

LIGHTING LIVES

FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN TRUST

Official Newsletter April/May 2009

ABOUT US:

Trust Vision

Our vision is to see New Zealand become a place where our children:

- are safe from harm;
- have a sense of belonging, of feeling loved and valued;
- have access to the necessities they need to engage fully with life and realize their own

Trust Mission

We aim to be a "voice" for the "voiceless"

We do this through **educating, promoting and raising awareness** of the **wellbeing** of our **children** in New Zealand and the need for **strong families and communities** to support them

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CHILDREN OF THE RECESSION

As the recession hits full swing we are seeing ever increasing numbers of redundancies, more families scaling back to live on a single income and, more and more New Zealanders forced to live on a benefit.

With many experts predicting a long period of recession and a slow recovery, these numbers are not expected to diminish in the near future.

The impact of the recession, however, extends far beyond just the strain on people's personal pockets.

Job losses are having significant social repercussions – and these are ultimately felt most strongly by our most vulnerable citizens – our children.

An article by Ariel Kalil "Unemployment and job displacement: The impact on families and children" in the

July/August 2005 Ivey Business Journal highlighted the wide-ranging impact of job losses on the well-being of children.

The impact of a parent's job loss on children can range from the obvious – reduced access to economic resources – food, housing, schooling and health opportunities – through to decreased warmth and emotional engagement from psychologically stressed parents – and even longer range impacts like lowered school achievements, lowered future job expectations, work ethics, and an inability to cope with stress as adults.

These negative consequences are enormous. According to Kalil, an increased



reliance on welfare is associated with lowered school achievements, and the often erratic or disengaged behaviour of parents under psychological stress, can lead to poorer adjustment in children.

He also says that "children's observations of their parent's work experiences can shape their own view of future economic opportunities...[and] children's pessimistic perceptions of their parents' labour market experiences could diminish motivation ... **Continued on pg 3...**

Take Away Stat....

English court records between 1982 and 1988 found that children living with their mother and her cohabiting boyfriend were 33 times more likely to be abused than those living with their married, biological parents.

Ref: NHIC

INSPIRING YOUNG LEADERS



For the Sake of Our Children is pleased to support the 2009 Aspiring Leaders' Forum *on faith and values*. This year's Forum will be held in Wellington from July 30th to August 2nd. Leaders and delegates alike will examine ideas of leadership across all different sectors of society including community, arts, business, politics or sport.

The Aspiring Leaders' Forum seeks to investigate leadership from varying perspectives and brings young people and political, business, and community leaders together to discuss and debate ideas and philosophies of leadership

Past speakers include communicator Paul Holmes, His Excellency the Governor General of New Zealand, esteemed writer Alan Duff and many others.

For the Sake of Our Children has been a supporter of the Aspiring Leaders' Forum since the inaugural conference in 2006. This year, For the Sake of Our Children is pleased to announce the nomination of five young leaders from Pacific nations who will represent their countries,

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WWW.FOROURCHILDREN.ORG.NZ

A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER:

Dear Friends,

As the global recession hits full swing more and more families are finding it difficult to make ends meet and the psychological stress of unemployment is taking a toll on families and children.



Chairman and Founder — John Sax

Despite the doom and gloom there is the hope that a tighter economic climate may help us remember the values of family and community.

As we move into the second half of 2009 I would like to encourage each of us to take time out and help those less fortunate.

It is easy to make a small difference. Putting something in the foodbank, taking excess clothing to your local church or asking your neighbour with children if they need any assistance can all go a long way towards easing the strain on families — and help make the recession a safer place for our children.

Aroha-Nui

John Sax



AN EVENING WITH BARONESS COX...

On Thursday 26th March 2009, the Trust hosted a dinner at Florence Court for Baroness Caroline Cox. The dinner was attended by opinion leaders, policy makers, academics and local politicians, all with a desire to engage in informal discussions on a way to move forward for New Zealand Society.

Baroness Cox, a cross-bencher peer from the British House of the Lords, is known for her active involvement in humanitarian aid and

human rights, as well as for her interest and work in slavery and education.

As well as being the currently Chancellor of Liverpool Hope University, Baroness Cox is the Chief Executive of Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART) www.hart-uk.org.nz, an organisation that works to provide lasting change through aid and advocacy for those suffering oppression and persecution, who are largely neglected by the international media.

While she was visiting New Zealand she delivered lectures around the country on: 'What is at stake? Why we need to value the foundations of Western civilisation'.

She spoke of being very encouraged to have met so many active people within New Zealand society being the 'voice to the voiceless' and sharing their passions and purpose to making a positive contribution to New Zealand society.



From Left: Dr Hutchinson, Emeline Afeaki-Mafileo (Affirming Works), John Sax, Baroness Cox, National MP Sam Lotuinga, Jules Lotuinga, Baroness Cox and Tim Sisarich (Focus on the Family).

