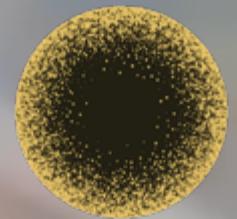


1000 LOVING HOMES

Our whānau feedback

STORIES STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART



Woven Earth

Since furnishing our first Woven Earth home in September 2019, we have been honoured to receive thousands of stories from the families we support.

Some have been shared directly with us, while many have come through our agency partners who have witnessed the impact of a furnished home on a family's journey firsthand.

The following collection brings together a selection of these stories.
Words of courage, new beginnings, dignity and hope.

As we reflect on the milestone of furnishing 1000 loving homes in March 2026, we invite you to look beyond the number and into some of the 3000 lives they represent.



Complementing these stories are images from our 1000th home, thoughtfully captured by photographer Carmen Bird

Stories straight from the heart

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible support you have shown to me and my two boys during a time of great need.

Words fail to capture the immense gratitude I feel for you and the entire team. Your generosity has touched our hearts in ways that are beyond measure. The care and attention to detail that went into selecting and providing us with furniture and toys is truly remarkable. It has transformed our living space from a place of pain and fear into a haven of warmth, love and comfort.

My children are overjoyed with the musical instruments, and their laughter and music now fill our home with a beautiful melody of happiness.

The paintings and decorations were an unexpected and incredibly thoughtful touch. They have breathed life and personality into our space, turning it into a sanctuary that feels safe and nurturing.

Your kindness has not only changed our physical surroundings, but it has also breathed new life into our spirits. You've given us a fresh start, a glimmer of hope and a reminder that there is genuine goodness and compassion in the world. I want you all to know that we will forever carry your kindness in our hearts. You have made an indelible mark on our lives, and we are forever in your debt.

Your selfless actions have rekindled my faith in humanity, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

We are almost two years out of family violence and still we talk about the day we walked into our new home, so broken and in complete disbelief you helped us.

Woven Earth is a huge part of us reclaiming our lives and I will be forever and ever so grateful. I have tears writing this because it is complete magic what you do.

You have changed mine and my children's lives. When we fled for our safety, it gave me a chance to become the mum I wanted to be, without the pressure and the trauma of being in survival. We now have a home filled with furniture all chosen by you that fits us perfectly. It has given us the chance to start fresh.

We felt important. We felt seen. And most of all, we knew you understood.

"Nothing could prepare the family for the overwhelming awe of being gifted a home. Kāinga Ora may provide the four walls, but it is your mahi that infuses the whare with love and beauty. You have transformed their life."



Stories straight from the heart

I was sleeping on a mattress on the floor and only had a deck chair. You changed my house into a beautiful home with your generosity and kindness.

Everything you gave me was so lovely and so much appreciated. Thank you for decking out my child's room. And mine is so beautiful too. All the beautiful touches and everything I needed to start afresh. I keep walking around looking at how absolutely beautiful you have made my home. You have made my life so much easier. I cannot thank you enough.

**What you do is nothing short of amazing.
Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.**

As a new mama in recovery and on this healing journey, learning to live a new way of life has many challenges.

And one of those challenges was having to start from scratch with literally nothing and having to remind myself that I am worthy of a better life, and so are my babies. On behalf of my children and I, I just want to say a massive thank you for all our beautiful furniture, goods and more that was kindly donated, delivered and put together by your team. My children are in love with all their items, they thought it was Christmas.

I love the mahi you do for wahine like me and I'm feeling overwhelmed with gratitude.

You completely transformed our home by furnishing it with love, care, and dignity – turning an empty space into a safe, comfortable, and healing environment.

After leaving a volatile and unsafe situation, starting over with nothing felt extremely overwhelming and daunting. But the kindness and compassion from Woven Earth made a world of difference. Having a warm, fully furnished home has given us stability, peace, and the foundation we needed to truly begin our journey of recovery and rebuilding our lives. Every item, from the furniture to the small touches, represents hope and a fresh start for us. I'm beyond thankful for the work you do and the lives you impact. You not only helped furnish our house, but helped restore a sense of pride, safety, and belonging in our home.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping us stand back up and move forward with strength and positivity.

After many years of not being able to have nice things for fear they would be smashed or broken, it was such a beautiful gift to have so many items gifted to me which I absolutely love.

It made me feel worth something again. I really feel this time, due to all the support that I have received, that I may just have a chance.

For that, I am forever grateful.

I have sat down to write this so many times and honestly, I am struggling to find the words. Thank you just seems so small and insufficient in comparison to what you have done.

Watching the Woven Earth van turn up and the team unload was an indescribable feeling. Helping where we could, it was clear tears were being held in. Mum called me a few days later and literally broke down. She was just so grateful and kept saying thank you. You have given this family so much hope, love, kindness and a home. There are no thank you's big enough. From myself and my client, thank you for what you do and what you have given.

You and your team are angels from above.

We had to leave our situation suddenly and found ourselves without a house and very little possessions. Today when we walked into our new home – I felt the best feelings in the whole world.

I would like to thank you all for all the new furniture you have provided for us as well as the new handbag and other goodies. The house looks absolutely just how I wanted it. I truly appreciate the love and support from everybody today and with the delivery and setting up of everything.

We are able to settle in today and start over.

Stories straight from the heart

When the truck arrived and she could see what was coming out of it, she was in shock, and you were right, so overwhelmed by the enormity of what you were providing.

The furniture was incredible, and fitted to the space so well. She said time and time again how so much of it was to her taste. There was so much thought and care put into her daughter's bedroom, and from the beautiful bed with new linen, the canopy and fairy lights, the desk, mirror, school bag, toys, brand new LEGO, books and the Scooter!

Oh my goodness, it was above and beyond. After the drivers left, she raced to pick her daughter up from school and I was able to set up her bedroom, make her bed and have it looking special for when she arrived home. She was speechless!

She continued to be in shock with each new discovery – the hair straightener, air fryer, dustpan and shovel, vacuum cleaner, kitchen ware (of the most amazing quality).

I can't tell you how many times she stood in my arms sobbing because she could not believe it was happening. When I say her home was empty, it really was and she said that she couldn't believe the details and all the tiny things you provided for her that she has wanted or needed. And the fresh baking, plants, food for the freezer and the pizza vouchers just blew her away.

She asked me to let you know that her daughter's favourite food was pizza and she could not get over the fact that they were about to celebrate with it last night.

The affirmation cards and beautiful print about 'Strong Women' were up and out and resonated so well.

It's a new beginning, and you have given her such a gift.



Stories straight from the heart

She was so overwhelmed and appreciative, she absolutely could not believe the love and work that had gone into everything that had been chosen for her.

There were so many moments of "I have ALWAYS wanted one of these" and "I was just looking at this online yesterday", we could not believe how perfectly you captured her personality and interests.

It was also incredibly meaningful for her to see how you operate and what amazing work and positive change can come out of such devastating circumstances. She could not stop saying what a difference it made to her journey that organisations like Woven Earth exist to help wahine in her situation.

She also sent me through a photo of her happy little pet cat that had an absolute ball playing with her toys and has now passed out from exhaustion on her floor! You and your team were such an inspiration to her and she is so excited to move forward with her life now.

I also wanted to say a massive thanks to the guys for taking such care and time. They went above and beyond in assembling the bed for the client and just generally putting so much into their work. They were so lovely and funny and it made the process so easy and comfortable for everyone.

It's always such a pleasure to work alongside you and all your team, we are so lucky to get to see the lives you change!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you Woven Earth from the bottom of my heart for the great help that you have done for our client and her three sons.

