



## FaceBook / Website Post, re Food Supply during Covid-19 Lock-down

It's taken me weeks to be able to share this with you as we've honestly been that busy. It really is a crazy time.

As an organisation, we wanted to make sure we got help out to our members where it was needed, for any family that needed it.

You know how the saying goes – it takes a village. I wanted to take this opportunity to show you just what our village is doing during this unprecedented time, and to thank them, sincerely, for their assistance in the wellbeing of our beloved families.

It started with a desire to source supply, an idea of where to start, and a tentative plan. Then, an impromptu conversation about something entirely different, and a lady who didn't hesitate to offer AND pulled out all the stops in a very quick turnaround, to supply us with this – and entire BOOTLOAD of food supplies - this all happened very quickly on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of March. I got it all bagged-up and ready and out to the courier for Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> - this is day 2 of the lock-down.

Krysta Hagen and the members of Mission North, we thank you sincerely.  
We got this distributed, to x9 of our families that day.



From there, we worked with LoveSoup. Julie King, Maggie Chan, Sue French, Andrew Smallman, Kiri Beeston, Rusty, Danny Battershill, Verna Lepou, Richard Ransfield and aaaaaalllllll the volunteers that make this place hum, we are incredibly grateful.

This is from day 4 (the 29<sup>th</sup> March), and was ongoing.

We reached x6 families that first day of pick-up and distribution (day 4 of lockdown), and continue to get support out to our members as often as we can, which is just fantastic!

Here's how it's gone with LoveSoup so far:

29<sup>th</sup> March - x6 families on day 4

2<sup>nd</sup> April - x7 on day 8, including a random stranger who was getting water from a tap ☺

3<sup>rd</sup> April - x14 on day 9, including 2 of my immediate neighbours that are in their late 60's, over 70's

17<sup>th</sup> April - x5 on day 23

19<sup>th</sup> April - 2 runs this day!! Didn't count the recipients, was too pooped!

20<sup>th</sup> April - x5 again, on day 26, including a new family in our community

22<sup>nd</sup> April - x10 families on day 28

24<sup>th</sup> April - day 30, wowser, day 30! A month of this already!

29<sup>th</sup> April - x9 on day 35 (this was day 1 of level 3)

1<sup>st</sup> May - and on day 37 (day 3 of level 3) a boot-full of extras – these are for the Booster Boxes that have been organised for x46 of our families

15<sup>th</sup> May - day 51 and a pick-up from LoveSoup for a scheduled boot-meet, all protection protocols in place!

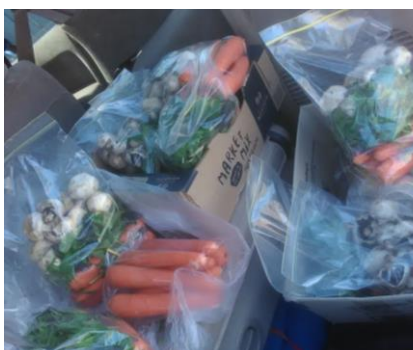
16<sup>th</sup> May – day 52, another pick up from Orewa from the garage! Another (unscheduled) boot-meet!

18<sup>th</sup> May – day 54 and a HUGE load of vegetables and fruit, plus all sorts of other supplies. Amazing!

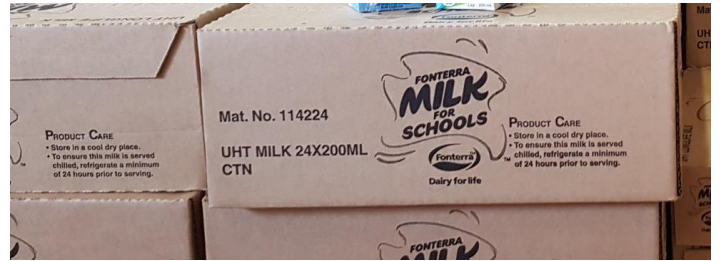
19<sup>th</sup> June – day 86, another BOOTFUL collected for distribution. And today, to say a HUGE thank you, our organisation shouted the LoveSoup crew pizza for lunch and joined them for a well-earned catch-up :)

Thank you so much LoveSoup, this is all SO amazing!

I have not had time to photograph **ALL** the supplies that we've received from this team, but here is a sample. Checkout this lot!









## **A-MAZING RIGHT?**

### **In addition to our work with LoveSoup / food distribution, our food-focus, continued:**

Applied for Countdown Priority Assistance 29<sup>th</sup> March I think it was – was late one evening lol, can't recall the date.

April 4<sup>th</sup> approached our contact at Northgate Baptist / Salt Trust to enquire about Food Parcel availability. Church was closed so this wasn't an option. Will be in touch when they can help.