A HELPING HAND FOR FAMILIES IN DEBT...



'CAP has helped people like me.'

'I thought there was no way out.'

Poverty caused by debt affects tens of thousands of New Zealand families.

Currently for every dollar earned in NZ 1 dollar 15 cents is being spent. This unsustainable pattern of borrowing and spending has meant that 30% of NZ households have taken out loans just to meet basic needs, such as food and power.

Families who are caught up in the debt trap tend to experience adverse social problems such as unemploy-

ment, ill-health, relationship breakdown, children not being fed or cared for properly.

Debt is a problem getting worse, it's crippling families - but there is hope.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) provides a relational approach that gives hope and a solution for the whole person or family in the context they live in.

CAP provides an in-depth debt counseling service that empowers and motivates families to break free from the cycles of poverty, and the social issues that are often caused or exasperated by debt.

CAP is enabling parents to clothe and feed their children, marriages are being

restored, homes are being saved from repossession, and lives are literally being saved.

CAP also wants to help churches to educate their communities with a means for prevention through CAP Money, a money management course that teaches people a simple cash-based budgeting system that works! Together with churches CAP is bringing light to peoples finances and restoring lives.

For more information about CAP Centre's, CAP Money or for a free copy of 'Nevertheless' an inspirational book written by John Kirkby the Founder and International Director, please email your name and address to: info@capnz.org

CHILDREN OF THE RECESSION - cont from Pg 1...

KIDS TALK ABOUT LOVE

WHEN MY GRANDMA GOT ARTHRITIS, SHE COULDN'T BEND OVER AND PAINT HER TOE NAILS ANYMORE. SO MY GRANDPA DOES IT FOR HER NOW ALL THE TIME, EVEN WHEN HIS HANDS GOT ARTHRITIS TOO. THAT'S LOVE.

REBECCA - AGE 8

LOVE IS WHEN YOU GO OUT TO EAT AND GIVE SOMEBODY MOST OF YOUR FRENCH FRIES WITHOUT MAKING THEM GIVE YOU ANY OF THEIRS.

CHRISSEY - AGE 6

LOVE IS WHEN MY MOMMY MAKES COFFEE FOR MY DADDY AND SHE TAKES A SIP BEFORE GIVING IT TO HIM TO MAKE SURE THE TASTE IS OK.

DANNY - AGE 7

IF YOU WANT TO LEARN TO LOVE BETTER, YOU SHOULD START WITH A FRIEND WHO YOU HATE.

NIKKI - AGE 6

MY MOMMY LOVES ME MORE THAN ANYBODY. YOU DON'T SEE ANYONE ELSE KISSING ME TO SLEEP AT NIGHT.

CLARE - AGE 6



and lead to behaviours such as disengagement from school or work.”

A large part of a parent's ability to minimise the damage their job loss will have on their children will come down to communication.

Often children are unaware of why there has been a dramatic change in their living circumstances and if they are aware they can quickly end up absorbing and reflecting their parent's attitudes through their performance at school, their own expectations in life, and later, the way they cope with stressful times in their own life.

Janet Bodnar, author of Dollars & Sense for Kids offers some practical advice for helping children adjust to the reduced economic circumstances.

She says parents should be

straight up with their children - but also reassuring. We encourage parents to make sure their children are made aware of the economic realities within their household

and explain why things have to change in order for bills to be paid for on time and food to be put on the table.

It is important for families to maintain a positive outlook on these negative circumstances.

Kalil states that parents own interpretation of job loss and unemployment experiences can serve as positive role models for their children's attitudes and behaviours.

Parents must learn new tricks to make ends meet and children need to understand why they have to go



without their luxuries for a period of time – but they also need to be taught that there are other things of value in life – and a simple hug can have a much greater impact than an outing to Rainbows End.

There could be a silver lining as the culture of consumerism within most of us comes to a slow halt, allowing many of us to reconsider what is really important in life; the value of family, a helping hand when needed, kind words and laughter, and the hope of a brighter future when times get tough.



Congratulations to Christine Rankin on her new appointment to the Families Commission.

From 2005 through to the end of 2008 Christine was the CEO of For the Sake of Our Children's Trust, advocating on the behalf of child abuse victims in New Zealand.

Christine was appointed as one of the seven commissioners on Tuesday the 12th of May.

We at the Trust wish her all the best with her new role.

share with New Zealand delegates their views of leadership and return to their nations with renewed insight into leadership across all spheres of society.

If you would like to find out more about the Aspiring Leaders' Forum, nominate a young person, or donate funds to enable outstanding young leaders to attend, please visit www.aspiringleaders.org.nz or contact their office on (09) 627 1200.

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