



**ASB Community Trust**

*Te Kaitiaki Putea o Tamaki o Tai Tokerau*

supported by **ASB**



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Big benefits from home insulation

# TRUSTLINE



DECEMBER 2011



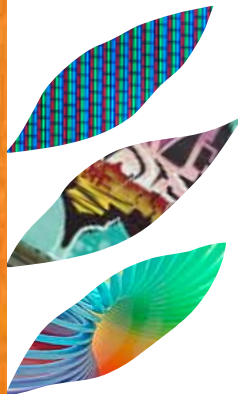
## From the CEO's desk:

Warm Pacific greetings and welcome to the December 2011 edition of TrustLine.

As we all prepare for the festive season ahead, the Trust can to look back on a year that has been challenging, but successful, with the Trust able to support the essential work of community organisations in our region.

In this edition you can read about some of those highlights, including the hugely successful home insulation project the Trust has helped fund over the past five years.

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**From the CEO's desk, continued from page 1:**

The Trust has now committed a total of \$11m to this project and every dollar we put in attracts \$3 of Government funding, allowing us to multiply the impact of philanthropy.

The results of the insulation scheme have been significant. Where we insulate the homes of children and the elderly suffering chronic illness, their homes are made dryer, warmer and consequently healthier. It's absolutely clear that when you insulate the home of a child constantly entering hospital with bronchitis or asthma, the hospital admissions just fall away. The difference is phenomenal.

We are also seeing a significant impact from Trust funding around the issue of educational underachievement. In this edition you can read about the Starpath project, which is already turning around secondary school results.

In my speech at this year's annual public meeting I made a point of explaining that we are increasingly basing our funding policies on research, which will show where the greatest need lies. As the Trust prepares for its next five year strategic plan, these evaluations are also giving us clear evidence of how effective projects have been.

I am pleased to be able to share some of those results with you in this edition of our newsletter.

*Jennifer Gill  
Trust CEO*



## Public meetings

A big turnout at both of the Trust's public meetings this year showed strong community interest in our work.

Both the Auckland meeting in Eden Park and the Dargaville meeting in Oturei Marae had around 300 people attending and the challenging questions put to Trustees showed that the not-for-profit sector understands the strategic nature of the Trust's funding efforts.

Trust CEO Jennifer Gill told the meetings that there was increasing demand for grants.

"We are finding that we can't be everything to everybody," she said. "The Trust can probably meet about 50% of the funds asked for."

She also explained how the Trust has been developing its granting priorities.

"We are increasingly basing our funding policies on the research we've done on where the greatest need lies in the community and, increasingly, we are funding evaluation so we can know whether the projects we fund have been effective."

She told the meetings that the Trust wants to work in partnership with community organisations.

"In some cases we're able to give multi-year funding grants and we are also looking to see where communities are able to contribute."

Jennifer told the meetings that the Trust continues to learn more about how community groups operate.

"You're definitely becoming smarter about how you apply for grants and you are looking for partners. We see a greater need for collaboration, both between funders, but also with and between community groups, so that we are collectively using the funding resources we have for the best possible impact."

Jennifer's full presentation is available as an audio podcast on the Trust's website:

[www.asbcommunitytrust.org.nz/news-publications/audio-interviews](http://www.asbcommunitytrust.org.nz/news-publications/audio-interviews)



## Survey shows fraud falling

Fraud in the not-for-profit sector continues to decrease, according to a survey by accounting firm BDO.

Fifteen per cent of respondents to its survey said they had suffered a fraud in 2010, down from 16% in 2008 and 19% in 2006. A total of 272 not-for-profit organisations took part in the survey, 22% of them from New Zealand, the rest from Australia. The survey is run every two years and the latest results will be released early next year.

BDO said the greatest number of frauds was in the social services sector, with the most common method (24%) being cash theft.

The 42 organisations that reported a fraud had 75 instances, with the total amount of fraud valued at \$1.1m and averaging \$14,291 per offence. Thirteen of those cases were in New Zealand, worth a total of \$515,800.