She was so grateful and thankful for everything she got in her house, it meant a lot to her and her three sons. She said she feel like crying because she was so happy and she didn't expect all that was given to her.

She said her stress level was going down instantly. She came from a very hard life going through a lot of trauma from when she was very young and going through domestic violence with her ex-partner. She said it a new start for her and her three sons.

I applaud you for the hard mahi and the good people who donate all the things that wipe away tears and stress from the women in our community that have gone through domestic violence and had to leave with nothing when trying to escape from their violent ex-partner.

So keep doing what you are doing it's make a lot of difference to women who go through a lot in life.

"I've always had such an empty house but today I feel like I am making a home for myself it's really special."



Stories straight from the heart

It was an unforgettable day for me and my three girls. Words are not enough to tell you how grateful we are for all the efforts and days of hard work that you've done to make sure we have a place to call HOME.

Your generosity and kindness holds a special part in our hearts and also helped me tremendously. I wake up every day with a grateful heart and remind myself to 'do not take things for granted'. We are enjoying doing arts & crafts, playing board games, movie nights, cooking, baking – and even just admiring the houseplants (they are still alive).

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

She said she hasn't left home with her children as they've been embracing the fact that they have a place of their own for the first time and settling in well.

Mum has been engaging well and found her strength to now continue to ensure her matter with her protection order stays in place. She added she feels more empowered knowing there is support out there and that she is not feeling isolated.

Your service helps my clients engaging in a safety programme rebuild their lives and find their strength to continue to live violence-free and also have their power back.

I've seen incredible generosity on TV, but I never imagined I would experience something like this in real life.

When I replay everything in my mind, I can't help but feel overwhelmed with emotion. The level of kindness from Woven Earth has truly blown me away. I'm not usually lost for words, but this has left me in awe. You thought of everything! It was all so carefully considered, and I'm truly touched. The kids said it was the best day of their lives. Seeing their faces light up was priceless.

It's deeply inspiring, and I'm motivated now more than ever to give back to my own community in a similar way.

From having absolutely nothing to everything is a true blessing.

It was incredible... Mum was so overwhelmed and so happy. She loved all of it. She was just so blown away by the generosity, love, and care that went into selecting and packing the items. She's now unpacking things and making her new home, her own home, where her and the kids can be safe and happy for years to come.

We can't thank you enough, the impact your charity has on people. It's amazing and will be felt by this family for a long time.

I'm messaging to share how deeply grateful our client and his young daughter are after receiving the furniture and household goods you so generously provided.

Their joy and relief was truly moving. For this young family, having a place to call home – furnished with care and essentials – has made a world of difference. The simple comfort of sitting together at a table, sleeping soundly in their own beds and having a space that feels theirs has brought them a sense of security and belonging that words can hardly capture. The father shared how much more hopeful and grounded he feels knowing his daughter has a safe and comfortable place to grow and dream in.

It's not just furniture – it's the foundation for healing, stability, and the beginning of a brighter chapter.

"My house feels like a home now which I've never had for myself. It's brought me so much joy and comfort knowing that people care and that I matter. Thank you for giving me another reason to never give up."

In April last year, I made the massive decision to leave my violent situation. For so many years I put up with being coercively controlled, spoken to like a child and not being allowed to do anything without it being a massive problem. I was too scared to leave because I had been gaslit to believe that I couldn't cope on my own financially or mentally. But this day in April things changed dramatically.

After hearing him yell and berate our 13 year-old daughter to the point of her barely catching her breath through her tears, I realised that his anger and control was now being aimed at her, as well as me.

He went out for a drive to 'clear his head' after hours of shouting and as soon as his car turned out of the driveway I packed as much as I could fit into two bags, put my two girls into my car and flipped over all the CCTV cameras that were watching our every move and drove away. I turned off the locations on all our devices and drove to a friend's house. I did it, I left!

My biggest fear now, wasn't him trying to find us, or of the repercussions that could come from leaving, but for myself. My biggest fear was he would eventually talk me into coming back. Once he realised we had gone, he sent a text message straight away asking where we were. I ignored him because I needed to summon every bit of strength I had before I made contact. He called that evening. I left my friend's place to take the call and drove around the corner because I didn't want my kids to hear the conversation. I was terrified of being talked into coming back.

But what happened next was the moment that made me realise I had made the right decision. He didn't call to say sorry and all the usual nice things to make me feel that I needed him. He called to say that 'women like me make men like him look bad'. He yelled abuse at me calling me 'pathetic' and 'weak' and didn't once ask if the girls were okay, if he

could talk to them or ask when he could see them again. There was no mention of our children at all. I put the phone down and drove back to my friend's house with the biggest smile on my face. Fifteen years of abuse and control was lifted. I did it. I left. I left with nothing but two bags, but I had done it!

The next few days I was in flight mode. I contacted Women's Refuge who put me in touch with Family Action. I met with a social worker the next day who helped me to get my 'ducks in a row'. I went to WINZ and set myself up with the financial support I needed to stay well away from going back to my version of hell.

In the next few days, I found a rental property and signed the lease. Sitting on the floor of my empty apartment, I took it all in. I was there for hours just deconstructing the last week's events.

I had managed to get two second-hand single beds from a lovely elderly couple on Marketplace. They gave me a small amount of bedding so I was ready to set them up in the rooms for the kids. I planned to go to the local op shops in the coming days and buy as much I could to get started in my apartment and my new life.

That's when my social worker put a referral in to Woven Earth, not understanding the extent of what was to come. When your truck arrived and the team started bringing things in, it just went on and on! They placed everything heavy into their respective rooms and we all

helped bring up boxes for every inch of the house.

When everyone had left and it was just us surrounded by everything and more than we ever needed, I just held my kids in my arms and finally felt like I could breathe again.

The smile on our faces felt like it would never change. What you gave us was so much more than 'stuff'. It was a chance to finally drop my shoulders and feel like I was worth something again.

It was a chance to start to find 'me', to find that person who was ripped away bit by bit. It was a chance to parent my two girls the way they deserve to be parented. A chance for them to play without being told to be quiet and a chance for them to be themselves. I needed to unpack 15 years of abuse before I could write this. I'm not healed and there's a lot of work to undo what has happened, but I feel like I'm halfway there. You have given me space to start to heal. You took away the worry of not being able to provide the basics for my girls. Without that, I wouldn't have made it this far.

I am strong. I am healing. I am growing and learning. I smile a real smile now, not a fake one that was masking the abuse so no one would know. My kids laugh and play and smile too. So thank you for helping me find my joy again, helping me start to live the way I deserve and for starting me off with a massive push to fly.

I hope one day my story will help others in situations like mine.

Stories straight from the heart

When she saw everything, she broke down with emotions. She didn't feel she deserved it. She told me you have taken away the stress of having to find time and money to furnish her home.

She had already started planning and prioritising what she needed the most and wondering how she was going to get them. It wasn't only the big items but the thought and detail that went into what is needed for a home that blew both of us away; from the cutlery, linen, towels, air fryer, paintings. She was also worried about Christmas, but you had everything sorted right down to the Christmas tree and decorations. Oh, and the personal touch of the home baked cookies and food for her to prepare was beautiful and the trampoline... you should have seen her eyes light up when she saw it!

I called to check in and I could feel her smile through the phone with happiness and relief. She told me her kids were ecstatic when they saw everything and all she could hear for the rest of the day was "look Mum" and "you're the best Mum".

I could go on and on, but I end with what Mum wished to say to everyone at Woven Earth: "Thank you for making this feel like a home."

"Everything donated was so carefully chosen and put together, Mum couldn't believe her eyes! You are changing peoples lives out here and I hope you know how much you are appreciated."