5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> of April spoke with and / or emailed 4 Square, Pak n Save, Fruitworld, Countdowns and New Worlds to try to organise a better way for us to get through this. Priority Assistance received from Countdown on April 6<sup>th</sup> but a bulk order with any of these was impossible – they needed the supply for the community. Fair enough – thinking cap is on.

April 6<sup>th</sup> I made a call to the Auckland Council and asked if we could be included as recipients for their 'one-off' food assistance initiative. 46 families were approved to receive these – 98% of our families needed this assistance.

April 7<sup>th</sup> that information got to the council. Our members started receiving those hampers the following week.

April 8<sup>th</sup> we applied for the MSD Community Awareness and Preparedness Grant to cover the bulk grocery order. Planning for our own bulk order, pack and distribution started here. Here we are at day 14 of the lock-down. The idea is born for Lock-down Care Packages for each child to assist our poor and no-doubt exhausted grans with 'boredom busters'.

April 8<sup>th</sup> a 20kilo bag of flour was donated and dropped off by one of our families - thank you so much E and J for this! Flour is scarce in the supermarkets!!

April 9<sup>th</sup> got a call from Julie from Northgate, talking through ideas on how they can help. Discussed options on receipting-in of bulk order and potentially packing the boxes up – follow-up call later that day that this is a go!

April 14<sup>th</sup> applied for a Gilmours account as the supermarkets couldn't help us with a \$2,500 - \$3,000 order.

April 17<sup>th</sup> we were granted \$5,141.84 for our bulk grocery order, and to do a care package for each child.

April 19<sup>th</sup> started looking at fresh fruit and veg suppliers, that would deliver up our way. This was a challenge.

April 20<sup>th</sup> I was masked and gloved-up, apron on, packaging up a 20kilo bag of flour that was donated by one of our grans – Thank you so much E for that, and to J for the contactless delivery (it sat for minimum 3 days as per the safety guidelines).



21<sup>st</sup> April the ordering began for the children's care packages. A lot of thought went in to what to buy here – so much was unavailable as it wasn't 'essential', we were in lock-down for another xx days at least, no school – this needed to be well thought out. Couldn't even purchase a colouring book, gahhhhhh! Thinking cap, where are ya?!

22<sup>nd</sup> saw another LoveSoup pick-up and delivery / boot-meet

23<sup>rd</sup> was the final stage of a funding application for our next financial year – lol, crazy right 😊

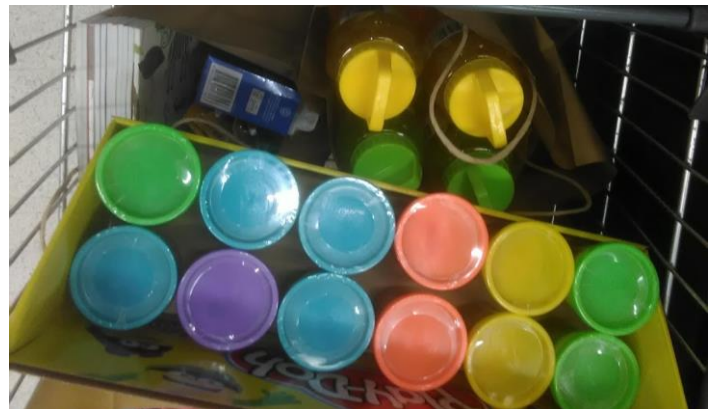
23<sup>rd</sup> was a Zoom Meeting around the viability and logistics of the bulk grocery order & handover to Northgate / Salt Trust. Confirmation here that THEY were going to cover the cost for the remaining x11 boxes for the rest of our families. These boxes total \$120 per set, just AMAZING!!!!

24<sup>th</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> May, lots of coordination with Northgate / Salt around these Booster Boxes lol! Crazy times! 😊

24<sup>th</sup> was another LoveSoup pick-up, had to drop at Bjorn's this time as had the bulk care package order to pick-up

24<sup>th</sup> now for the really fun stuff – the start of the care package task – the MAMMOTH task lol.

**Check this lot out! 😊**





Haha...this is JUST the beginning! Yikes.



26<sup>th</sup> April got to submit that funding application, woohooo (was hard to refrain from getting the care packages started – they had to sit for 3 days!).

27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> we were getting boxes delivered left right and centre lol – this was just one delivery – we've had 4 like this, others just 1 or 2 boxes, and as I write this, still waiting on 4! The place looked like a shop - LOOKS like a shop – I'm a fair few days from finished yet lol.



**Was STILL waiting on so many – hmm, not liking this delay, grrr.**

29<sup>th</sup> April was another LoveSoup pick-up, plus a Bjorns pick-up, then a delivery / boot-meet, masked and gloved to the nines! 😊

29<sup>th</sup> also saw some time spent getting home made colouring books prepped for printing – as colouring books were not seen as 'essential' we had to think outside the square here as well. And the printing, time and cost of printing for x65 kids care packages was taken up by Mission North without hesitation – in fact we discussed this way back as an option, not thinking I'd really need to ask for this but we did, and Krysta and Matt kindly obliged.

