



5 May 2020

## Media Release

### Helping the most vulnerable in our community

Northland Community Foundation (NCF) through its Northland COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund is helping the most vulnerable in our community. NCF has just granted funds to One Double Five Community House for their 155 Open Arms service so that they can continue to feed the homeless and many vulnerable families in Whangarei.

155 Open Arms – Te Ruruau Onga Ringa Ringa Tuwhera is the day care centre in Whangarei that provides food, shelter and other services for people who are homeless or living rough. It is a place where people in crisis can connect with various health, housing and community services.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is an increasing need for food parcels for vulnerable families and daily meals among the homeless in Whangarei.

*“The requests for food parcels within our 155 Open Arms service have increased three-fold,” said CEO Liz Cassidy-Nelson. “We would appreciate support for our food bank so that we are able to continue providing this valuable service.”*

Funds will also go towards providing daily meals for the homeless to consume off-site (takeaways), and for those that One Double Five is unable to house but continue to be living rough. On average, around 36 people receive meals prepared at the 155 Open Arms Day Centre to take away daily.

*“We envisage an ongoing demand on this service, particularly as the vulnerability within our community has increased due to loss of income and employment,” Liz Cassidy-Nelson commented.*

Multicultural Whangarei has also received a grant to help new migrants and international students who do not qualify for government support and are now unemployed during this time of crisis. It is providing food vouchers and mobile top-up vouchers to these vulnerable groups so that they are not isolated and do not fall through the cracks.

#### Northland Community Foundation

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*"There is a high need for support during this difficult and challenging time,"* said Jessie Manney, Manager of Multicultural Whangarei. *"Many migrant cultures find it hard to ask for help, and when they do finally ask, they are in real desperate need. If we can provide them some help with the basics like food, it will make a huge difference to their lives."*

Migrants can be isolated even in good times and Multicultural Whangarei strives to help them feel included and a part of the Northland community through workshops, seminars and gatherings.

*"For those without telephones or internet connectivity, they are even more isolated and lonely. We would like to help them stay connected to both their local community and their overseas families,"* Jessie Manney added.

If you are thinking of helping the most vulnerable in our community, do consider giving to the Northland COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.

You can help make a difference in someone's life!



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**Give now to the Northland COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.**

**Donate to <https://northlandcommunityfoundation.org.nz/donate/>**

**Visit <https://northlandcommunityfoundation.org.nz/giving/funds/northland-covid-19-emergency-response-fund/> or <https://www.facebook.com/northlandclf/> to find out more.**

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