Stories straight from the heart

My new apartment that I recently moved into was completely furnished with toys, new blankets, bedding, kitchenware, tables, chairs, desks, bedside tables, food, and even treats after the last stressful months.

I can't begin to express my gratitude and am so humbled not only from the amazing guys that are with your organisation but the over and above way you care for people in situations where they don't have much. You made my house feel like a home and my daughter is so overwhelmed by all her new toys and activities. I will never forget what you have done for us and I have so much to be grateful for every morning. With the stress of the upcoming surgery you have taken so much off my plate and made me smile again.

I am forever grateful and thank you so much for choosing me for this blessing.

I had run away from abuse and was pregnant, then stayed with friends. I managed to get into Refuge and received incredible care and support.

They knew I had nothing. Your love and support with what you have given to me today in my new home and the wonderful furniture and baby gear has taken stress off my life. I am speechless.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much.

She said this was the best birthday gift she has ever received in her life.

There were many joyful expressions from her and her family who were there to support her. She expressed that her dream to make a house her home for her and her three children has been achieved, all thanks to you, Woven Earth kind souls.

**In her words:
"Woven Earth Changes Survivors' lives".**

OMG! What an amazing morning it was, Mum could not believe her eyes... it was so humbling to see her joy.

She was beyond thrilled to have her own kettle and toaster, to finally be able to do her own washing at home, and to take a proper shower with her own towels, toiletries and clothes (she had been wearing her mum's clothes). And the pram! Now she doesn't have to take an Uber to pick up her baby from kindy – she can walk there. She was absolutely overjoyed, smiling, and laughing nonstop.

She is truly grateful, and so am I. This is just the beginning – we still have a lot to do to ensure the family's safety, but this has given her such a boost of strength.

She was on the verge of giving up, but now she's starting to see the possibilities ahead.

We are absolutely overwhelmed and appreciate absolutely everything. Your kindness, smiles and service was 100% and more.

I sat upstairs crying over the kindness shared and offered to my children and our family. The joy on my children's faces when they saw the beds made up was overwhelming joy. To lose everything due to years of domestic violence and then to be helped by you, unjudged and cared for, is something I never ever expected or ever thought existed.

You have made a huge difference in our new beginning at life.

"I was especially appreciative that the items were brand-new or good quality – the kitchenware, the lovely knife-block, the pictures with meaningful quotes, the plants, and the beds we so needed."

Stories straight from the heart

It's been 40 days since you moved us into our new home fully furnished, carefully draped with love. Every corner carries your touch and the attention to detail has been life changing. You didn't just place furniture, you placed peace, dignity, and a new beginning into our lives and we will be forever grateful.

In our old home, there were nights filled with nightmares, shadows and pain that wouldn't let go. Here, in our new home those fears no longer live here and have been replaced by safety and a peaceful beauty.

In September, we were in court for the sentencing of my girls abuser. It was overwhelming but the girls stood with courage, sharing their impact statements. My eldest daughter read her spoken word poem, and the courtroom was silent, tears falling. She wrote it in her new room, a space once scarred by fear, now covered in grace, love and purity all draped by Woven Earth. A room that once held nightmares has become a sanctuary of peace.

That day was more than justice. It was the breaking of a generational curse, the closing of a dark chapter, and the beginning of a new story. My daughter is no longer the child whose joy was stolen, she is a young teen, stepping into light, her voice steady and spirit strong.

In these 40 days, so much life has unfolded:

I was elected as a board member at the girls school, to support learning and new programmes;

We now cook together, enjoying meals seasoned with herbs from our little garden from Woven Earth;

One of my girls joined a Young Women's Business Initiative, creating her own business ideas in a 10-week programme;

Another volunteered for breast cancer awareness;

We hosted guests for four days, including a coach from Canada scouting basketball talent;

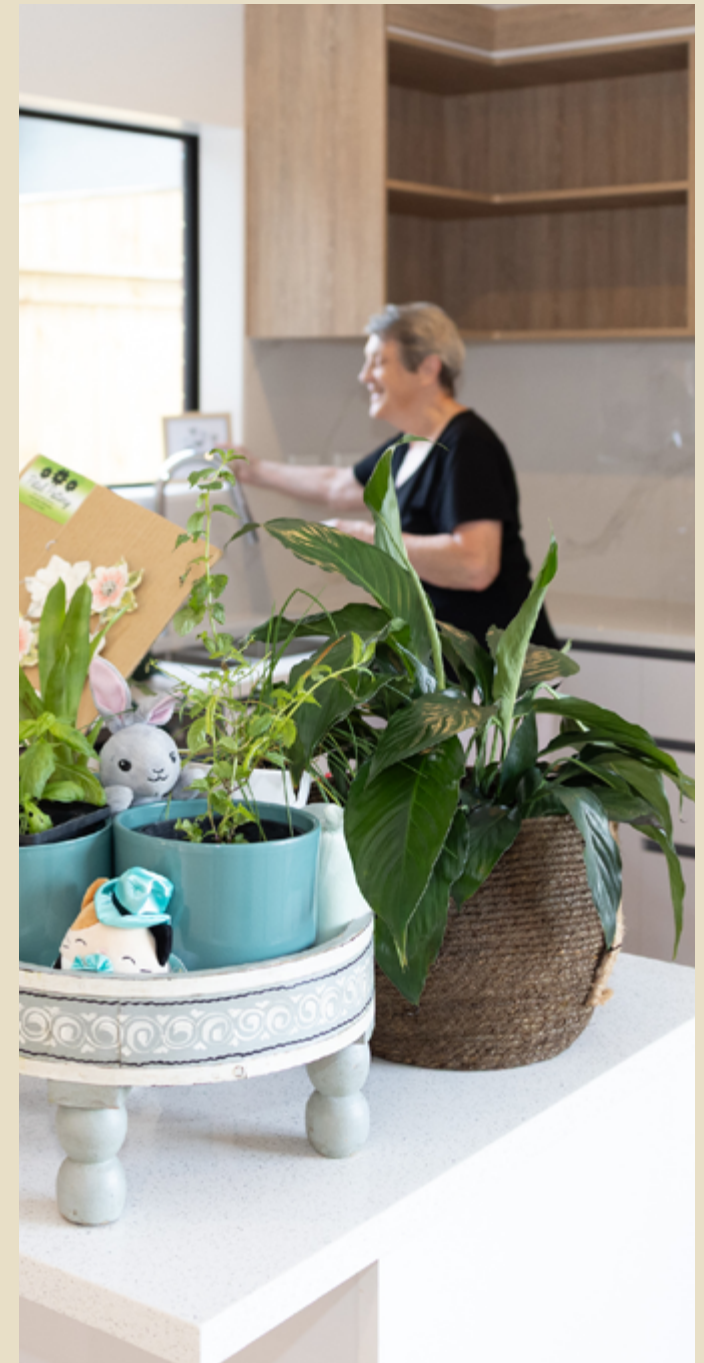
And my youngest girl's reading and maths has moved to the next level and she can now sing the Samoan National Anthem proud in her bilingual unit.

The girls' teachers have all noticed the change in better attendance, punctuality, and a willingness to learn.

Our home has become a place where my children feel proud to invite people in, where joy has room to breathe again. Even the plants remind us of what's been restored. The herbs thrive by the window and out on the deck, and one of the pot plants you gifted us has bloomed with bright yellow flowers. Yellow, the colour of hope, joy, and renewal, a promise that light always finds its way back.

