

STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY **May.2021**

CONNECTIONS

INTER COMMUNITY MEETING AND OUTING



Rex Wilmschurst, member of the board of directors, highlighted the development that HOPE has had in the past few years. Three years ago, Rex helped collect bakery and pastry goods that HOPE distributed to families in need.

Currently, the HOPE organization has been blessed by its partners with the opportunity to provide a variety of food that is part of a balanced diet.

"Now we are able to supply vegetables, fruits, meat - a lot of variety. We expanded and we have been delivering food on Thursday to people without cars."

During the lockdowns in Auckland, the foundation has distributed food directly to the homes of the beneficiaries, which has helped dozens of families not able to drive. Rex hopes that with new aid and donations HOPE can continue growing and provide more education and solidarity projects.



SOCIAL GATHERING AND FUN DAY- HAMILTON

The social integration meeting of HOPE World-Wide Pakistan was held in Hamilton. Social activists from different origins, immigrants, refugees, volunteers and social workers were invited to share a day of fun and Pakistani food.

Dr. Malik Khurran, founder and director of HOPE, shared with the audience the main goal of the organisation and what it has achieved. The organisation's different programmes focus on eradicating poverty and supporting vulnerable members of our community in New Zealand, especially underprivileged populations such as refugees or people who are victims of persecution or discrimination in Thailand and Pakistan. HOPE helps people who need assistance to integrate and realise their potential, providing them with aid in education and food.

HOPE rescues food from different sources, that would otherwise be wasted, and gives it to families in need. The organisation shared a video, introducing some beneficiary families as well as some of the social integration and education events held during 2020 and 2021.

"Be able to keep the food bank going but also to be able to afford to have workshops to teach people skills... We host workshops in Pakistan, but we need to be able to do more of that. We are empowering people to live better and to have skills and their own money."

CONNECTIONS

FAMILIES CONNECTIONS AND FUN DAY



"I'm very proud that this organisation (HOPE Worldwide) belongs to Pakistan, and it was established in Pakistan first before it came to New Zealand. The work they are doing is great, and I hope in the future we will be able to do something together," says Ali Shabbir, PANZ Waikato.



Joanne Xie is a Chinese community leader and always participates in performances promoting social integration and celebrating differences between the cultures. She is proud to collaborate with HOPE: "I think that HOPE has done a very great job because they help people every week. Maori, Indian, Chinese are sharing together."



Hamilton's Christian community was also invited to the event. Javaid Ummer Nasire, who has lived in New Zealand for more than 23 years, is happy to see the smart ways HOPE has brought people from different backgrounds together and how it searches for opportunities where everyone gives and receives support: "I would be happy to give my services to HOPE if they want to expand to Hamilton," Javaid said.

The Pakistani community was also represented through the organisation PANZ (Pakistan Association of New Zealand) in Waikato. It has represented the Pakistani-Kiwi community since 1989, and shares common goals with HOPE such as the integration of communities from different countries in New Zealand and the aid it gives to refugees and immigrants

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At the event, spectators saw a moving video about HOPE's work during the pandemic. Families benefiting from the Food watch programme appreciated the help, and the social and cultural integration work that the organisation has been carrying out. In addition, the volunteers and collaborators were recognised for their work and dedication.