



Communicare Friendship Centres

Mission Statement

To actively improve the quality of life for seniors by providing support and companionship in Friendship Centres.

Vision

To conserve, promote and advance generally the social welfare, physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of isolated senior persons within the Auckland community.

How it all began...

In 1958 the Civilian Maimed Association, which began under the name of Civilian Maimed and Limbless, had very small beginnings, which could be likened to a tiny acorn trying to thrust its way through to the surface to eventually grow and blossom into a large tree with many branches.

(Extract from the 1984 CMA Silver Jubilee Publication)



A Trip down Memory Lane...



Telethon 1982!

The largest grant received by CMA Auckland (at that time) was from the Telethon of 1982, whose theme had been the International Year of the Disabled.

The grant was given for the purchase of 2 cars used by the Social Workers (now Field Officers), a copier to enable the craft teachers to distribute patterns, and for the office, to provide hand-bills and in-house printing.



Governor-General (1980 – 1985) Sir David and Lady Beattie, join members for a day at the races Ellerslie Race Course '84, with CMA President Joyce Stevenson (left) and Chairman, Bev Holloway (right)

Fighting loneliness neighbourhood

By JACKIE MASON

Combating the loneliness of disability and helping handicapped people to feel useful again — that's what the Civilian Maimed Association has been doing in New Zealand for 15 years.

So far there are only eight branches of the organization in New Zealand and all of them are in the North Island. But it is only a matter of time before the organization's influence spreads.

The society has about 1400 "guests" suffering from disabilities of all kinds — heart disease, multiple sclerosis,

paralysis resulting from injuries or strokes, blindness, Parkinson's disease, spasticity and any other complaint that in any way can be said to be disabling.

Every Monday some 40 handicapped people arrive at the Grammar School Old Boys Rugby Club hall in Porirua for a meeting.

"They all love coming here," says organizer Miss Alice Jones. "It makes a break from the usual monotony — for many of them it is the only outing they get."

A team of 30 or so helpers, from their 20s to almost 90, prepare the hall in advance, setting out tables with handicrafts and preparing morning tea.

Transport is always a problem for a group of this

kind. One woman, a paraplegic, is brought by ambulance but the association has a fleet of private cars to pick up others.

On arrival they are given morning tea and their handicrafts taken out. The association tries to offer something to suit everyone — some paint, others weave, plastic covers for coat hangers, make case baggies or knit.

"We try to get them to change activities and introduce new ones so they won't get bored," says Miss Jones. "But many of them just won't swap. Basket work is especially popular."

After a morning's work lunch is served and the group settles down to a quiet afternoon. Some continue

their handicrafts but many just sit and talk. Someone plays the piano for them and at two o'clock the cars return to ferry them back to their respective homes.

"Some of them really hate going home," says Miss Jones. "The atmosphere here is so warm and friendly that everyone fits in. Age doesn't matter, either. Most of the guests are older, but

"We have a weekly trading table where the members bring along whatever they can spare—a jar of jam or some flowers, some sell the things they make at the meetings. That provides a little money and we also have a stall at our once yearly 'open day'."

"This year we're having a second stall at the Parnell

near Old Bess built a new club hall and took the piano out of this one. We were all tremendously disappointed and thought about trying to buy a replacement, then right out of the blue three people came forward and donated a new one."

All the committee members for the association stress the great improvement in



An early newspaper article describes the need to fight loneliness for seniors in the community. One guest is quoted as saying "It is the highlight of the whole week"

The photo shows a group of volunteers chatting to members at the basket weaving table.

In another article, circa 1984, Mrs Dorothy Rudd is described as an 82 year old who cares for others many years younger than herself. Every Thursday she would pick up a few of Meadowbank's elderly people and drive them to the Meadowbank Centre. She had been doing this for 9 years and is quoted as saying, "the centres are mutually beneficial. The helpers get as much enjoyment out of it as the guests."

The picture below is art tutor, Mrs Freda Young, helping a guest who is trying his hand at painting.





