



ADRA UPDATE

SPRING 2015



THE GIFT OF LIFE | The most popular gifts bought by kiwi's during the Christmas period are as unsurprising as they are uninspiring – chocolates, tea-towels and socks. Which makes you wonder – how much thought do we actually put into the gifts we buy? Maybe you've already started making lists of the gifts you need to buy, or are you a 'leave it until the last minute and grab it all in one shop' kind of Christmas shopper? Whatever your situation, it is important that we stop and remember that Christmas is about Christ and the reason he came – 'to give life, and life abundantly' (John 10:10). Last Christmas you bought some amazing gifts for the people we work with around the world – you might remember Carla the Cow? Well, as we run towards Christmas again it's exciting to be able to share some of the amazing things that have happened thanks to your support!

THE GIFT | A LATRINE

Forty-five year old widow Truy cares for two of her grandchildren and works tirelessly to give them the best shot at life. Her own children were forced to drop out of school at Grade 4.

Without a husband, Truy missed out on many opportunities to improve her families circumstances. While other families were able to be involved in improving their community and their homes, Truy and her children would have to work simply to survive. Without access to clean water or a hygienic toilet her family was often sick and daily at risk of deadly disease.

It wasn't until ADRA began working in her community that Truy was able to be involved – ADRA established a special group to care for and listen to the concerns and dreams of the children. Plus, we were able to provide Truy's family with a hygienic toilet and access to clean water close to her home. "My village has a lot of snakes and insects especially in the rainy season," she said. "Not only is our hygiene and sanitation improved, but the children are protected from snake bite and other dangers when going out to the field to toilet."

THE GIFT | CARLA THE COW

Mr Phong used to survive on about \$2 a day. With three school-aged daughters it was almost impossible for him to meet their basic needs through his fish and frog catching business. So, it is no surprise that his excitement about receiving a cow through ADRA's Cow Bank programme in Vietnam focused on his daughters education. "Our biggest happiness is that all our children study well at school," he said. "We are not afraid of poverty or difficulties – we will do everything we can to earn enough money for them to go to school."

One year after receiving the cow, his prize possession gave birth, with another due soon. His plan? To pass the calf on to another family so they too can have the opportunity to thrive!

THE GIFT | BABIES FIRST CLOTHES

Racheal didn't want to keep her unborn baby. Suffering from depression and experiencing deep poverty the thought of another child was almost unbearable. Volunteers part of our Welcome Baby Programme here in New Zealand were referred to Rachael's family.

"Both Racheal and her husband were home when I delivered the pack," our volunteer recounted. "They both gave me the biggest hug and were so grateful." A short time after this first visit Racheal came to our volunteers home.

"She arrived at my place with a big bag of really good clothing from her older children. She wanted to make sure it got to someone who needed it. Then she gave me a hug and said though they are still finding things a bit of a struggle, the help we had given had made a real difference."

These three short insights into our work highlight the life-changing impact you are having. Your gifts really do make a difference! Thank you!

The challenge this Christmas, amongst the tinsel and price tags, is to again, choose a gift will give more than just a few hours of fun. With your help we can not only remember, but live out the meaning of the first Christmas – 'to give life, and life abundantly' (John 10:10).

Purchase a truly life-changing gift using the enclosed form, from your Church or online at www.adra.org.nz/christmas

Register your Church for an ADRA Christmas Tree pack now!

THINK ABOUT IT | Kiwi's will spend more than \$1.5billion on presents at Christmas.

CALENDAR

16 NOV

CPP DEADLINE
GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN!

29 NOV

ADRA CHARITY RUN
REGISTER NOW AT
WWW.ADRA.ORG.NZ/RUN

8-16 JAN

BIG CAMPS
NORTH AND SOUTH NZ BIG CAMPS

6-8 MARCH

QUEENSTOWN CLASSIC
REGISTER NOW AT
WWW.ADRA.ORG.NZ/QUEENSTOWNCLASSIC

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The Christmas period is always full of surprises. Unplanned visitors, unexpected gifts and accidental adventures are common occurrences during the summer break. Mostly, these surprises are good things.

As we pulled together our recently released Annual Report and 2016 Calendar – which you can view online or request in hardcopy – I was pleasantly surprised by a number of things:

1) The number of Kiwi's engaging with and supporting our ministry continues to increase, despite the ongoing financial pressures families face. 2) Our impact extended further and to more families than ever. The countries we worked in during the last 12 months included Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa, Cook Islands, Cambodia, Nepal, Vietnam and Mongolia. Plus, we've reached out to families in 35 communities here in New Zealand. 3) We're getting more requests for information or to speak at schools and churches across the country than ever.

But as you know, not all surprises are good. I am continually surprised and saddened by the fact that inequality, injustice and poverty continue to needlessly squash the dreams of many thousands of children and their families. The abundant life God designed each one of to live has been taken away from so many. I want to thank you for partnering with ADRA this year to ensure all those in need are given the chance to live life to the full. Together, we really are helping families thrive!