The majority of survey respondents said they did not report the fraud to police and 36% of organisations did not terminate the employment of the person who committed the fraud. Of the organisations that suffered fraud, 67% said they did not recover any of the funds.

BDO said the survey identified internal controls and tip-offs as the most effective way of discovering fraud, while strong internal controls, ethical organisational culture and external audits were seen as the best ways to reduce the risk.

The survey profiled the typical fraudster as someone in their 30s or 40s who is in a paid

non-accounting role in the organisation. Financial pressure and maintaining a lifestyle were the most common motivators for the fraud.

BDO said the survey was not designed to highlight the level of fraud, but to raise awareness about the issue and to help organisations understand how to protect themselves.

“The results of the survey indicate that the sector has not only increased its awareness of fraud risks, but has benefitted from improving their internal control environment to help reduce fraud,” BDO said.

A full copy of the survey is now available on the ASB Community Trust website:

[www.asbcommunitytrust.org.nz/research-resources/fraud-survey-results](http://www.asbcommunitytrust.org.nz/research-resources/fraud-survey-results)

“The results of the survey indicate that the sector has not only increased its awareness of fraud risks, but has benefitted from improving their internal control environment to help reduce fraud.”

BDO



## Work continues on Trust's home

The Trust expects to move back to its historic home, Allendale in Auckland's Ponsonby suburb, by the middle of next year.

Constructed in 1892, the building is being structurally reinforced to improve its earthquake resistance, the slate roof is being replaced and a sprinkler system is being installed.

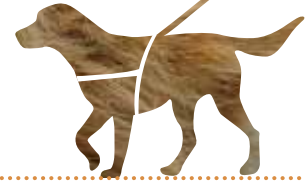
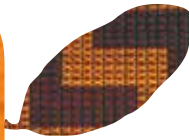
Meanwhile, demolition work is to start on the annexe used for Board meetings and to house the grants staff. It will be replaced by a modern office building big enough to house most of the Trust's staff and to host Board and community meetings.

During investigative work for the premises' upgrade it was discovered that the annexe, built over 20 years ago, was clad in the monolithic materials responsible for leaky home problems and the roof needed major structural support repairs. It was decided to take the opportunity to modernise the annexe while staff were out of the building.

While the work is underway, staff are temporarily based at 8 College Hill, Freemans Bay, Auckland. Our telephone, email and postal details remain the same.



The Annexe, right, is to be replaced



## Health benefits from warm homes

More than 3300 Auckland and Northland homes have been insulated this year courtesy of a \$3.5 million ASB Community Trust grant and funding from the Government's Warm Up New Zealand: Heat Smart insulating and heating programme.

In 2007, the Trust made a \$10m multi-year commitment to the retro-fitting programme administered by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA). Since then, houses have been insulated under the Snug Homes, Warm n' Well, and Healthy Homes Tai Tokerau insulation projects. By the end of 2012 a total

of 10,000 houses will be insulated through this initiative.

In its latest report to the Trust, EECA said insulating houses built before the year 2000 is increasing energy efficiency, making houses cheaper to heat and preventing the illnesses caused by cold and damp living conditions.

The report noted that Health Minister Tony Ryall recently announced that Warm Up New Zealand: Heat Smart is the most significant public health initiative in the last decade.

EECA said the insulation work the ASB Community Trust has helped to fund since 2008 is likely to provide \$27.5m in energy savings and \$70m in health benefits over the expected lifetime of the insulation.

"Funding from the ASB Community Trust has been critical to achieving

these health and energy benefits in Auckland and the Far North," said EECA Chief Executive Mike Underhill.

"Their significant contribution over the past four years has also inspired EECA in its search for third-party funding around the rest of New Zealand."

The project has also had important employment and environmental benefits, creating skilled jobs and reducing energy demand.

