



A weekly feature on the
communities in
Horowhenua & Kapiti

Caring for Our Community

This week's feature – Family Budget Service

"Tis the season to be jolly" – the sentiment is all well and good, but for some people Christmas is simply a time of additional financial burdens.

Two Kapiti organisations which help people finding it difficult at this, or any, time of the year, are the Kapiti Family Budgeting Service and Kapiti Foodbank.

Kapiti Family Budgeting Service

Chris Lloyd and Pauline Duivenvoorde, senior advisors at the Family Budgeting Service, says the budgeting service exists to help people having troubles with their finances.

"We provide financial advice and education, advocacy help if clients need it in dealing with banks, businesses and other creditors and we will help them fill in forms, if they require that," Mr Lloyd says.

"Our service is totally confidential and we have an open door policy. We don't disqualify anyone who genuinely wants help to find their own solutions."

"It can be stressful to people being referred to a budgeting service as they are revealing a lot about their life. Our job is to support them and try to make them comfortable and to teach them a very good skill for living."

Mrs Duivenvoorde says sometimes their clients are the second and third generation of people finding life financially tough, and are wanting to break the pattern.

"Sometimes they have other difficulties in their lives and we network with other agencies to help them. Sometimes they can have had a change in their life circumstances as losing a job – or perhaps it's a woman whose husband has died and he handled all the family finances."

The Kapiti Family Budgeting Service's number of clients has increased significantly and the amount of indebtedness is also on the increase, so the service is seeking more volunteers to train to assist with budget counselling.

"We are looking for mature people with good commonsense who are not judgmental and not easily frustrated," Mr Lloyd says.

The service is open from 10am to 2pm, Monday to Friday, Coastlands Mall, phone (04) 298 8570.

Kapiti Food Bank

Even with very good financial planning there can be some circumstances when families find there is not enough money in the kitty to meet the cost of food for the week.

Beryl Hutchings of Kapiti Foodbank says it has been a very busy year for the with an increase of clients. "There are some times of the year that are especially hard for some people. Christmas is one and January is another, as families prepare for the school year and there are added expenses, with school uniforms and stationery lists.

"We have referrals from other agencies and people come to the door when they are in need. Nobody gets turned away if they've never been here before. Sometimes we need to refer people to the Budgeting Service for more long-term solutions.

The Foodbank is run by an independent trust and operated with a great deal of goodwill from the community and the assistance of individuals, businesses, churches and organisations.

"This year donations of food and money have been very good and we have coped well to

meet needs up until about a month ago. We're just struggling at the moment."

It's timely then that the Lion's Foodbank Drive will be held this Saturday. This is an effort that generally brings in a good amount of food to meet the needs of people over Christmas.

"We also need lots of people to help us unload the goods and sort them. Anyone who would like to come to the lower hall of the Salvation Army in Bluegum Road would be very welcome.

"Anyone willing to help can just come along or call the Foodbank today or tomorrow on 298 1907. The Kapiti Foodbank is open Monday to Friday at the Oasis, Magrath Avenue, Paraparaumu Beach.

THE LIONS FOOD BANK DRIVE

**Bins in supermarkets
or leave food in the
designated bag, delivered
to letterboxes this week,
at the kerb**

**Saturday morning,
November 20th
throughout the
Kapiti District.**

Special Offer

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