These 40 days have been days of healing, of breaking chains, of reflection and growth. Days where hope has been planted, and peace has taken root. From my heart, thank you, Woven Earth. You gave us more than a home. You gave us safety, peace, and the freedom to dream again.

What you created is woven into our hearts and we will carry it with us always.



Stories straight from the heart

Working with Woven Earth to furnish my home has been one of the most thoughtful and heartwarming experiences I've had.

From the very beginning, it was clear that this wasn't just about furniture – it was about creating a space that feels like home. And that's exactly what you did. Every piece you selected felt intentional and aligned, not just with my taste, but with the way I wanted to feel in my space: calm, grounded, and truly at ease.

You brought a beautiful blend of professionalism, creativity and deep care to the process. You listened closely, offered gentle guidance, and made what could have been an overwhelming experience feel easy and even joyful.

What stood out most was the sense of humanity in everything you did. It was the way you respected my home, honoured my story, and prioritised comfort and meaning just as much as aesthetics. It's rare to find that level of empathy in any service and I'm deeply grateful for it.

My home doesn't just look beautiful – it feels like a reflection of me, and a place I truly belong.

From the moment you responded, we felt heard, and reassured we were in safe hands, and cared for.

You walked alongside this whānau, and helped support and meet them and their immediate needs. There would have been a lot of logistics that has gone on in the background to enable the HOPES of this whānau to be met, so I'd also like to mention and acknowledge your team and networks.

We cannot thank you and your kaupapa enough. The genuine values of your manaakitanga really does transcend and the ripple of aroha is felt.

"It has been truly inspiring to witness the transformative impact of Woven Earth's dedication and compassion on whānau.

Your tireless efforts have brought hope, comfort and empowerment to those who need it most.

Your mahi has left an indelible mark on their lives and I feel privileged to have seen it firsthand."



Stories straight from the heart

Your generosity has made a significant impact for our solo dad of three growing boys.

He was deeply moved and speechless with gratitude for everything that was gifted, from the fishing rods to the large sofa thoughtfully selected as an ideal fit. The communication throughout this process was seamless and greatly contributed to achieving such a meaningful outcome. Once again, thank you for your kindness and the efforts of all the stakeholders who support your invaluable work. The positive impact of your generosity has been truly transformative and we're all deeply inspired by the care and thoughtfulness you demonstrate.

Fakaue lahi mahaki kia koe mo e tau gahua fakaalofa haau. Thank you very much for your kind and generous work.

They had been going through a very difficult time and I was unsure how to best support the whānau, especially as they were living in an unfurnished home.

Hearing about your esteemed organisation, I reached out, and yesterday I witnessed the incredible support you and your team provide to families facing hardship. I truly appreciate the care and dedication shown.

Thank you for the kindness and compassion you extend to those in need, you are making a meaningful difference.

My heart is so full right now and I just want to say how thankful I am. Me and my little family are loving the feels in our new whare. You've made our house a very, very blessed home which we can call our home.

My girls are beyond in love with their rooms they absolutely love it and for the first time since I can remember my girls actually want to sleep in their own bedrooms. They wake up every morning and clean their rooms. As a single mother that's hit rock bottom and climbed her way out and working on getting all her babies back, I'm just so grateful.

Thank you so much for helping me.

We're deeply grateful for your unwavering support of our young mum as she embarks on her journey.

Creating a home requires immense effort, and it's clear that you pour love and care into every detail, making a profound impact on our community. Your organisation's dedication to making a difference is truly inspiring. Thank you for being a beacon of hope and for contributing to the wellbeing of our community. She can now settle into her new home, feeling safe and supported.

Together, let's break the cycle of adversity and silence, and create a brighter future for all.

I just want to thank Woven Earth for all the beautiful items donated to help us to create a loving home. My son and I are overjoyed.

I thought we would get a couple of beds, couches and whiteware. Maybe some bedding and plates. But I was overwhelmed with emotion when the van came. I had to go to the bathroom and have a little cry. There were all things that make a home. From books and LEGO to jewellery and perfume. Even portraits, candles and sport equipment. We have lost so much, our family is scattered and you even donated two sofa beds so they can come for sleepovers. What is more important than family? Thank you for making our new beginning a bit easier. You won't imagine what all this means to me, to us... it would have taken us months, even years, to get all this together

There are still good people on this earth. We are so very, very thankful and grateful that you care.

"A special thank you for the incredible work you do and the meaningful kaupapa you uphold. Your support makes a real difference."

Stories straight from the heart

Each item of furniture donated was not only of practical value but was also personalised to meet their specific needs and preferences.

This thoughtful gesture has made a significant and positive difference in their lives, creating a warm and comfortable environment that truly feels like home. Fale Pasifika Women's Refuge extend our sincere appreciation to the entire Woven Earth team for their dedication and commitment to serving families in need. Your willingness to go above and beyond to ensure that each donation is meaningful and impactful is admirable.

Your generosity has made a lasting impression on our service and the family, and we are immensely grateful for everything you have done.

The family moved into their new home a couple of weeks ago, bringing only their clothes, a few toys, and a handmade single mattress with cushions made by a relative.

They had been in emergency housing for over two years and they feel fortunate and grateful that an agency like yours can show them such kindness and generosity. They are humbled by the experience.

Now, her new place feels like home. It's safe and comfortable, offering a fresh start for her and her daughter.

After leaving my last relationship seven months pregnant with nothing but a suitcase of clothes and a sports bag, all of this seemed so far and near impossible.

I will be forever grateful for everything you guys have done for my daughter and I, and I can't thank you enough for helping us reach this milestone. The first night we got to sleep in our own beds I had to go and sit on the lounge and admire all the things we had one more time just to tell myself it was real. You guys really know how to make dreams come true. Everything we received was like we had angels hand-picking all the things I was only window shopping for in the last few months from the furnishings to the hair dryer and the old style glass juicer that reminded me of my nan, felt like it was all meant to be.

Thank you for making our where into a home.

We want to thank you for supporting our mama and her children in rebuilding their lives, from possessing only their clothes and blankets, to walking into a fully furnished home.

As Mum went through the home, she realised the extent of support for her and the children.

She was very emotional, ever so grateful, and felt so blessed.

Dear kind-hearted individuals who have generously provided me with many essential items for my unborn baby and helped me set up my new home...

...I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your thoughtful assistance during a time of great hardship. As someone who has recently left an abusive relationship and pregnant, I've been struggling to find a stable living situation while also navigating the challenges of resigning from my job. Fortunately, I was able to turn to my friend's overcrowded house for temporary shelter before receiving massive support from Island Child in securing a new home.

Your kind donations have proven to be a tremendous help in enabling me to get back on my feet and prepare for this new chapter in my life.

"Thank you for providing this wonderful service to domestic violence victims. I can finally live in a clean, safe and peaceful home. Thank you for everything, the furniture and furnishings have seriously helped me a lot."

Stories straight from the heart

Your generosity and kindness truly left Mum in awe – she was overwhelmed (in the best way). Her girls were beyond excited, it was such a joy to see them light up as each new item came into their room.

Both girls absolutely adored their new beds and blankets. The tea sets were a huge hit too, and they couldn't get enough of the books and cuddly, soft toys. The youngest fell in love with the teddy bear that played music. She spent quite some time lying down, listening to it and singing along "If you're happy and you know It." At one point, she had all of us singing and doing the actions with her because she was so happy!

Mum and I had a little giggle because every time I've visited in the past, she was constantly vying for Mum's attention, but that day, we hardly heard a peep from her unless she was excitedly showing Mum a new toy she had found! She is also usually very cautious around men, however she completely surprised us by engaging so comfortably with your team. She was giving high-fives, grinning from ear to ear, and kept saying "Thank you! Thank you!" over and over. It was such a beautiful moment to witness.

