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ODCOSS NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

The final quarterly quarterly meeting for 2023 was held at the Onehunga Community House 12 noon – 1:30 on Wednesday 22nd November

There were two presentations and time for networking over lunch at 12:00

The presentations at 12:30 were from;

1. **Stephanie Hines from Workbridge** - who help kiwi jobseekers to connect with appropriate employers.
2. **Dee Petit from Shiloh** – who has created an exciting art/healing space in Onehunga.

Dee spoke first and had a display of beautiful art work from her art/healing space. She spoke of the history of Shiloh and the balance of therapy/art/healing that occurs within the space as well as her plans for 2024. Many questions were asked and answered about her project and help was offered in sharing publicity for next year.

Stephanie spoke of the work of Workbridge and shared stories and examples of people helped. Again there were many questions asked and answered. ODCOSS has people who wish to help and collaboration with Workbridge is just what ODCOSS is for.

As it was the last meeting for the year gifts of non-perishable food were brought which were given to the City Mission to swell the Christmas distribution parcels.

By Stuart Lithgow, interim ODCOSS Co-ordinator.

Message from Bridget: -

An unusual year, with Jeanette leaving to give more time to her Rotary duties. We are so grateful to Stuart for taking over the Co-ordinator duties at such short notice, and organizing two successful meetings for members for the rest of 2023.

We are saying goodbye to Jay Kuhaluri, as he and his family are relocating to Australia. Not many members will know Jay, as because of his recent work he has not been able to come to general meetings. He was a regular attender when he was manager of the Onehunga branch of Kiwibank, and was so interested in the organization he became a committee member. His input has been greatly valued on the committee which he still attended though working on the other side of Auckland. He organized one of the best attended meetings ODCOSS has ever had, which was a session for first home buyers with advice being given from real estate agents, banking specialists in this field, and Kainga Ora. Many of the attendees said how useful this was, and thanked Jay profusely.

Thank you for your input into ODCOSS Jay, you will be missed.

We are thinking of how 2024 will be organized, and are thinking of speakers for networking meetings. Some suggestions have been: -

* How Civil Defense is organized within Auckland Council
* What organisations need to know about Te Tiriti of Waitangi

If you have any ideas on what would be helpful for you and your organization please let Stuart know.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays from ODCOSS.