Civilian Maimed Will Benefit

“For nearly a year disabled people at the Civilian Maimed Association’s 26 Auckland Centres have been learning how to make toys.

The fruits of their labour will go on display ... at the Arts Centre in Pakuranga...”

The article goes on to say, “The display is also to increase public awareness of the association’s work. All of the 250 items are for sale with the funds raised to be used to run the centres. All of the centres are run with voluntary help, and we could always do with more.”

(Extract from newspaper article circa 1982 – and the need for voluntary help and increased public awareness continues to be as vital today, if not moreso).

Volunteers

Volunteers are the life blood of Communicare



Councillor Denise Lee was on hand to congratulate Volunteers who have provided over 160 years of service to Communicare between them

Communicare depend on the generosity of more than 300 individuals who volunteer their time to assist in the day-to-day running of the various centres.

Some of our volunteers have been with Communicare for more than 50 years!

Outings



Friendship Centres

Each centre is open one morning a week Monday to Thursday
9.30 am - 1.00 pm (except school and public holidays).

There is an annual subscription of \$20.00 per annum and a daily fee of \$6.00.

Events – Communicare run a number of events, including the biennial Bowling Tournament and Olympic games, where centres compete in an atmosphere of friendly rivalry.





Our Staff



Communicare's head office is staffed by a small, dedicated team who bring a wealth of experience to their roles

Field Officers



Sudha Bhana
General Manager



Eileen Asbury
Craft Therapist



Linda Borman
West Auckland



Marie Hunt
South Auckland



Robyn Liddle
East & Central
Auckland



Sharon Tang
Accounts Executive



Maree Folwell
Admin/Marketing
Support Officer



Viv Muir
Fundraiser

Coordinators

There are 12 centre coordinators, some of whom run 3 or 4 centres, and some who have been with Communicare for over 40 years.



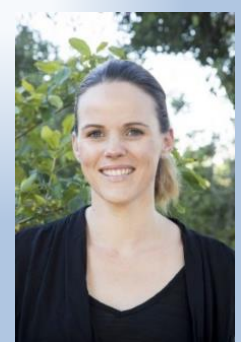
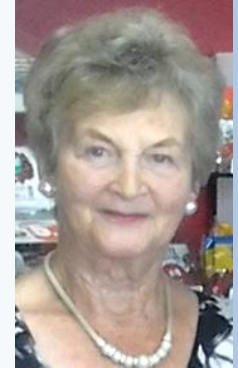
Communicare Board



Communicare is governed by an active board comprising of experts in diverse fields such as management, finance, marketing, legal, healthcare and architecture, some with many years experience in the not-for-profit sector.

The board members share a common passion of spending their time volunteering to make a difference to the community.

Communicare maintains a high standard of governance that meet the most stringent standards set by the DHB's and government regulations.



Many thanks to our Major Funders and Supporters

MAJOR COMMUNITY FUNDERS

- Auckland City
- COGS
- COGS Lotteries
- Foundation North
- Lion Foundation
- Manukau City
- Manurewa Local Board
- Maugakiekie Local Board
- Mt Wellington Foundation Ltd
- Papatoetoe Local Board
- Mangere Local Board
- Whau Local Board
- Papakura Local Board



DISTRICT HEALTH BOARDS

- Auckland DHB
- Counties Manukau DHB
- Waitemata DHB

A random selection of crafts,
activities and wonderful people































How to Support Communicare



How you can support Communicare

Communicare receives minimal government funding and relies on fees, donations and fundraising activities to provide services to its members.

You can make a difference to the lives of hundreds of seniors with our trusted brand, seize the opportunity to demonstrate social responsibility and engage through any of the following options.

Possibilities to consider:

- Sponsor an event; Communicare Olympics, Bowling Tournament, Movie or similar
- Financial support toward operational expenses
- Donation of Product(s) or services
- Advertise in the Member's Service Directory, which is featured in our newsletter and published quarterly
- Organise an event that engages employees and customers to create awareness of Communicare and its services to the community