The scooters and helmets were such an amazing surprise! It was perfect timing, too, as their birthdays are coming up. Mum had actually been thinking of getting them

scooters, so we managed to sneak them into a hiding place so Mum could save them for their birthdays. This provided much relief to know she didn't have to worry about how she was going to afford to buy their birthday gifts. She asked me to make sure you knew just how grateful she is. She couldn't stop talking about how much your support has meant to them. It has truly made a world of difference and we are all so thankful for everything you've done.

She said it was like having all their birthdays and Christmas's in one day. I'm sure you hear this from others, but I can't sing your praises enough. It's not just about the furnishings, you truly bring hope to families. That's something many have lost along the way after everything they have experienced. To see the transformation from when a family feels so lost and down, to witnessing the hope and happiness on their faces when they realise they can make it through – it's humbling and unforgettable.

You've made an enormous difference in their lives and they will carry this kindness with them forever.



They were shocked and amazed by how quickly everything happened, and are still in shock and overwhelmed by how much they received. It was beyond anything they thought possible.

This family came to us needing to enter refuge immediately due to very serious safety concerns and during their time with Shine, Mum has done everything asked of her. From getting orders in place, completing safety and parenting programs, keeping the refuge clean and tidy. During this stressful time she has made sure her children are getting to school and daycare, and has attended University where she is studying to become a radiologist.

When they moved to transitional housing, we loaded up the refuge van and Mum's car and the kids helped the whole time. The family jumped in their car and I jumped in the van and one of the daughters placed her teddy in the passenger seat with it's safety belt on so I wasn't alone. This reflects who her children are, they're always friendly, chatty and offering to help where ever they can.

The day after they moved, I dropped a food parcel in and Mum was thoroughly cleaning and had re-organised everything to make it more homely for her children even though it was only temporary.

The day she got to view her new home

she was so excited. The kids were really missing their dog and being able to move into a house already furnished was such an incredible blessing. Not having to scrimp and save to afford furniture and clothes, and having items that mismatched as it came down to what they could afford.

You have given more than just material possessions, you have provided care, respect and dignity to a family who has been through so much. This family are the victims in the situation yet they are expected to make all the changes, all the sacrifices, and yet I never heard them once complain.

The impact you have had will go on for decades, and when they reflect on how hard this time was, there will be some really beautiful things that come out of it. The family can now make beautiful memories, things like movies on their new couch, having friends over and feeling proud of their home, while finally feeling safe.

Thank you for honouring this family, they can finally start their journey of healing.



Stories straight from the heart

I would like to send my greatest appreciation for all that you have given to me and my four children. We feel so blessed and grateful for your beautiful blessing of gifts for our home that have filled our hearts with so much love, joy and fulfillment of completeness.

Me and my babies are so thankful for everything you have given us. It has made our home so warm, comfortable and complete. What more can you ask for other than filling up my home with everything you could possibly need and more.

It was so awesome having all four of my tamariki help set up their rooms, putting everything away and making a whole lounge in the garage for us to spend time in and play the cool board games you gifted. You have given many loving family times in the near future.

We have all been apart from each other since 2017 when my babies were taken by Oranga Tamariki due to domestic violence, drugs and alcohol abuse for over 22 years.

Together with the Court Support team, you have made it possible for me and my family to receive the best support ever and to keep us safe from past behaviours, supporting people like me who have had a hard life and have made massive changes for my tamariki.

I had time yesterday to have a family dinner with all my children and it was a special family moment you created for us.

No words can truly capture the depth of safety, peace, joy and love that fills our hearts right now.

My baby girl wrapped in her new pj's and the love made slippers gifted by your team and sponsors. For the first time she rests in a place of true security and no chaos. A five year-old who endured a weight no five year-old should experience.

When the weight of these emotions eases, we will take the time to send you an update and give our gratitude for the space you created.

It deserves praise so do you and your incredible team. Alofa tele atu.

"When she received all the wonderful items to furnish her house, she was so happy and feels she has made a fresh start for her and her daughter. It's been truly life-changing."







**"It is not just about
what you put into a home,
it's how you turn the light
on in a very dark and
lonely journey."**

Stories straight from the heart

Turning up to our new home with only a few bags of clothes, we walked in and instantly me and my two children were brought to tears.

We walked into a home, not an empty house. From the beautiful furniture, to the fruit in the fruit bowl. Everything had been thought of, and everything had been well planned. We moved through the house to our rooms and it brought us all to tears. My children couldn't believe their rooms. The colours, the toys, and the fact they were home.

The team who set up our home were absolutely incredible and also had tears themselves. We even had beautiful real plants with special quotes in them, and although we have been in here for two months now, there are still things I am discovering that make me so grateful.

Plates, a fridge, even a first-aid kit, cleaning products – so many things. You just can't comprehend when your world has been turned upside down.

I was so unwell with stress for the first three days, and I was able to make meals for the kids from the freezer. This was my lifesaver.

Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart and also my children. You made a really hard time turn into something so helpful and filled with love.

The family ate at the table last night and for the first time ever hung out in the lounge.

Mum said she always wanted pot plants and shared that her and the kids were looking at the plants on the kitchen window sill from outside last night in admiration.

All the kids were already using the ear phones and music players, the toys were being used by the smaller children, and today the children were watching the TV instead of sharing a phone to watch cartoons.

Mum set up a book shelf and said she loves to read and said she is inspired to cook with all the kitchen items. The older children said they had the best sleep and love their new beds. The touches of home baking and fruit bowl had mum tear up. She said for the first time ever her house feels like a home.

Your support really has made this family shine and once everything is set up I can't wait to see the impact long term the items have made.

"It's a feeling of relief and for the first time in a very long time I slept so well. It's just so overwhelming to receive such love and support."



Stories straight from the heart

The last few months have been filled with fear, sadness and loss I never imagined I would have to live through. Leaving was the hardest and scariest decision of my life, but I knew I had to protect my little boy.

I worried every day about what life would look like for us. I feared walking into an empty house with nothing but the weight of everything we had lost. When I opened the door and saw a home waiting for us – safe, warm and filled with the things we needed to live with dignity – I couldn't hold back my tears. For the first time in such a long time I felt seen, I felt cared for and I felt like maybe there's still kindness and hope in the world. You didn't just give us furniture or baby things; you gave us comfort, dignity, and the foundation to start over.

To every person who gave something, whether big or small, please know that your gift has changed our lives. You have taken away some of the fear and replaced it with hope. You have shown me that I'm not alone, and that there are people who believe my son and I deserve to live free from violence.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, thank you for giving us this chance to begin again. My dream now is that my baby boy will grow up in a world where he feels safe and loved. Because of your kindness, I can start to believe that dream is possible. One day, when I'm stronger, I want to be part of this and help in any way I can. Giving back what I've received is important to me, because I know how life-changing this support is.

If I can do even a little to make another family feel the way I felt walking into my home, it would mean the world.



Stories straight from the heart

As soon as I opened my eyes I could smell the beautiful scent of my new candle next to my bed.

I look up and I see my beautiful plant which signifies life, growth, hope and new beginnings. I see my beautiful poster which marks strength, power and courage. My candle next to my bed as I lay in my sheets in my room signifies new life, dignity and respect. My fur babies let out a deep sigh and go back to sleep next to me.... in our bed, in our sheets, in our room, in our house, where we are safe, we are together and where we belong.