This year the Trust committed an extra \$1m to help insulate houses in Northland, under the Healthy Homes Tai Tokerau project, taking total ASB Community Trust funding for the projects to \$11m.

[energywise.govt.nz/funding-available/insulation-and-clean-heating](http://energywise.govt.nz/funding-available/insulation-and-clean-heating)



## A sound partner

Casper, a Hearing Dog for deaf people, has become a regular visitor at the ASB Community Trust's office since he took up his duties with new owner Ursula Becroft-Thynne.

Ursula is the daughter of Trust staff member Moi Becroft and often calls in to visit. And Casper feels right at home, having been part of the staff team for a few weeks earlier this year when Ursula was overseas at a conference.

Ursula became deaf after contracting meningitis as a baby, so Casper is trained to alert her to everyday noises such as when the alarm clock goes off, telephone calls or a knock on the door. He will also warn her if a smoke or fire alarm goes off.

"Hearing Dogs like Casper are specially trained to alert their owner to sounds by gently pawing them and then leading them to the sound," says Ursula. "If there is a smoke or

fire alarm, they will lie down directly under the sound, alerting you to immediate danger."

The dogs are trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People in New Zealand and there are now about 50 registered dogs working throughout the country. In recent years ASB Community Trust grants have helped with operating costs, training and building upgrades.

Hearing Dogs NZ staff interview potential recipients in their home to make sure everything is suitable. The new owners then visit the organisation's national training centre in New Plymouth for training before they take the dog home.

"Hearing Dogs have rights of public access, so Casper comes everywhere with me in his official yellow jacket," Ursula says. "It's great, because people quickly understand that I am Deaf when they see Casper in his jacket, so they make an effort to speak directly to me, which makes it easier to lip-read."

Ursula says the Hearing Dogs are an incredible gift to people in the Deaf community. "Having Casper has changed my life for the better," she says. "He really is part of the family now."

[hearingdogs.org.nz](http://hearingdogs.org.nz)



Ursula says hearing dogs are an incredible gift to people in the Deaf community



## Overcoming adversity and being transformed

High school students are being taught how to overcome adversity through a new programme being run in Auckland schools this year.

Called 'I have, I am, I can'; it aims to help teenagers who are struggling with achieving personally and/or within the school setting.

"We identify their strengths, what resources are available to them and clarify their goals, build confidence and develop their resiliency," says Home & Family Counselling facilitator Shelley Anderson.

"We look at risk-taking and decision-making, overcoming

adversity, feelings and emotions, communication, student aspirations and what is blocking them from achieving their goals."

The six week course works with up to 14 students from a high school, both girls and boys, and this year this programme has been delivered in four colleges with a total of 42 students. The groups are facilitated by two qualified counsellors.

"The Youth Health & Development Fund high engagement model with ASB Community Trust has enabled us to have the resources to put in place high levels of participatory evaluation as a way of developing our programme and ascertaining whether what we are offering is effective for youth," Shelley says.

"We have engaged with teachers and parents, where consent was given,

and some of the feedback from these sources has had a great impact on young people, sometimes moving them to tears as they hear the encouragement and positive feedback."

Shelley says the funding model not only gave Home & Family Counselling an opportunity to develop and implement a programme, but gave it support in terms of agency development regarding all youth programmes and support with agency capacity development.

"It has been a very successful first year and we are excited to be able to offer these programmes over the next two years under this funding partnership," she says.

 [homeandfamily.org.nz](http://homeandfamily.org.nz)

## World-class facilities unveiled

The Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki has undergone a major restoration and expansion, transforming the building into a world-class cultural facility.

Opened in the beginning of September 2011, the building's \$121m upgrade now allows visitors to experience New Zealand's largest art collection in a gallery that has undergone heritage restoration as well as strengthening, expansion and modernisation.

The project was helped by grants worth a total of \$6.5m from ASB Community Trust in 2005 and 2006. Other contributions came from the Auckland Art Gallery Foundation's fund-raising efforts, from central government and from Auckland Council.