30<sup>th</sup> April saw an unexpected knock at the door and a delivery for me – a bucket of freshly picked mandarins from the daughter of one of our granddads – we've been taking extra special care of dear George, who is now 88 and on his own. They wanted to say thank-you, and now that level 3 was nigh they could do so. Wonderful surprise, and George is no longer on his own, his daughter is MOOOOVING in, great news! 😊

1<sup>st</sup> May saw ANOTHER LoveSoup pick-up, this time some extras for that bulk order I mentioned earlier.

1<sup>st</sup> May I also got to see the work that Northgate and Salt Trust had painstakingly undertaken.

3<sup>rd</sup> May started having our next conversation with Krysta from Mission North Fellowship about ways to get fresh fruit and veg to the grans as that was the one thing that was missing. Pantry staples were well in play now, but the fruit and veg (and meat) we just couldn't achieve – yet!

4<sup>th</sup> May met Lindsay at Northgate to finalise delivery for Booster Boxes.

5<sup>th</sup> First delivery of Booster Boxes goes out (x33!).

6<sup>th</sup> Delivery to all our NORTH families goes out, just amazing! (x12).

12 -13<sup>th</sup> May Second delivery goes out, plus we can pop in to collect for those that are North (x29!). Also reaching others in our communitiy from here on in as well, so included in this and the following totals are our members plus communitiy – fantastic!

19 - 20<sup>th</sup> May Third delivery (x26 in this delivery).

2 – 3<sup>rd</sup> June Fourth Booster Box delivery! (x20 here and x11 for our North families, 2 of our grans volunteering to take up the delivery status, just wonderful support all around).

15<sup>th</sup> June Fifth delivery!! (x22 and another x11 for our North families, again our grans stepping in to assist with getting these to the families that need them. Fuel vouchers were given to assist with that, which were sourced through our funding which is just fantastic!).



In total, that is x164 (ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY FOUR!!!!!!) food hampers that went out to our families and our community during lock-down, AND afterwards *from this church organisation alone!* How AMAZING is that?! We paid for the first x25 @\$120 per set of boxes – that's right, each 'Booster Box' was a box A and a box B, filled with essentials and even a few treats. Astounding outreach and support from Northgate Baptist / Salt Trust from our initial idea of food hamper support, bulk ordering, funding and the collaboration of their supplier (in the end, Bidfoods, so a big shout-out to them also), the Northgate / Salt Trust team, orderers, packers and deliverers. As an organisation we can also take pride in being integral in getting this much-needed supply out to these families in their time of need, some of which had reduced income or lost their jobs altogether, or were just so fearful of the outside world at that time.

10<sup>th</sup> May was Mothers Day, and a solid plan was set with Mission North!! We had talked through various options, I had crunched the numbers a few times trying various options, finally settling on what became 'The Mission Packs'. Krysta and the fellowship sponsored us \$2,000, deposited it then and there and the fresh fruit, veg and meat (Krysta INSISTED on including the meat) was in the pipeline! Mind blown!

17<sup>th</sup> May Mission Packs started being ordered online for families for pick-up, our Mission Packs being chocka-block full of fresh fruit, veges and meat as this had been a big gap in supply from our other sources.



22nd May the data went to Mission North for the Mission Pack deliveries – there were x21 deliveries in total for this day, and the Mission North crew had put together EXTRA bags for every family, including flour, coffee, tea, eggs and treats as well! Krysta had a team of deliverers to set off to deliver to those that were still being careful and in isolation, so we met, picked up the orders at 2 different times at 2 different locations to cover all our orders, and x21 families received their Mission Packs via personal delivery that day. Absolutely stunning!!!

Here is the list of our Mission Pack orders, the contents list and an indication of how it looked coming in to the houses - WICKED!!

16 Jun 20 - 15022824  
02 Jun 20 - 14841672  
22 May 20 - 14702847  
22 May 20 - 14702825  
22 May 20 - 14702777  
22 May 20 - 14702730  
22 May 20 - 14702653  
22 May 20 - 14702645  
22 May 20 - 14702628  
22 May 20 - 14702599  
22 May 20 - 14702541  
22 May 20 - 14702452  
20 May 20 - 14681428  
20 May 20 - 14681398  
20 May 20 - 14681374  
20 May 20 - 14681352  
20 May 20 - 14681336  
20 May 20 - 14681273  
20 May 20 - 14681253  
20 May 20 - 14681231  
20 May 20 - 14681204  
20 May 20 - 14681161  
20 May 20 - 14680549  
20 May 20 - 14680247  
20 May 20 - 14675617  
20 May 20 - 14675398  
20 May 20 - 14674730  
19 May 20 - 14671283  
19 May 20 - 14669496  
19 May 20 - 14668572  
19 May 20 - 14667274  
19 May 20 - 14666265  
19 May 20 - 14659733  
19 May 20 - 14659598  
18 May 20 - 14649855  
18 May 20 - 14649049  
18 May 20 - 14644276  
17 May 20 - 14644208  
17 May 20 - 14644159  
17 May 20 - 14644079  
17 May 20 - 14643977  
23 Apr 20 - 14281405



