

The **WORD** from **THE STREET**

AUTUMN 2026

Claire finds hope

Journey to homefulness

Wheels of change

Restoring independence

Striking a chord

Hope through music





Your compassion helped Claire find hope on her journey to homefulness



Claire* grew up in New Zealand in the 1960s with her parents and two older siblings. Even as a child, she dreamed of travelling the world.

"I always was this strong woman who was way too independent really - if I think about my poor parents. But they were very proud of me, I was very close to my parents."

Claire didn't know that decades later, after a successful career, she would face homelessness while battling life-threatening illnesses.

After losing her parents at just

twenty, Claire moved overseas to work, eventually settling in Adelaide. When she became seriously ill with heart issues, she worked hard for the next fourteen years to manage her expenses – until she was made redundant.

"I wasn't an Australian citizen, so healthcare was costly. I thought I'd just go and get another job and that would solve it."

But as the COVID pandemic struck, the job market dried up and so did Claire's savings, until she could no longer afford her rental.

"I nearly had to sleep on the streets, but a friend offered for me to stay at her holiday house until I found something."

With no money and worried about overstaying her welcome, Claire turned to Hutt St Centre.

Thanks to your generosity, she received the support she needed to regain stability and begin her homefulness journey.

**Scan the
QR code** ➤
to read more of
Claire's story.



Wheels of change: restoring independence

It all started when Tim, a bicycle mechanic, sent Hutt St Centre an Instagram message.

"I'm looking to give back to the community. If you think there would be capacity for me to come repair bikes, I would be more than happy to do that."

Fast forward almost a year, and Tim has repaired over 100 bikes for people experiencing homelessness.

For many, bikes are an essential form of transport — more affordable than a car and less tiring than walking long distances in unpredictable weather. But when something goes wrong, costly professional repairs are out of reach.

Every fortnight, Tim repairs bikes at Hutt St Centre and teaches riders how to fix their own bikes when problems strike. One avid rider shared:

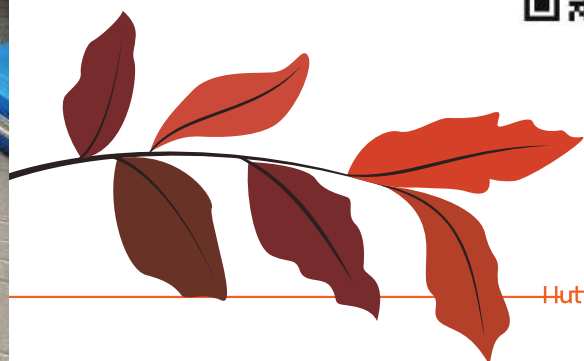
"Getting around on secondhand bikes means things go wrong pretty often. When you're living rough, having the skills to fix your own bike is massive."

Helping at Hutt St Centre has also been a transformative experience for Tim.

"It's been eye-opening to learn that it doesn't take much for people to lose their home."

Thanks to your support, people experiencing homelessness can get Tim's help to ride safely and maintain their independence.

Scan the QR code 
to read more of how Tim is fixing
tyres and restoring confidence.



A Christmas of joy, thanks to you

Your kindness helped turn Christmas Day from one of painful memories and isolation into a celebration of joy, care, and connection. Nearly 200 people shared in the day, including five visiting Hutt St Centre for the very first time.

The room was filled with laughter, conversation, and the warmth of community — a reminder that no one should have to face the holidays alone.

The morning started with a delicious breakfast of ham and cheese croissants, pastries, and hot drinks. Christmas carols played in the background while people enjoyed outdoor games like giant Connect Four.

By lunchtime, everyone found a seat at the table for a festive feast — starting with prawns, followed by roast meats, potatoes, and gravy, and finished off with Christmas cakes and mince pies for dessert.

No one left Hutt St Centre empty-handed. Thanks to your generosity, everyone received a Christmas present filled with treats and a movie voucher, bringing extra smiles and cheer.

Thank you for sharing the spirit of giving and helping create a welcoming community. You made this Christmas truly special for people doing it tough.

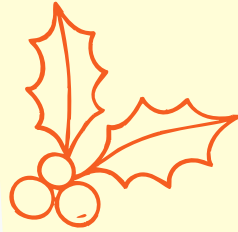
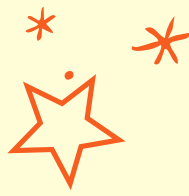


Tom enjoyed a classic roast lunch with all the trimmings thanks to your support.