I was up until 4am getting my boys room organised and I used this as a chance to connect with all the beautiful things you had lovingly selected for them. The pictures of the animals, particularly the deer with it's poise of strength but look of vulnerability, just like my two boys. They see, they know and they will feel every ounce of love that has been poured into this room, from the soft toys and furnishings, to the beautiful baby plants which represent new beginnings... life.

I woke this morning and I gasped, then I cried... no more tears of pain though, these were tears of absolute relief, because today, when I step out of this room this morning, I take my first step into a new life, our new life, our new beginnings. From the bottom of my heart I am forever grateful for all you have done for my family.

Today, my boys and I begin to sew a new quilt, a new story with the promise that only everything we LOVE will make place in this home.



Stories straight from the heart

All the care you all took to select items for each person has flowed in the most incredible way into empowering Mum to carry on.

What an honour to help Mum set up the bedrooms and décor. It was the most moving, beautiful interaction between women. It was so uplifting, empowering, nurturing and strengthening for her. It was as if filling the home and creating beauty in her world was like goal-setting for a future that included so much more possibility

The beautiful note in the pot plant was very special to her. Her mother, who she lost when she was young, grew plants, and the note speaking of a new start, meant a lot to her. The bespoke items included in the delivery like the inspirational quotes, the self care gifts and Mandela colouring books were very special. The period undies were definitely a hit and got a giggle as the packet said 'pee proof' and there was some grand discussion on testing the claim.

Mum who suffers from social anxiety felt completely safe and not at all overwhelmed. I was totally blown away by the aroha and enjoyment of the experience.

"To every person who gave something, whether big or small, please know that your gift has changed our lives. "

The aroha and generosity of your beautiful organisation was truly overwhelming.

I'm so pleased with everything we got gifted, from toys to kitchen appliances, even a first-aid kit and even a little pamper pack for me. Once again thank you for your support and for your awesome work you do for whānau that have unfortunately suffered family violence.

I feel blessed that there are people out there who help people like me. Thank you from my little whānau of three.

I was extremely overwhelmed with how above and beyond Woven Earth prepared items for my children and I. Good quality and lots of brand new items to furnish our new home.

Things I couldn't have been able to provide my children with and things that make life that much better. Expenses I didn't have to struggle with to attain such items. It was like Christmas times ten.

The team were amazing, non-judgmental, kind, caring, reassuring, thoughtful, and very respectful. They helped assemble furniture which I would have struggled with. A true blessing to have had been blessed with this organisation and grateful to have experienced such love.

I'm glad this support is available for families like myself. Utmost gratitude.

Thank you for the amazing support and donations yesterday for our family who have been through so much.

We want to express our sincere gratitude for providing us all the beautiful furniture for our new home. Your generosity and thoughtfulness have truly made a difference in our lives, and we are deeply appreciative. Your willingness to go above and beyond to help us during our new journey means more to us than words can say. We ended up homeless with nothing at all and having to leave suddenly. But you have helped us start over with so many beautiful things for our new home.

Please know that we will always remember your kindness and generosity and we hope one day to have the opportunity to pay it forward and make a difference in someone else's life, just as you have done for us.

Your kindness has truly touched our lives in a meaningful way.

Omg everything was so awesome to receive. I'm so thankful and me and my babies are forever grateful for everything we've received.

When my children got to see everything, their smiles, laughter and the excitement was out of this world. My heart was humbled to see how happy they were! It's such a massive help to me because I know I couldn't have done this all on my own, being a single mother.

Thank you, we are so blessed.

You would think I'd have a grasp on how incredible your charity is by now, and yet I am still in shock and awe every time.

You really went above and beyond for this family and they were just so happy. Mum is so excited to slowly put everything away and her nine year-old lit up as she was looking through her box.

I had barely heard her say anything before this point and the pure delight on her face, especially when she saw the bike and the crafts, was just priceless.

It honestly couldn't have happened at a better time. We had just returned from a lawyers appointment that we almost didn't get mum to and we applied for her protection order, and then just as your guys left, OT showed up unannounced. So having a couch they could sit on and them seeing all of the belongings gave mum the confidence to have a chat with them after being terrified that they would come and just takes her kids, as many parents are.

I know you already know this but I'll say it anyway, the difference you make is so impactful and so long lasting. Being able to help families through you builds up so much trust, not only in our agency, but in humanity, just knowing there are people out there so ready to help.

Mum was even saying "I can have my friends over now and before I couldn't because I was too embarrassed to have them sit on the floor."

We're still building mum's independence but we're starting with a really strong foundation and you are a massive part of that.

I know it's been awhile now, but today I gathered myself to put my thoughts together.

You are right, mothers will be broken if they have to come and live in an empty house with their kids. Because you all made this house a home, me and bub feel a lot better.

Thanks for taking extra care of my son's autistic needs by giving comfortable cotton sheets. On the first day, he had one of the best and most relaxing sleeps. We had no TV at that time but from his window he watched the stars and how the clouds were hiding the moon. It looked like they were playing hide and seek with my son.

At the same time there were some hard feelings as well, like losing my own home I was kicked out of. It's not easy to live alone as I am still healing and grieving.

Losing family means losing everything, but seeing how a lot of people have put their effort towards me has given me hope.

Grateful is an understatement. Woven Earth has immensely made our bare new house a REAL home for me and my three boys.

Coming back home to New Zealand with two suitcases and one bag, to now having a heart-warming home filled with everything we could ever need. We will be forever thankful for what you have done for us. You have changed our outlook on life in one amazing day.

This does not happen everyday, and we will remember this every single day.

I can't thank you and your team enough for the amazing transformation you did yesterday.

This client was overcome with emotion when she entered her new home. This was 30 years in the making. She was looking through everything yesterday and was especially tickled with the embroidery in her room, admiring all the detail. I went and visited her today and saw she had put her personal belongings away but had left all the Woven Earth things out on the bench. She said "I want to keep experiencing the feeling from yesterday, that's why I have kept it out so I can see it all." She had even remade her bed this morning and set it up with some of the gorgeous goodies you have provided.

Thank you again for all that you do.

"It's made a huge difference for me and my kids and I finally feel we are starting to settle. We love every single item that was brought to us. You made our empty house into a home and my kids and I are forever grateful."

Stories straight from the heart

You didn't just fill a house with furniture, you created a home filled with warmth, dignity and love.

The way you took the small pieces of information about the family and turned it into something so personal and meaningful was astounding. Every room felt like it had been touched by kindness and care. After you left, Mum was deeply moved and quite overwhelmed. She looked around and asked me, "How do they know me so well? Why do they care so much when they don't even know me?" She couldn't believe how much love had been poured into her space.

One moment that took our breath away was the teddy with a red ribbon around its neck. She turned to me and said, "That's the same teddy my daughter had", the little girl she lost last year. It was such an emotional, sacred moment. It felt like she was there with her, witnessing her mum take this step toward healing. I don't think anyone could have known the significance of that small detail, but it meant the world to her.

She told me she would probably cry once I left, the gratitude and emotion she felt was enormous, even if she couldn't express it at the time. What you have done is life changing, you've not only given safety and comfort, but hope and the feeling she matters, she's seen and she's cared for. Something she has not experienced in a long while, if at all. Walking into her home was like walking into a warm hug. You could feel the love and kindness in every corner. I don't know how to thank you enough, but I hope this message shows even a small part of the impact your work has.

**He aroha whakato, he aroha puta mai.
With all my appreciation and respect.**



Stories straight from the heart

Every item you selected has brought warmth, beauty, and joy into our home, creating a space that now feels complete in the most wonderful way.

As a mother to a very special little boy who is on the autism spectrum, creating a calm, engaging and nurturing environment has always been my dream. Although a boy of few words, he has a special way of expressing his excitement. His favourite word is a simple but powerful "awesome!" And thanks to your selections, I've heard him say it more times than I can count!