The refurbishment, with its dramatic atrium and soaring kauri canopies, provides the city with an international-standard gallery space. With more than 100% increase in space for the collections and exhibitions, it has improved lighting and sound, a more environmentally-friendly design and dedicated teaching areas. There are family-friendly interactive spaces and a unique Maori design dimension is visible throughout.

ASB Community Trust is proud to be part of providing our region with another legacy project, which now stands alongside

the Auckland Museum, MOTAT and Eden Park projects the Trust has helped fund in recent years.

Further north, in Kaitaia, another legacy project is being celebrated, with the building of Te Ahu, the regions new community facilities project.

A grant of \$3m from the Trust helped build the \$14m facility, with other funding coming from Lottery Community Facilities Fund, Kaitaia Community Forest Trust, Juken NZ Ltd, Pub Charity, Te Hiku Community Board, Oxford Trust and the Far North District Council amongst others.

When complete, Te Ahu will house a museum, library, café, public spaces, video conference and meetings rooms, a computer classroom, local council offices and iSITE in addition to the refurbishment of the existing theatre, community hall, banquet room, outdoor areas and kitchen. Te Ahu is due to open in early 2012.

Auckland now has another world-class cultural facility





## Software donated

The TechSoup programme recently provided ASB Community Trust with \$33,300 worth of donated Microsoft products, allowing the Trust to upgrade its server system and deploy Microsoft Office 2010 on computers.

Trust CEO Jennifer Gill commended Microsoft on its “imaginative and generous programme that we know makes such a difference to the non-profit sector.”

“As a grant making philanthropic trust we are at pains to ensure that we are able to maximise our assistance to the communities of Auckland and Northland and Microsoft’s donation has given us the software we need to get the job done.”

The donation programme offers a range of hardware and software to New Zealand charities, voluntary and community groups. Organisations can access the latest products from companies including Microsoft, Symantec and Kaspersky as either donations or at discount prices.

Microsoft’s Community Affairs Manager, Belinda Gorman, said that in the past three years her company had donated \$17 million worth of software to more than 1300 not-for-profit organisations across the country.

“This signals to us a growing demand from the sector for better access to these tools,” she said. “We are committed to making technology accessible to the non-profit sector in New Zealand.

“We are committed to making technology accessible to the non-profit sector in New Zealand. We believe technology can be an amazing tool to advance social change.”

*Belinda Gorman  
Community Affairs Manager, Microsoft*

We believe technology can be an amazing tool to advance social change.”

The TechSoup New Zealand Programme is provided by Social Development Partners in partnership with Connecting Up Australia.

[techsoup.net.nz](http://techsoup.net.nz)

## Saving families from eviction

Kaitiaki’s He Korowai Trust saves families from eviction when their homes are subject to a mortgagee sale.

CEO Ricky Houghton says the organisation has stepped in to save over 500 family homes and only three have been lost.

“We have a group of skilled people in our Homelessness Intervention Team who save family homes from mortgagee sales around the Far North,” he says. “They save the homes, save the families money and avoid homelessness.”

By providing a combination of budgeting advice, intervention and advocacy, He Korowai Trust has seen more than 630 families improving their financial situation.

“We are a service of last resort,” says Ricky. “They must be refused help

from everywhere else, so people see us as an oasis of hope. We’re very proud that we’re able to help.”

However, success has created more demand and, with 65 mortgagee sales on its books already and two more added each week, the organisation’s small team has been struggling.

“We’ve reached saturation point,” admits Ricky, “but now a grant from ASB Community Trust is going to help us build our capacity and improve our capability.”

He Korowai’s work is one of the projects being funded this year under the Trust’s Community Housing Projects Fund. A grant will allow it to train more staff so it has the capacity to meet the growing demand.

ASB Community Trust set up this fund in recognition of housing’s fundamental value in quality of life. It is a core factor in the health and wellbeing of families and the development of strong communities. The fund supports community organisations delivering innovative

pilot projects aiming to prevent or solve homelessness, or the need for emergency housing.

