

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

November 2024



“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.”

- Oscar Wilde.

Kia ora tātou katoa,

Welcome to the first edition of our volunteer newsletter. Our aim is to provide quarterly updates to our amazing team of volunteers.

Research has shown that people who volunteer tend to be driven by an optimism that by helping others they are inciting change and making progress, and that in some way, large or small, they are capable of doing good. Often, you are working side by side with others which connects you to other human beings, working toward a common goal and making connections. You are connected with the community.

Kindness Collective would not be able to do the work we do without the skills, expertise, and time that our volunteers give so generously. We are so grateful that you are part of our community of kindness!

Volunteer Spotlight

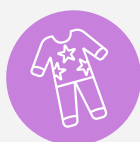
Shining a light on our volunteers is easy to do when we have superstars like Mailene in the hub every week.

Mailene has been volunteering with us every Thursday since August 2023, volunteering roughly 330 hours over the year! Currently the holder of the (unofficial) title of most food boxes packed in one session, Mailene brings smiles, energy, and passion to our mahi, as well as the occasional treat of homemade dumplings.

We love you Mailene! Thank you for what you do for us.



Overview of our programmes in 2024



**PJ
Project**



**Build
Projects**



**Everyday
Essentials**



**Christmas
Joy Store**

Kindness Collective supports over 130,000 people living in poverty every year through five nationwide programmes. Without you and our community of volunteers, we wouldn't be able to achieve what we do for whānau in need.

Keep updated with all things kindness:



@kindnesscollectivefoundation

PJ Project

2024 was our most impactful year yet for the PJ Project! And it's all thanks to our incredible community of kindness:

What we delivered together:



25,257

pairs of PJs delivered



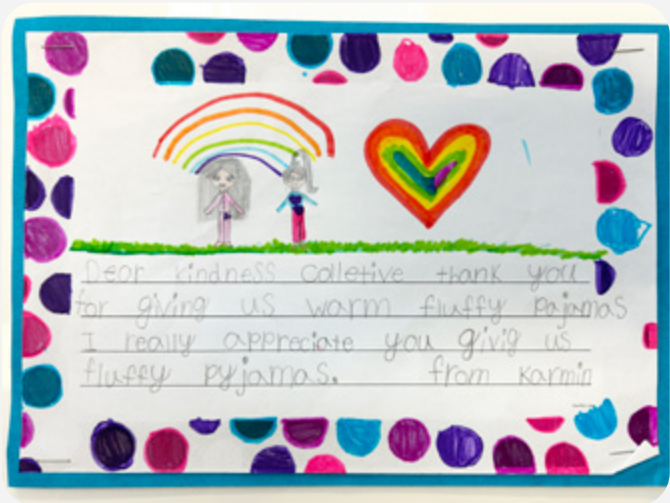
55

regions, cities and towns



204

community partners supported



Build Projects

With the amazing support from Mitre10 New Zealand and our volunteers, we have been able to complete six Build Projects this year:

Roscommon School - March 2024:

We completed an amazing garden transformation which will be a fantastic place for tamariki to plant, grow, harvest and learn all about vegetables and fruit, with excess going home with whānau to enjoy.

Mangere East Primary - April 2024:

We filled five garden beds with plenty of veggies and herbs for the kids to grow.

Western Heights Primary - May 2024:

The garden we built from scratch has big beds full of veggies, herbs, flowers, blueberry bushes, picnic tables, composting bins, and even a timed irrigation system!



Te Paina School - August 2024:

Despite a rainy start, our team, Mitre 10 volunteers and tamariki were soon planting in the sun.

Lettuce, broccoli, beetroot, carrots, spinach and leeks went into the garden beds, and once grown will be shared widely in the months to come, supporting and strengthening the community through shared kai.

Rongopai Community House - November 2024:

Together with Mitre 10 Kaitiaa we were able to build an outdoor play area that will be a much loved and well used space at the Community House.

We have three build projects planned for February, March and April 2025, and are always looking for volunteers to help on the day. Keep an eye out on Social Media for our call out.

Mā Te Huruhuru - October 2024:

A Build Project with a difference!

We teamed up with Mitre 10 New Zealand to build a basketball court at He Pā Piringa, a kaupapa Māori transitional housing service for homeless youth. The court is an incredible resource to bring the Mā Te Huruhuru rangatahi together, helping them connect and support each other on their healing journey at the Pā.



Everyday Essentials

As part of our Everyday Essentials programme, we receive referrals from over 258 Community Partners for families experiencing poverty, homelessness, illness, disability or family violence.

We also ensured multiple New Zealand Police and Victim Support resource rooms, community hubs and schools are stocked with essentials to keep on hand, so there is always immediate support available for families in crisis.

Since April 2024, with your help we've provided 949 referrals, 3277 foodboxes, and 7,963 Tegel chicken products.

Christmas Joy Store

As we write this we are in the midst of preparation for the 2024 Christmas Joy Store. This year we have a goal to provide 50,000 toys for kids in need.

You, our volunteers, are key to the success of the Joy Store, especially in the lead up to our opening - stickering toys, stacking shelves, and ensuring the Food Market is well stocked.



Once again, thank you for all your help in 2024.

If you haven't already we would love you to spread the word about what we do whether that is through signing up friends to volunteer in our hub on a regular basis, volunteer to help with an upcoming build project, organise a food drive to keep our foodbank stocked, donate directly via our website for a child in need at Christmas, organise a fundraising event, or organise a Giving Tree at their place of work (link is on our website).

We wish you and your whānau a safe and happy Christmas season, and we look forward to seeing you in 2025.

