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**Catholic
Social Services**
people helping people *āwhina tātou*

6 May 2020

Kia ora Koutou,

Some of you may be aware that Catholic Social Services provides support to Kahungunu Whanau Services, a Kaupapa Maori social service agency, and Housing First Provider.

Just before Christmas last year many of you contributed household goods that enabled Kahungunu Whanau Services to house 2 families in time for Christmas. Over the lockdown period Kahungunu has continued to place individuals and families without homes into permanent or transitional housing.

Today I have been contacted by Kahungunu to ask for our help again. They have secured 9 properties for permanent housing over the next few weeks. The first two of these settlements will be on Friday this week. Because of the large numbers of people they have settled recently (150 people) Kahungunu have used up their store of donated goods and other possible sources of supply have been put on hold.

The following is a list of items urgently needed

Double or queen beds with mattress and base
Drawers
Pots and pans
Couches
White ware (if possible)
Microwaves
Linen and blankets

Pope Francis has spoken about "the saints who live next door". We don't have to look far to see them. It is agencies like Kahungunu Whanau Services, Challenge 2000, Compassion Soup Kitchen and St Vincent de Paul, and that are among our "saints next door". They deserve our help. If you are able to help at all it would be very much appreciated.

To offer any help please contact Catholic Social Services Community Facilitator Paul Alsford on p.alsford@wn.catholic.org.nz 021754145 to arrange a contactless pick up.

Ngā mihi nui

Karen Holland
Kaiarahi Social Services