The Community Housing Projects Fund is for innovative projects aiming to address the emergency housing needs of youth, women, Māori and the Pacific community.

Another organisation being funded is Lifewise, which is using multiple approaches to tackle the problems of homelessness in central Auckland; approaches which can be replicated in any location. It pulls together whatever agencies are required to form a pathway to housing and inclusion.

Lifewise promotes intensive case management, providing a one-stop-shop where a range of social support agencies, including government departments, can develop multi-agency case management strategies, arrange crisis accommodation, or other intervention options.

[asbcommunitytrust.org.nz/funding/what-we-fund/community-wellbeing/community-housing-projects](http://asbcommunitytrust.org.nz/funding/what-we-fund/community-wellbeing/community-housing-projects)





## Education intervention has dramatic impact

A research project is dramatically transforming educational outcomes for students who are under-achieving at secondary school and under-represented in tertiary education.

The Starpath project, a Partnership for Excellence run by The University of Auckland, has conducted extensive research and implemented strategies in partnership with five pilot schools since 2005 and is now working with over 20 schools throughout Auckland and Northland. During phase one, the project saw dramatic increases in NCEA results in each of the pilot schools. One school has increased its Level 3 NCEA results by 18%, while another has taken its Level 1 pass rate from 40% to 60% and its Level 2 rate from 40% to 58%.

The project's redesigned parent-student-teacher conferencing has also had a significant impact, with parent attendance increasing from around 20% to between 70% and 86% in each pilot school and feedback from parents being overwhelmingly positive. In addition, students have made at least one year's gain in literacy levels.

Starpath has been running since 2005 and received \$1.55m in funding support from ASB Community Trust in 2006. Now, under the Trust's Māori and Pacific Education Initiative (MPEI), a further \$1.5m has been committed to support the project over the next five years.

Statistics show that one in five New Zealand students leave school with no qualifications, for Pacific students it is one in four and for Māori, one in three. However, the Starpath project has identified key changes that can be made to help turn those statistics around.

This includes:

- A longitudinal database to track student achievement
- Ways to use evidence-based decisions about a student's progress, such as target setting and academic support
- Using an evidence-based approach to literacy interventions.

In the next stage Starpath will extend its programme to 40 schools in Auckland and Northland, develop a toolkit for other schools wanting to use the model, providing them with a strategic, evidence-based approach to improving educational outcomes. It will work with schools in analysing

and using data to provide academic counselling and enhance achievement. It will also work with school leaders to bring parents and whānau into the process of setting educational goals for their children.

Starpath is the first project to be funded under stage two of MPEI, but three other projects will soon be announced.

Stage one of MPEI saw six organisations funded so they could work to improve educational outcomes for the Māori and Pacific communities. Over the past three years the Trust has committed in excess of \$13 million to this initiative.

[www.asbcommunitytrust.org.nz/education-initiative](http://www.asbcommunitytrust.org.nz/education-initiative)



Starpath is dramatically transforming educational outcomes



## Participation rate doubles

Participation levels have more than doubled under a junior development programme run by AFL New Zealand this year.

The organisation, which aims to increase participation in Australian Football, ran two new programmes this year after ASB Community Trust granted \$40,000 towards the costs.

As a result, 16,504 players joined in the eight-week AFL KiwiKick programme — up from 7,864 the year before. A further 13,719 students received an AFL KiwiKick introductory taster session.

Meanwhile, the Hawks Cup has grown from a junior competition in 2010 to include both a junior and senior secondary school competition in 2011. This has seen 931 participants take part in the six week programme and a further 4000 students received a Hawks Cup taster session.

“Thanks to ASB Community Trust's support, we have given our sport a significant impetus in showcasing and introducing children between the ages of 5 to 17 to AFL,” says AFL New Zealand CEO Robert Vanstam.

[aflnz.co.nz](http://www.aflnz.co.nz)



Children are introduced to the AFL programme