Our staff team worked hard to make sure everyone felt cared for and supported.



There's a seat at the table for everyone, as the Dining Room fills up with laughter and chatter.



Volunteers giving up time with loved ones to make Christmas Day special for people in need.



Everyone receives a present on Christmas Day, the movie voucher is always a crowd pleaser!



Striking a chord: finding hope and connection through music

Whether it's singing in the shower, belting out tunes in the car, or dancing to your favourite songs – music has a special way of lifting our spirits.

Hutt St Centre's Pathways Officer, Gaye, is well-known for her love of singing at work – but she's not the only one with musical talent! Last year, Gaye started a fortnightly music group at the Centre.

Each session is shaped by the group members, with Gaye supporting them by providing instruments and hot coffee to fuel creativity.

"So far we've enjoyed learning percussion instruments together, playing musical bingo, sharing our favourite songs, and music quizzes – there's a strong competitive streak in the group!"

Music brings people together, but the social connection the group creates is priceless for people who face isolation and loneliness due to homelessness.

One participant shared: *"The camaraderie is great,"* and another said, *"I like the variety of what we do in music group and the feeling of freedom."*

Your generosity is helping create moments of happiness, freedom, and belonging every week. Thanks to your support, people facing homelessness can put aside their worries and embrace the joy and connection that music brings.

Right: Gaye changed the usual program up with a classical music quiz, first to answer correctly won a chocolate!

Below: The music group always have plenty of instruments on hand and enjoy sitting outdoors on pleasant days





Groundbreaking Aspire program helping hundreds rebuild their lives



Helping people journey from homelessness to homefulness is never just about getting a roof over someone's head.

Most people who walk through our doors have experienced trauma or abuse, and many face further violence on the streets. This can lead to, or worsen, struggles with mental illness and substance use for people already doing it tough.

That's where Aspire comes in — a unique three-year program offering specialist homelessness support.

Aspire provides long-term support that helps people overcome complex challenges and find and keep housing. Hutt St Centre CEO, Chris Burns, has seen this impact time and again.

"Aspire has helped hundreds of people break the cycle of homelessness. At a time when the housing crisis is escalating, we're seeing demand grow across every part of our service."

Through Aspire we've been rebuilding families, restoring identities and keeping people alive."

Luke, a promising AFL player, entered the Aspire program while battling alcohol and gambling addiction. After rehab attempts and a period of sleeping rough, Luke was determined to turn his life around. The Aspire team provided counselling and helped him find a safe place to call home.

"Homelessness doesn't discriminate. This program saved my life. I finally feel like I have someone in my corner thanks to Hutt St."

Thanks to your kindness, people in need can come to Hutt St Centre and connect in with programs like Aspire, giving them the support and stability they need to rebuild their lives.



Conversations of change: homelessness education in the community

Annette's passion for education shines brightly in her role as a volunteer Community Speaker, presenting talks about homelessness with schools and community groups.

After retiring in 2021, Annette first joined Hutt St Centre as a volunteer serving lunch to people doing it tough. Today, alongside serving meals, she regularly presents to audiences ranging from 15 to 1,000 people.

"I knew almost nothing about Hutt St Centre and the hardships people go through before I started volunteering. So, sharing my knowledge about homelessness and the services on offer is fantastic. I love it!"

Annette has delivered dozens of talks with real stories of homelessness that help foster understanding and empathy in audiences of all ages.

"The adults I speak to are often surprised and impressed by the range of services. And I love how passionate school students are to make a difference in society – they ask such insightful questions."



Understanding homelessness can be difficult if you don't know anyone personally affected. That's where Annette and the Community Speaking team can help, with audience feedback speaking volumes.

"We really appreciate having Annette out last week – some of the students knew her and have a much stronger understanding of how homelessness impacts South Australia."



If you'd like a talk for your school or community group, **scan the QR code** to find out more.

*While some names and images have been changed for privacy, these stories are very real and reflect how important your generosity is for helping people start their journey towards homelessness.

Join our community
@HuttStCentre / HuttStCentre



Hutt St Centre

end homelessness

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