal and children of Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Whanau Tahī who receive KidsCan food, clothing and health support along with fresh fruit from their KidsCan orchard. Meridian staff were excited to meet the children who benefit from their support of KidsCan and were treated to a moving, thought provoking speech from principal Melanie Riwai-Couch.

The children performed an impassioned waiata which was respectfully responded to by the Meridian Kapa Haka group. There were tears and smiles all around and a genuine connection about why supporting our children and future leaders is crucial to our communities and wider society.



“What KidsCan has been able to do, is enable us to make changes at a system level, changes that are making a difference on a much higher level. Not just in our school, but across the education system.”

Melanie Riwai-Couch, Principal Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Whanau Tahī

The Great KidsCan Santa Run

On the 7th of December* the streets were a sea of red with over 3,500 Santas all running in support of charity. Caring Kiwis got into the Christmas spirit in 19 venues across New Zealand, running 2-3kms in festive themed attire, all for the kiddies.

We had Rudolphs, Christmas fairies, festive dogs and the How to DAD join us for this fun evening and we loved seeing everyone kicking off their Christmas season the right way.

Thanks for another fantastic festive season, we couldn't do what we do without you and all you do for us and the kids! Keep an eye out for our Christmas appeals coming to you in 2017.

*Palmerston North and South Auckland events on the 8th of December and New Plymouth event on the 10th of December.



Chefs on Tour

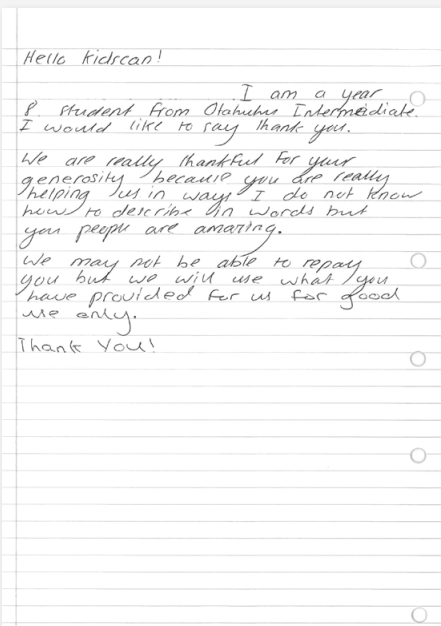
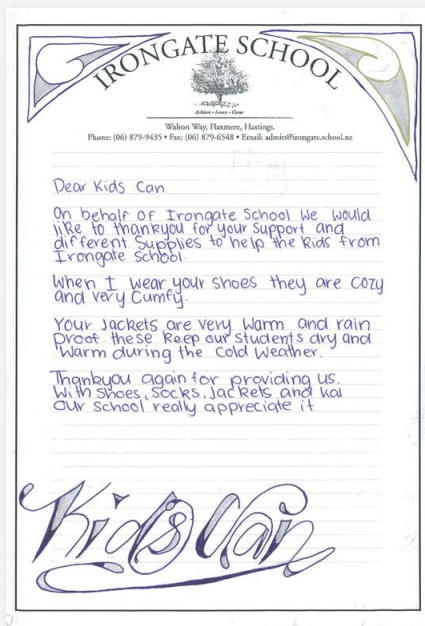
A huge thank you to everyone involved in the 'Chefs on Tour' event run by Cloudy Bay Clams at Allan Scott Winery, Marlborough, on the 10th of February.

An evening of incredible food, cooked by an international line up of chefs, amazing local wines and a successful auction saw \$30,000 being raised in support of KidsCan. Thanks to all the event and auction prize sponsors – we couldn't have done this without you.



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

What's coming up?

Easter Weekend 2017

The Pork Pie Charity Run is back and will again be supporting KidsCan. Over Easter weekend 60 MINIs will be following the route of the classic 'Goodbye Pork Pie' movie. Keep an eye out for them coming through your town. To find out more visit: kidscan.org.nz/porkpie

11 August 2017

Get Crazy for KidsCan Day! Silly shoes, crazy hair or bizarre baking - it is up to you! More information coming Term 2.



For more information, contact info@kidscan.org.nz

A special performance by Anika Moa in support of KidsCan, live at the Hallertau Brewery in November raised \$3000 for KidsCan!



The wonderful artists from The Painted Peacock Project created something beautiful in Newmarket, raising over \$1,500 for Kiwi Kids - thanks ladies!



There was glorious sunshine for the south Island Wine & Food Festival auction in December, which raised over \$19,000 for KidsCan.

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.

- Blue Illusion
- Tauranga Korean Church
- Hawkes Bay Foundation
- Master Glaziers
- Ninja Kiwi
- Powerco Wanganui Trust
- Kapiti College
- Street Kings Car Club
- Hughes Developments
- USANA True Health Foundation
- Restoration Projects PTY LTD
- GoSweetSpot
- Proactive Fire Protection
- Seed Gallery
- Virtual Industries Group Ltd
- Hobsonville Point Secondary School
- Smiths Auctions and The South Island Wine & Food Festival
- Wellington College
- Vero Liability Insurance Ltd
- Robert Walters
- Dolphin Pacific
- KPMG
- Reids Family Law
- Athfield Architects
- Trillian Trust Inc
- Flight Centre Foundation
- ANZ North Shore
- C3 Limited
- Sky City Hamilton Community Trust
- Fortune Manning Law
- Whitcoulls
- Greenlea Foundation Trust
- Nelson City Council
- Tax Management NZ

KidsCan Key Partners



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