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WORD FROM THE CHAIR

It is heartening to see increasing changes towards social policy in NZ by our current politicians. Certainly our hope is the on-going dialogue and discussion in this area will lead to positive change. Having said this, there is still a long way to go in terms of acceptance and recognition of 'what works for our families and what doesn't'.

As we say goodbye to 2010 we take time to reflect and review what we have accomplished and rejuvenate and prepare for what 2011 holds in place for us.

Overall, I believe we can be responsibly encouraged with general progress and in 2011 we will need to focus on other constructive and innovative strategies that have the prospect of leaving our children a better legacy.

May your families and the children in your life be blessed this Christmas.

Aroha Nui

John Sax



As we come to the end of 2010, we at the Trust are looking forward to a good break over the festive period.

2010 has been a busy year for us as we have made steady progress to get our message out to numerous communities about how we can make NZ a better place for our children.

For the Sake of Our Children Trust (FSOCT) is not solely about child abuse and neglect - we are not about being the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. What we are about is 'being a voice for the voiceless' - speaking up for children about how their lives are precious and how they should be loved and raised in a stable secure environment. We're not here to judge or be judged, we are here to talk to our politicians, our community leaders, our young people and our children and ensure that this message is heard and is taken seriously.

Our newsletters have covered a number of key articles concerning parenting, fathers raising children, child homicide in NZ, perpetrators of child abuse and more.

We have reviewed research concerning children and families and provided our opinion on key articles.

We have highlighted the need for our government to review recommendations on

current social and economic policies impacting on the family structure and the wellbeing of our children.

And we've come to the end of a busy year quietly but effectively tapping into areas of influence, gauging the support of government and the community towards our Vision and Mission Statement.

During the first half of the year 18 organisations were also given the opportunity to add their support to the social policy development recommendations we developed in conjunction with them in 2009. The response has been good with both organisations or individuals indicating their support.

The Trust developed and printed a Legacy Leadership booklet which consisted of a selection of quotes and speeches to encourage and inspire our Nation. This booklet was sent to all our Politicians and Councils throughout New Zealand, distributed to the all the delegates at the Aspiring Leaders Forum, a few Mayoral meetings across NZ and also at the annual conferences of supporters of our Trust. It has been pleasing to have received positive feedback and appreciation from many recipients of the booklet.

Over the last quarter, we have hosted two gatherings of significant Maori Leaders including the Maori King at Treetops, focusing on building relationships within the Maori community and encouraging them to examine their own experiences and forms of community/social policy.

More recently, we have assisted in the foundation of FOSTR, again with the general objective of increasing social responsibility and its overlap with the general objectives of the For Sake of Our Children.

FSOCT put through submissions to various government discussion papers concerning the well-being of children and families in New Zealand. We have increased our activity and dialogue with Parliamentarians with more intensive discussions involving over 30 members of parliament. There is certainly a more acute understanding of the need to re-examine social policy and in particular the unintended negative consequences.

We are currently in discussions with a television production company about producing a documentary around our dreams for New Zealand children - which we hope will

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FREE CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN AUCKLAND

A list of the top Christmas events as recommended by View Auckland for you!

Franklin Road Christmas Lights

Each December Franklin Road residents convert their street into a bright, magical Christmas wonderland by covering their houses in lights and decorations and the street makes for a lovely stroll in the summer air.

Telecom Tree

Telecom's lighting up the summer nights with the return of it's incredible Christmas Tree. his year the tree has moved near Franklin Road to Western Park.

The Telecom Tree is free for everyone, but you are encouraged to bring a gift for children in need at the Women's Refuge, this year's official charity.

Cadbury Dairy Milk Giant Snow Globe

The Giant Snow Globe takes the traditional Christmas ornament and supersedes it. Step inside and you'll be transported into a winter wonderland full of falling snow, snowman and a giant Christmas tree. Open from 10am-9.30pm daily, the Snow Globe moves to three Auckland locations.

Saturday 11 – Tuesday 14 December

**Okahu Bay, Auckland
Thursday 16 – Saturday 19 December**

**One Tree Hill Domain, Auckland
Tuesday 21 - Friday 24 December
Windsor Reserve, Devonport**

Santa's Grotto and Christmas window displays

Christmas comes to Queen Street at Smith & Caughey's with their magical moving Christmas window displays and the enchanting Santa's Grotto.

Get a photo with Santa himself or just explore the themed Grotto area, the choice is yours. You can't help but leave feeling full of Christmas cheer, great for the whole family!



THE MOST VALUABLE GIFT FOR OUR CHILDREN IS LOVE

One of the most valuable gifts parents can their children is love, mother love or father love. to be given you need time you share together. Time for hugging, A time for playing together, time to have fun together, time to enjoy nature and adventures together. Time to listen, time to be patient. Such gifts may appear simple - yet they are of true value to all beloved children. LOVE when given needs time to flow most directly and most efficiently from father to daughter or son and from mother to son or daughter. Children enjoy hugging, skin to skin, even being allowed to fall asleep in your arms and to wake up in your arms or near you may be one of the most beautiful and most valuable gifts parents can make for their beloved children.

Loving your children might seem like a no-brainer but there are some very precise ways in which you can show this love to your children. Some of the most valuable gifts you can give your children are:

Honoring the God-given freedom of your children - give your children freedom and be a living example on how to use this freedom. Instead of limiting freedom or taking freedom away from them - show them how to be free, show them how to use freedom peacefully and with love by honoring the freedom and integrity of all creation, of all humanity and nature while enjoying your own freedom.

Be a living example in all you do - for your children and all others around you - adults and children - as well. Accept the curiosity of children as a gift from them - allow them at any given age to be with you, to watch you, to listen to what you say or discuss with others. Children love to learn from their parents if their parents have something exciting, creative or useful to do.

