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COMMUNITY IMPACT SUPPORT

HOROWHENUA REGION

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

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| **1.** | **SHOP:**Support for a Manager, sales assistant plus a large group of volunteers who sort and price items for sale and receive donated goods. We sell quality second-hand goods to raise funds for the on-going work of helping those in need. All donated goods are thoroughly checked, washed, repaired and ironed before being made available for sale. Only goods suitable for resale are sold.(Shop: Located at 7 Prouse Street Levin. Open: Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 3pm). |
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| **2.** | **FOOD DELIVERY TEAM:**Over a one-week period, each rostered team of two persons responds to calls made to our helpline. At our Centre, they prepare a complete food package comprising grocery, fresh vegetables and meat items. The package is sized to accommodate each specific family and is sufficient for at least seven days. This is delivered to families in their homes. While there we observe if the recipients have any other needs which we can help with. |
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| **3.** | **FOODBANK SUPPORT:**A rostered turn over a one-week period, teams of two persons work at the Centre to breakdown and repackage bulk food items to enable the delivery teams to have available correctly sized packages for distribution. Each week, excess fresh vegetables are distributed to the Community Food Bank located at the local RSA, to the Home of Compassion nuns who look after pensioners who are housed in ex Council houses, and to the Waiopehu College Young Mothers’ Group. |
| **4.** | **FOOD PICKUP:**Donated bread, vegetables and eggs are collected weekly from our food sponsors. |
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| **5.** | **MEETING/GATHERING CENTRE**:The team host a Friday “drop-in”. Activities provide companionship, entertainment, and food to those looking for some time-out.  |
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| **6.** | **BABY ASSIST PROGRAMME:**Many volunteers knit and crochet warm garments and blankets, as well as donate clothes, for children aged newborn to 5 years. These are sorted and stored, before being distributed to young families, along with some nursery furniture, whenever available. These items are usually delivered to the mother at home, which allows for further contact and support. |
| **7.** | **MATERIAL ASSISTANCE:**We also assist with all clothing and household goods such as beds, bedding, kitchen/lounge furniture and whitegoods. Delivery to those in need and collection of donated goods, is an area where assistance is frequently needed. All electrical appliances are certified by our volunteer qualified electrician. |
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| **8.** | **CONTACT WITH PEOPLE NEEDING OUR HELP:**We maintain contact with people we can help, and to establish if there are other needs that we can assist with. This information is taken back and reported to the Vinnies members to allow discussion as to how extra assistance could be provided. |
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| **9.** | **REFUGEE PROGRAMME:**We support the local Red Cross team in helping to settle incoming refugees into the Horowhenua area. This involves providing food packs and household goods on their arrival, plus a loan fridge until they are established with their own. |
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| **10.** | **WINTER FIREWOOD:** We hold an annual winter firewood drive to supply as many families as possible with firewood for the winter months. This is usually held in March/April. |
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| **11** | **VISITATION:**Of the sick, lonely and elderly. Currently this involves a small number of people but this is an important area that is growing - e.g. people living by themselves, in rest homes and elderly in their own homes. This includes support with doctors’ appointments, supplying small food packages, and connecting them with their extended family. Loneliness amongst the elderly is a significant issue in Horowhenua. Recent training in understanding people with dementia has helped with some visitation to patients. |
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| **12.** | **ADVOCACY:**We support people with visits to WINZ to advocate for their rights to claim what they are entitled to receive. Several of our volunteers have been trained in advocacy support. |
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| **13.** | **CONNECTION TO THE COMMUNITY:**We support organisations in the Horowhenua area e.g. Life to the Max, Horowhenua Learning Centre that support individuals facing hardship and people living with diverse abilities, to enable them access to opportunities in the workplace and socially.* Life To The Max – we provide food parcels, household goods, baby assist items
* Horowhenua Learning Centre -we provide work experience in the shop
* Horowhenua Youth Health – we provide supplementary food for young students
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The mantra of St Vincent de Paul is that no work of charity is foreign to the Society. It includes any form of help that alleviated suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity is all their dimensions.

****Vinnies equals

we help people