His room has become his favourite place. The toys, the beautiful colours, and every thoughtfully chosen item have made his space a joyful sanctuary where he feels so happy and at ease. Watching him explore, play, and smile surrounded by these treasures has been a true gift. He delights in every texture, color, and detail, and seeing his happiness fills my heart beyond words.

The earthy tones and natural materials in the rest of our home, combined with the playful charm of my son's room has transformed our house into a peaceful haven that reflects both beauty and comfort.

Your eye for unique, meaningful items and your dedication to finding pieces that perfectly fit our needs have made an immeasurable difference in our lives. I cannot express enough how thankful I am for the care and love you put into each recommendation.

Your thoughtful work has brought us more than just beautiful décor – it has created a space filled with warmth, joy and memories we will always cherish.

Your kindness and support have truly touched my heart and made a monumental difference in me and my son's lives.

Thanks to your selfless contribution, our home has been transformed into a warm and welcoming space that we can now call our sanctuary. Your help has alleviated a significant amount of stress during this transitional period and has allowed us to settle in comfortably and happily. Every piece of furniture and décor you provided has not only enhanced the aesthetics of our home but has also created a sense of belonging and comfort for me and my son.

Your act of kindness has not gone unnoticed and we will forever be grateful for your unwavering generosity. Your willingness to help others in need is truly admirable and inspiring.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

"I don't think I have ever seen kids happier than when those two were looking through all their toys! They loved every single one and had so much fun playing together with their new things".



Stories straight from the heart

Mum was so excited to see the house and go through all of the special things you had picked out for her and the kids.

She was looking through all the plants and was so excited to see that they were real and she was crying with laughter. The home baking was quickly sampled which added some extra sweetness to the whole experience. When you left she carefully went around the whole house taking pictures of everything so she could share with her whānau.

She was incredibly excited about the dryer, especially because her kids are going through bedding frequently as they get used to toilet training. This mama went from being really nervous about leaving refuge to being so excited to spend a night in her new home with her kids.

Once again, you have gifted a whānau with a beautiful new beginning.

You have given me a beginning I could never have even imagined.

I literally had to go to sleep to wake up in order to believe it was real. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. I have a home at loooong last I can call my own. I have switched into meaningful direction almost over night now I have a home . It's my first week and already I'm looking into pursuing herbal medicine. I am full of gratitude for your team of beautiful humans and all who are involved.

You have given me a place to grow dreams.

Thank you for bringing life and comfort into a house I can finally call 'home'.

All the furniture and appliances you have brought really came through with helping big time, saving stress and worries! Thank you so much for everything and for all the treats you have gifted. I really couldn't believe the things you have gifted were really mine.

Once again, I thank you so much and wish you great fortune as you continue to help and bring smiles to more families.

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible support you provided to my client following her recent escape from an abusive relationship.

The donation and delivery of a household worth of goods was not only generous but also transformative. After moving into the home with very little, having these essential items has allowed her to begin turning her house into a true home. This act of kindness has been foundational to her healing journey and her steps toward independence. I want to commend your team for their thoughtful and kind approach throughout this process. It was a pleasure to collaborate, your commitment to supporting those in need is truly inspiring.

Thank you for your generosity and for making such a significant difference for this whānau.

It's such a beautiful thing when you go to bed at night and feel safe knowing this is all yours and no one can come into your space and hurt you physically, mentally or emotionally.

It's so empowering to know "hey you can do this on your own, and you are doing it, and smashing it at that."

This is a gift that's irreplaceable and beyond anything material – the feeling of self-worth and independence.

You have enabled a beautiful woman and her precious children to start their lives over.

This is a very nice, brand new Kāinga Ora unit and to have it fully furnished is beyond anything this dear young woman could have imagined. Before I left, I offered to say a karakia of thanks and blessing for this whare and for all that has been so generously provided.

There were tears of gratitude, joy and healing. Many, many thanks.

"Thank you for the kindness and compassion you extend to those in need, you are making a meaningful difference."

Stories straight from the heart

A year ago you helped me furnish my new home as a solo mother who has been through a lot. I'm still trying to process the wonders of what you did for me and my daughter.

From all the blankets to pillowcase sets, clothes and toys for my daughter, and pretty things that I have now passed on to my neighbours as my girl has outgrown them. I'm so thankful to you for blessing my home with beautiful things and helping me get back on my feet with what you did for me and my daughter. We only had beds and you furnished my entire home and made our house feel like a home.

I hope one day I will be able to give back to you so that you can continue doing what you do to help other solo mothers and fathers like me.

We have come from a lot of hardship and left with nothing. I was so surprised when I walked into our house and saw everything. It is all like a dream.

Thank you for all the beautiful gifts and touches around the home for myself and for my baby. We are able to relax and eat dinner tonight and finally enjoy our new home.

**It really has been life changing.
With so much love and tears.**

Your act of giving goes far beyond the material value of the gifts themselves. It represents the love, thoughtfulness and care you've put into selecting something meaningful for my family.

We are overwhelmed by your generosity and cannot thank you enough. We are so blessed to have met wonderful people in our lives. Thank you to you all for such a beautiful set-up and decoration of our home. I can not stop my tears because I have finally found a beautiful and safe home for my kids.

I will never forget this.

You have changed her life and in doing so, have changed the lives of her siblings that look up to her. Without your help, my long-term plan for the family would have been less achievable.

Today I spoke to her about getting her a job which would not have been on the agenda a couple of months ago. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for what you have done for this family. This is not something that I would ever ask of you for someone that I did not think deserved it. This is a deserving family, challenging, but deserving.

Keep doing what you do, this is absolutely incredible for the right families.

All of you beautiful people have made this pretty much empty house full and have made life better. I'm trying not to cry I'm so grateful.

The smile on my baby's face is priceless and my eldest son loves his full room and the LEGO, earbuds his new backpack and clothes.

Thank everyone for all the love.

Making my house a home could not have been done without your support.

The baby items have greatly lessened my stress and financial strain. I'm now excited about the arrival of my first baby. I cannot fully express the degree of my deep gratitude for your compassion and generosity.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your thoughtful donation.

"Thank you all for your hard work to give me and my daughter another chance in this world. No words can express how you and your team have changed our life, all I can say is thank you!"

Stories straight from the heart

My daughter and I lived in refuge for a total of two years and seven months, specifically 965 days. I couldn't be any more grateful.

Our situation left us solely reliant on charity and funding the Family Action team worked tirelessly to acquire.

We leave sad tears and are brought to happy tears by you and your team. As women, we always think we need a man to fulfill our lives, but the work you do shows us that with the help of just one fiery woman and her passionate team, that's all the push we need to ignite the fire within ourselves and burn a trail of growth and success, leaving the past behind.

You and your team always hear "thank you" but you probably haven't heard what a "thank you" actually translates to coming from a woman with experiences such as mine.

Allow me this opportunity to do so...

...it means having the freedom to find ourselves and our preferences away from the 'same old sad story' we were forced to own.

...it means an immense amount of pride and dignity to be able to have a space that is so beautiful for ourselves and my kids.

...it means a new start to now turn the page in our books and take control of the pen, to now dictate our own story and not be dictated to.

...it means waking up every day to a space that reflects furniture and decor that has no traumatic memories attached to them.

...it means so much more, and I could write forever with explanations, but it would still never be enough to portray the true feeling within us.

I have another reason to write to you today. I had a son born 20 June, he passed away 22 June and today would have been his fifth birthday. In his memory, I have purchased five backpacks and five winter jackets for little boys to send to your organisation so some little boys, somewhere, may use them.

