

One World Partnership

AUGUST 2021



CARITAS CATHOLIC OVERSEAS VOLUNTEER SUPPORTS COOK ISLANDS BISHOP

Julianne Hickey, Director, and Kate Go, Executive Assistant, of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand recently returned from a week's visit to Rarotonga. The purpose of the visit was to accompany a new participant in the Catholic Volunteers Overseas (CVO) programme, Andy Doherty of Christchurch and to check on health and safety processes for Caritas and volunteers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of his CVO assignment Mr Doherty will support the Catholic Bishop of Rarotonga, Paul Donoghue SM, in a range of administrative and managerial tasks. The Caritas visit also included visits to the parishes of St Joseph's and St Mary's, along with visits to the St Joseph's Primary school, Nukutere College, a meeting with the NZ High Commissioner to the Cook Islands, and with a local environmental justice group.

Students and staff celebrate the 125th anniversary since the establishment of St Joseph's Primary School in Cook Islands.

STAFF PROFILE: YOUNG CARITAS

The average age at Caritas has declined markedly in recent months with the inclusion of students and young people securing their first employment opportunity. This increase in diversity helps to create a culture of encounter where new ideas are welcomed and considered on their merits.

What do you most enjoy about working at Caritas?

"I am part of the communications team and I love hearing about the amazing stories that come from our partners working on the ground. These stories breathe life into our organisation and bring real joy to my work. The stories connect our work in the Caritas office to the work that is being implemented by our partners in their





L-R: Te Po, Mareta, Matthew, Sophie, Craig and Hannah.

local communities. I consider it a real privilege to have the job of sharing these stories with you and our community of supporters. I hope that hearing these stories of love in action can bring you the same sense of hope and joy that I experience when I first hear them.” – **Craig (Engagement team)**

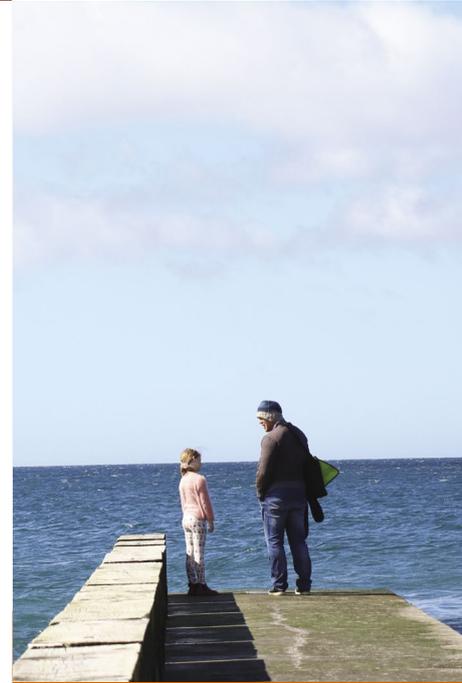
“One of the things I enjoy most about working at Caritas is networking with other young people both in our small Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand office and also with the wider Caritas youth network around the world. One of the highlights over the past three years was definitely meeting his holiness Pope Francis, however just as special was getting to meet other young people overseas who I am grateful to continue networking with in both a professional and personal capacity today. My work here at Caritas has opened a lot of doors both in the workplace and also on a personal level. It has been great getting to work alongside other young people who are also driven to work towards a fair and just world”. - **Mareta (Engagement team).**

“Working at Caritas I have really enjoyed linking into a worldwide network of people focused responding to emergencies around the world and helping the poor the marginalized by putting their catholic faith into action. It has also given me the space and time to grow in my knowledge of Te Ao Māori and Aotearoa’s history which I did not get to learn in school.” –

Matthew (Resource team)

“I am currently interning at CARITAS as part of my honour’s degree in Religious Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. My job is to work with the team here to help draft an environmental action plan for the organisation. This was an amazing opportunity to work alongside incredibly skilled people and learn from their experience. This has been my first experience in an office environment, and I have really appreciated how helpful and welcoming everyone has been”. – **Hannah (Engagement team)**

“I joined Caritas in February 2021 and have found such a wide variety of things I enjoy about working here. From my first day I felt like I was treated as one of the family. I am consistently impressed with the way that our organisation lives its values. I see people everyday who are incredible examples of love in action, and who demonstrate kindness, compassion and understanding in all that they do.” - **Sophie (Resource team)**



Remembering Caritas in your Will

Including a gift in your will to Caritas will carry forth a legacy of compassion while helping poor and vulnerable communities around the world. If you have arranged to make a gift to us, we would love to hear about it so that we can thank you personally and perhaps discuss how we might invest your future gift. Telling us about your bequest also helps us to plan better for the future of our work. You can contact us on 0800 22 10 22 or email caritas@caritas.org.nz