

February 2020

Supporting the Food Banks of our region

Liz Shea, CEO of the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury, is thrilled to announce that Trustees have decided to strengthen their support for the region's most vulnerable people through an increase in the grants provided to Foodbanks of the region.

In response to a number of previous applications from Foodbanks, Trustees decided to initiate a special invitation only funding round. After much community research and discussion, 8 main Foodbanks were identified and contacted. All 8 applied and were granted multi-year funding by the Trustees. The recipients were, Salvation Army Ashburton - \$10,000; St Vincent de Paul – Ashburton \$10,000; St Andrew's Food Bank – Geraldine \$7,500; Presbyterian Support South Canterbury – Timaru \$10,000; St Vincent de Paul – Timaru \$10,000; The Salvation Army – Timaru \$10,000; The Salvation Army – Waimate \$7,400; Foodbank Canterbury – Total district \$40,000. (all are per annum for 3 years). Total applicants = 8. Total funding = \$104,900.

Trustees agree that this initiative was one of the most exciting and positive causes the Trust has ever funded. Hunger has been identified as a hidden crisis in our region and it is a sad reality that the number of people accessing food relief and agencies continues to grow. It is a common misconception that only homeless people require food relief. However, the main recipients of food relief are individuals and families who have generally low incomes or are unemployed, not just those who are homeless. The face of hunger across NZ is diverse – it affects males, females, children, the elderly, single people and whanau, students, employed, unemployed and retired people.

When people access Foodbanks, not only are their immediate food needs dealt with, it also allows organisations to assess other requirements the recipients may have. The St Andrews Foodbank in Geraldine noted "It is recognised that while the provision of food is an essential requirement to meet critical practical need, there is also a requirement to address the underlying causes requiring that intervention." It is the hope of the Community Trust that the provision of funding will enable organisations to not only identify need but also put in systems to resolve it.

The major recipient was the Timaru based Foodbank Canterbury which was granted \$40,000 per annum for the next 3 years. This organisation is considered by our Trustees as a fantastic addition to our region that not only alters the way that Foodbanks are provisioned with the mainly perishable items collected, sorted and distributed by this "hub", but also benefits the whole of our society by redirecting food from landfill.

The Community Trust is interested in hearing from any other Foodbanks in our region, especially in the Mackenzie District. If you are part of such an organisation running a Foodbank, please get in contact with the Community Trust so you can be invited to apply at a future date. Ph 0800 672 287.

The Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury uses the returns from investments to fund its philanthropy. The Community Trust supports not-for-profit organisations and projects which contribute towards achieving a region of healthy, vibrant and caring communities. To learn more please visit www.comtrust.org.nz

Ends

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Funding recipients

Foodbanks	Amount Approved per annum for 3 years
ASHBURTON	
The Salvation Army - Ashburton	\$10,000
St Vincent de Paul - Ashburton	\$10,000
ASHBURTON TOTAL	\$20,000
GERALDINE	
St Andrew's Food Bank	\$7,500
GERALDINE TOTAL	\$7,500
MACKENZIE	
None identified	
MACKENZIE TOTAL	\$0
TEMUKA	
None identified	
TEMUKA TOTAL	\$0
TIMARU	
Presbyterian Support SC	\$10,000
St Vincent de Paul - Timaru	\$10,000
The Salvation Army - Timaru	\$10,000
TIMARU TOTAL	\$30,000
WAIMATE	
The Salvation Army - Waimate	\$7,400
WAIMATE TOTAL	\$7,400
ALL DISTRICTS	
Foodbank Canterbury (formally City Harvest)	\$40,000
ALL DISTRICTS TOTAL	\$40,000
GRAND TOTAL 8 applications	104900