

Helping the Sallies care for others The Salvation Army and SocialLink

The Salvation Army Tauranga Community Ministries has made the most of its connections with SocialLink and the training and mentoring it can provide.

Community Ministries Manager Davina Plummer says SocialLink is a great support for all of its team.

She says the Salvation Army's purpose is to "care for people, transform lives and reform society".

"We do this through social support – providing tangible welfare needs, social work and advocacy, financial mentoring, microfinance loans, parenting and personal development courses, counselling and transitional housing.

"We have really appreciated a number of SocialLink services."

Davina has undertaken mentoring with Ciska Vogelzang, SocialLink's former organisational advisor, and has also completed the Great Managers course with Vanessa. This has improved her managerial skills and given her insights into helping her team be the best it can be.

"Our team has also attended the Cultural Induction at Huria Marae."

The Salvation Army has also made use of SocialLink for practical skills training for several of its staff.

"Our receptionist and loans worker completed the recent Communications course. Last year our receptionist attended the Excel training."

Davina attended the planning meeting which was held for the Digital Divide as well as the recent launch of the Western Bay of Plenty branch of the Child Poverty Action Group.

"Our transitional housing staff regularly attend the Homelessness Provider Network facilitated by Charlotte and we have also hosted this at our own venue.

"Liz Flaherty has reviewed our data processes for a project on social sector data insights." This has given the organisation a better understanding of what information they have and how to use it to benefit their clients in the community.

SocialLink has provided valuable resources for everyone working for the Tauranga branch, Davina says.

"SocialLink has provided great opportunities for our team to develop and grow our capabilities. SocialLink has been able to source excellent training and make it available to our workers at an affordable rate."

The wide range of training and development available, offered at a manageable cost, has greatly assisted the Salvation Army to boost its capabilities within its team.

“Without SocialLink's support, we would not be able to access these much-needed resources, as well as providing opportunities for us to connect with others in the social sector,” Davina says.

“This means our united efforts and voices can reach further for the benefit of the people in our communities.”

Photo: Some of the team who have benefited from SocialLink training - Gill Overmire, Liz Walsh, Malia Soifua Tupou Pearson, Davina Plummer and Corneli Hill.