MATT SILIGA

This Christmas I pray a special blessing on you and your family. I also humbly request that you consider purchasing a gift from our Christmas Gift Catalogue. Your friends and family may be surprised to receive a chicken or toilet, but it will definitely be a surprise that's a good thing. Please register now to receive your ADRA Christmas Tree pack and help Give Life to others this Christmas – or, purchase a gift online now at www.adra.org.nz/christmas

Matt Siliga
Chief Executive Officer

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SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Matthew Siliga, *Chief Executive Officer* | Victoria Fray,
International Programme Director | Robert Patton,
Emergency Management Director | Evan Fray, *National
Programme Director* | Braden Blyde, *Marketing and
Donor Relations Director*

BOARD MEMBERS

Brad Kemp, *Chairman* | Matthew Siliga, *Secretary* |
Graeme Drinkall | Leanne Davies | Greg Young |
Stephen Andrews | Susan Piket | Paul Hopson | Reno
Paotonu

OUR WORK OVERSEAS

PLANTING IS MY LIFE

Mila Alim is living proof that the old proverb 'you can't teach an old dog new tricks' is wrong. In fact, when the 62 year-old widow heard that ADRA was helping poor families like her own she wasn't really interested. That was until she began hearing about the new tools and new knowledge ADRA had been providing to others in her rural Philippines community.

"Plating vegetables is my life, so I went along to the trainings on organic vegetable farming," says Mila. "I learned more efficient ways to cultivate my garden and produce greater harvests. As I plant vegetables now, I enthusiastically apply what ADRA has taught me about proper handling, care and maintenance, proper distancing and even composting in vegetable production."

The Sustainable and Resilient Agribusiness Development in Mercedes project has helped 1,570 of the poorest families improve their nutrition and income by teaching them how to more sustainably grow food for their family to eat and sell.

"My garden is now twice the size," Mila smiles. "My family eats more and healthier food, and we have the money we need to buy other essentials. ADRA came not only to give and teach the community, but also to help develop good relationships among the members of the group through communal farming. A big thank you to ADRA New Zealand."

And a big thanks to you! Without your support Mila's family would not have the thriving future they now have.



Growing more vegetables means better income and nutrition for Mila and her family.

GETTING NEW ZEALAND SORTED

Worrying about your money can be a debilitating situation. The pressures of providing schooling, clothing and good nutrition combine to put an incredible strain on families. Most seriously, New Zealand Police have reported strong links between domestic violence and financial stress. And we know, poor financial skills often flow from one generation to the next.

Enter ADRA's My Money Family Budgeting Programme, one of our latest projects changing lives here in New Zealand. "Through a partnership with the Commission for Financial Literacy, we are helping break the poverty cycle by empowering families with the skills and knowledge they need to better manage their budgets," said Evan Fray, ADRA New Zealand's National Programme Director.

"The programme is currently being piloted by 10 churches in Auckland and will be rolled out across the country in 2016." Evan personally attended the 6 week training programme, and despite being a business owner, family man and Director here at ADRA he admits there was a lot to learn. "Better understanding how to control and plan our use of money can be completely life changing. It's exciting to be able to provide this to families who need it most."

The My Money Family Budgeting Programme is part of our Church Partnership Programme which allows churches like yours to deliver life-changing projects in the community. Other projects available include the recently launched Be Somebody 2 Someone Youth Mentoring, Welcome Baby Clothing Library and Pathways Skills for Life Driver Training programmes.

Ready to make a difference in your community? Talk to us today!

OUR WORK AT HOME



Empowering families with better budgeting skills will help break the poverty cycle according to Evan Fray, National Programme Director.

THINK ABOUT IT | The gifts given during the 12 days of Christmas total 364 - one short of a gift for everyday of the year.



GETTING INVOLVED

KNOCKTOBER MORE APPEALING THAN EVER |

Traditionally the ADRA Appeal has been seen as a door-knock fundraiser – and in most people's eyes a bit of a drag. But this October more churches than ever took up the challenge to 'shine their light' in their communities and raise funds to help others in need.

"We want to let New Zealand know that ADRA cares," said Braden Blyde, Marketing and Donor Relations Director for ADRA New Zealand. "Church groups have really taken on the vision and thought beyond door knocking. It's great to see." Churches across the country have organised fundraising activities including:

- Collecting at their local shopping centres
- Holding a fun run and asking for sponsorship
- Forming a busking group
- Collecting online

While we won't know the total raised during Knocktober for a number of weeks, we do know that every dollar will help families in New Zealand and across the globe thrive. Thank you!

If you collected money during the ADRA Appeal please return the funds directly to ADRA New Zealand. Doing so will allow us to put the funds to use as quickly as possible. **Thanks for Shining your Light during Knocktober!**

MANUREWA SCHOOL CONNECTIONS |

Rural Cambodia might seem a long way from South Auckland, but students from Manurewa High School brought the two parts of the world closer together these past school holidays.

Students and teachers from the school spent two days working alongside ADRA Cambodia staff and members of communities in rural Pursat to build child shelters and fencing around two water storage ponds. The activities, which provide vital support to ADRA's established projects not only bring life-changing assistance to the rural communities, they also opened the student's eyes and hearts to the privileges of home and the difference they can make. While the school has a long history of international service trips, it was the first they have completed with ADRA. Thank you Manurewa Highschool for making a difference in Cambodia!

Could an ADRA Connections trip be just what your church, school or family needs? Contact us today to learn more about your options for a life-changing experience?

THINK ABOUT IT | In a recent survey, 18% of Kiwi's indicated they would donate less this Christmas than last - despite increased need in the community!