Fresh Produce Bananas Yellow loose per kg	800grams
Fresh Produce The Odd Bunch Apples prepacked 2kg	1
Fresh Produce The Odd Bunch Mandarins prepacked 1kg	1
Fresh Produce Feijoas loose per kg	600grams
Fresh Produce Kiwifruit Green New Zealand loose per kg	1kg
Fresh Produce Tomatoes Nz loose per kg	600grams
Fresh Produce Broccoli Head each	1
Fresh Produce The Odd Bunch Carrots prepacked 1.5kg	1
Fresh Produce The Odd Bunch Onions prepacked 1.5kg	1
Fresh Produce The Odd Bunch Potatoes prepacked 2.5kg	1
Fresh Produce Kumara Red Washed loose per kg	600grams
Fresh Produce Lettuce Traditional Iceberg each	1
Fresh Produce Cucumbers Telegraph Nz each	1
Fresh Produce Cauliflower Half each	1
Fresh Produce Cabbage Green Quarter each	1
Tegel Chicken Kebabs Honey Soy 480g 8pk	1
Tegel Chicken Whole Fresh each 950g	1
Countdown Chicken Drumsticks Value Pack Large Pk min order 1.1kg per f	1
Mince Angus 350g	1

**As you can see, a busy time was had in our wee part of the world, but there's more...**

In between the incredible ad-hoc supply from LoveSoup, the Booster Boxes from Northgate and the Mission Packs from Mission North we were incredibly fortunate to source food boxes for x46 of our families from the Auckland Council. These are a one-off for each family (turned out to be much more as we know though lol), but very welcomed and a fantastic initiative from the Auckland Council and we thank them very much. This was organised on day 15, quite early on and we weren't sure quite what would be happening at this stage for definite, so took advantage of this opportunity.

However, in that following 2 weeks we did expect to have both a substantial food parcel going out to every family (our fingers were crossed anyway!), and a care package for every child! The parcel's went out without a hitch, and wow, they kept coming! A **HUGE** thank you to Northgate Baptist / Salt Trust, AND to Mission North Fellowship – without a doubt this was the BEST feeling to have this level of support! The lockdown care

packages turned into Winter Care Packages that we got out to (the majority of) our kiddo's at our Mid Winter Christmas Party just last week (well, the 12<sup>th</sup> July), and that was delayed due to several factors. The rest are ready to be delivered.

Amazing stuff right?! 😊

*\*\*For these Booster Box groceries hampers, we are incredibly grateful to have the assistance of Northgate Baptist Church and Salt Community Trust. They not only matched our food box number so we could supply a box to EVERY family, but they also put their hand up in taking on the job of doing the actual order, which in itself takes a lot of time, to receiving the grocery supplies at the church and then boxing everything up for us. (All Covid-19 Health and Safety protocols will be followed). Even the boxes themselves were brand new, sourced from the same supplier (Bidfoods) who went above and beyond to make all this happen in a timely manner their end. This is a HUGE help, a wonderful collaboration and I thank you ever so much Julie Davies and Lindsay McPherson, your Youth Workers (who I know will be helping with this which is just awesome), your elders and your congregation and each and every other un-named volunteer for their generosity in assisting with the funds or time to bring all this together – I know the workload for this is on an EPIC scale and we, most sincerely, thank you! 😊*

*\*\*\*For the Care Packages, we used the majority of the supply we had on hand from Foster Hope last year, including left-over pajamas from the pajama drive we were included in, and the backpacks with the items inside (x14), purchasing the rest – spent the remaining \$3,141.84, and filled each one to the brim with activities, journals, pens, colouring books (printed by our friends at Mission North as these aren't 'essential'), learning supplies, puzzle books, water play items, picture books - any entertainment options, resources and well, whatever I could purchase within the 'essential items' list at that time, to get the kids (and the grans) some resources for additional entertainment to help over that timeframe. It really was a MAMMOTH task! To Louise Alnutt and her team, we thank you too!*

So to the decision makers at MSD grants, Auckland Council, Foster Hope, LoveSoup, Mission North Fellowship, Northgate Baptist Church, Salt Community Trust, and our Government lol, our immense gratitude goes out to you all.

SO!!

It takes a village 😊

Thank you!!

Donna xx