Respect the desire of children to have free time on their own - away from parents, even at a very young age. Children are exactly like adults - curious and adventurous. They love to venture into new activities and they love to expand their geographical range as they grow and mature. By being allowed to spend time with you when ever they need it you will provide them with all the theoretical knowledge and basic practice they need. And after a while of watching and practicing new activities with you they may want to experience these on their own.

Top 10 FREE gifts for kids this christmas....





RECOMMENDED DVD

Real Crime: The Truth About Us

The abuse and murder of three-year-old Nia Glassie shocked New Zealand, and the perpetrators were convicted. But what if there's another story that's been left untold; another truth behind what played out in the weeks and months leading up to that day. Could there be a plausible explanation as to why and how the young men could commit such a crime?

Real Crime: The Truth About Us looks at the Curtis family's background, the father, and his reported links to gangs; the mother and her state of mind - why didn't she act to save Nia from the abuse?; the brothers, were they affected by violence in video games and what were their experiences growing up in that household; while also considering one of the more difficult questions about this case; perhaps a dozen people knew Nia was being abused, so why did nobody raise the alarm?

Looking at ways in which young people affected by family violence might be helped is psychiatric nurse and theatre director, Jim Moriarty. He runs intensive courses for young people, often victims of violence themselves, who have either been witnesses to violence, or are now offenders themselves. These courses use drama and role play to examine the issues, and look at what can be learnt from cases such as Nia Glassie.

Contact The Great Journeys office to purchase a copy of this. For more information go to www.greatjourneys.org



FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN...

Child wellbeing statistics in New Zealand are horrific and it is so easy just to demonise individuals. But when we really look at the statistics it becomes obvious that this is a nationwide/societal problem that goes much wider and deeper than to just a few people. We need to take an approach to these issues that is both wide and deep – a nationwide but personal approach and we can all help.

A factsheet released by the Child Welfare Information Gateway (US) highlights that "parents and caregivers who have support—from family, friends, neighbors, and their communities—are more likely to provide safe and healthy homes for their children. When parents lack this support or feel isolated, on the other hand, they may be more likely to make poor decisions that can lead to neglect or abuse."

The factsheet goes on to say that "the best way to prevent child abuse is to help parents develop the skills and identify the resources they need to understand and meet their children's emotional, physical, and developmental needs and protect their children from harm." The factsheet identifies that providing emotional support to parents for family raising challenges and assistance with the provision of basic resources such as food, clothing, housing, transportation both go a long way as protective factors.

One of the wonderful things about these statements is that this means that we can all take some practical steps towards improving child wellbeing in New Zealand. And during this time of goodwill and cheer there are some easy and practical things we can do to help:

So For the Sake of Our Children this Christmas – lets all think about doing at least one of things this year and all work together towards making New Zealand a safer place for our children.

- 1 Get to know your neighbors.**
Problems seem less overwhelming when support is nearby.
- 2 Help a family under stress.**
Offer to babysit, help with chores and errands, or suggest resources in the community that can help.
- 3 Reach out to children in your community.**
A smile or a word of encouragement can mean a lot, whether it comes from a parent or a passing stranger.
- 4 Be an active community member.**
Lend a hand at local schools, community or faith-based organizations, children's hospitals, social service agencies, or other places where families and children are supported.
- 5 Learn how to recognize and report signs of child abuse and neglect.**
Reporting your concerns may protect a child and get help for a family who needs it."

(from "Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect Factsheet - www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/preventingcan.cfm.)



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 unique potential.

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.

CONTACT US

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be of great benefit for our communities.

And FSoCT have sent 160 kids and their parents connected to our Trust to pantomimes throughout the year with the support of the Southern Stars Charitable Trust. So we have definitely been busy!

We have become internet savvy with an updated website, a Facebook page (search FSOC Trust) and a Facebook cause page 'Prevent Child Abuse & Neglect NZ'. We have responded to many media requests on issues concerning children and families in New Zealand and mid-way through the year we had new baby born into the Trust!

Wow, what a year it's been....and we have 2011 to look forward too.

We want to hear from you and get some feedback. We want you to challenge us to find new ways to advocate and raise the awareness of keeping our children safe in NZ – your suggestions provide hope and an incentive for us to keep doing what we do.

On behalf of our Chairman, Trustees and Staff of For the Sake of Our Children Trust, we want to say thank you for supporting us and believing in the work we do. We look forward to catching up with you in 2011.

We pray you and your family have a safe and joyful festive season ahead. We ask that you look after each other especially little ones. One of our articles claims 'your time' is the best gift you can give your child...let us not forget this. We provide other 'priceless' gifts to give your children in this newsletter.

Merry Christmas and have glorious New Year.



Mars Bar Christmas crackles

- Ingredients:**
- 200g Mars bars, chopped
 - 2 tablespoons of pouring cream
 - 2 teaspoons cocoa powder, sifted
 - 3 cups Rice Bubbles
 - 100g white chocolate
 - 24 red Smarties or M&M's

Method:

Spray a little canola spray into 2 x 12 cup mini-muffin trays.

Melt the Mars bars, cream and cocoa in a glass bowl over simmering water. The bowl should not touch water. Stir the mixture until smooth.

Put the Rice Bubbles in a separate large bowl, pour in the chocolate mixture and stir until well mixed. Spoon the mixture into the muffins tray and press down gently. Refrigerate for 2 hours and turn out onto a tray to decorate.

Melt the white chocolate in the microwave checking and stirring it at 30 second intervals. Pour it into a piping bag while warm and snip the tip off.

Turn the crackles upside down and pipe the chocolate on. Finish with a red Smartie on top of each one.

This recipe was created by Melissa Hughes for Kidspot, New Zealand's best recipe finder.