My gratitude and appreciation for your actions in my life have cleared the path to a new road that are now taking to a bright and safe future.

**And now, to end my message,
I finally say my "thank you".**



Stories straight from the heart

She loved the handbag and sunnies and immediately put them on. She not only loved them, but felt more confident as they covered her bruises.

There was a quote by her bed that made her start crying. She was talking about how she is definitely going to keep herself safe now. When we were discussing what she was going to do the rest of the week she said "Just enjoy my new home!" She felt like all the crafts and activities would be a nice way to spend her time. She was so stoked when she found the curling iron and hairdryer, the butterfly cuddly toy, the excitement at the baking and the fruit.

The most poignant moment for me was when she said how excited she is for her Dad and Mum to see the home. Her parents have been visiting her in hospital where she had nothing and have been worried sick about her for the longest time. How amazing it has been for them to see her home and know that their girl is now safe and in a lovely home. Even as an adult, this is still someone's child and you've also given them peace of mind for their daughter.

Please know your work goes far beyond the people who are living in the house.

"Well done for caring for the most vulnerable people in our community."



Stories straight from the heart

I would like to thank you so very much, with all our hearts, for everything that was gifted for our new home.

It was more than we could have imagined, especially as it was Christmastime. I was stressing about how I was going to afford even the basics for me and my boys and we were so overwhelmed with joy and happiness with everything we received. I literally had tears in my eyes as more and more things were brought from the truck.

I couldn't believe the thought and care that was put in to provide for not only our basic needs, but everything else, right down to cleaning products, cutlery, bedding, furniture, the teddies, little lights, lamps, books and even a bookshelf.

I was just so grateful and felt like someone really cared about us. I would have loved to provide my children with all these things but I couldn't, including the Christmas tree, decorations, and not to mention the presents and gifts.

My children were beyond grateful and happy and we were able to enjoy Christmas instead of dreading the thought of it. I was able to be present with my children with no stress and no worries for the first time in my life and for that I will always and be forever grateful and thankful to your organisation.

As a single mother struggling, you provided more than just things, you provided me hope.

Thank you for creating a space for my daughter to recuperate after a long time of domestic abuse – violence beyond imagination – of which she had been enduring for a long time.

She was overwhelmed with the care and generosity. My whole family thank you from our hearts as to the wonderful way in which you made her house a truly safe haven for her. I am speechless as to the time and effort that went into her space.

She does deserve it, and in time, with patience, and being with her children, she will feel whole again.

"I am so appreciative of all the wonderful furniture and homewares. The bed is delicious and comfy and the sofa is perfect. Thank you so much for your kindness."



Stories straight from the heart

The reveal of the home was overwhelming in the most beautiful way. It was so moving to witness; the girls were brought to tears of joy.

To see their reactions, their smiles, and the sense of hope they felt in that moment is something we will never forget. They wanted me to pass on their love and warmest thanks to you all. You hold a very special place in their hearts, and they hope that one day they will be in a position to return the kindness that has been shown to them.

As a service, we are also grateful. Woven Earth has supported many families from our refuge over the years and the impact of your work reaches far beyond the homes you create. You offer much needed comfort at a time when families need it most, and that generosity does not go unnoticed. Thank you again for the love, compassion and thought you put into everything you do.

**What you have created is not just a house,
you have created a home**

When I walked into the house today there are not enough words to capture the essence of how thankful I am.

I love everything in my new home especially all the essential baby things I needed for my baby.

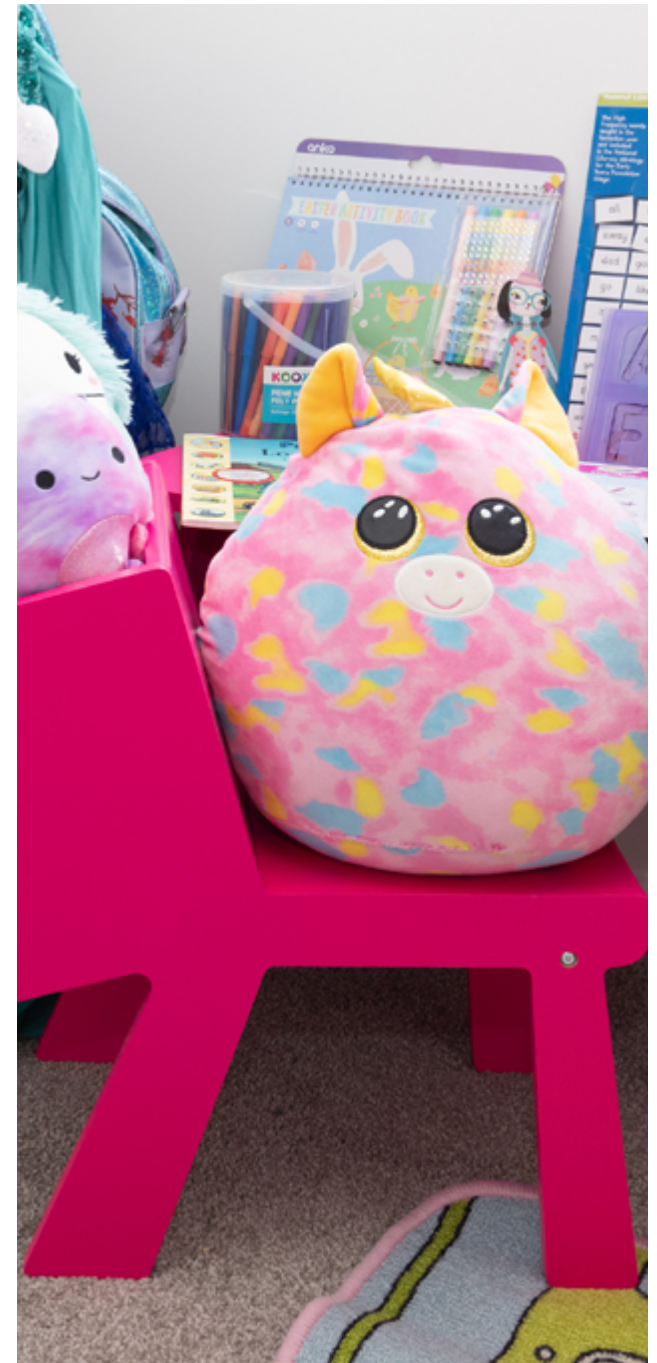
**I am able to relax now and have my baby
in peace.**

The small touches, like the fabric to sew with, the puzzles, and the self-care pampering, brought a huge smile to Mum.

You managed to get all the colours she loves including the greens and earthy oranges and yellows. There was a particular vase and kitchen dish that she couldn't believe how well they matched her style.

She really appreciated everything you did for her.

"My three year-old son and I have left a terrible situation and were homeless. Thank you for the incredible furniture and whiteware. The extra touches and toys warmed my heart. We had nothing, but now have everything we need to start life happily."



Stories straight from the heart

You may never fully understand how much impact your gift of furniture and household goods has changed our lives.

I cried so much after I walked into the house. The tears were happy and healing. I fully thought we'd been visited by angels and I still do believe that.

My son is Autistic, he is non-speaking and had been very traumatised by losing all his familiar things especially his sensory chair. When we walked into our new home and saw his new chair his face lit up with a huge smile. He keeps his bed just as it was made for us. He proudly shows the few people we have in our life 'his' room. He will only use his water bottle to drink from and he couldn't wait to take his new school bag to show his teacher. He has never shown such a connection to anything before except his chair, and now he interacts with everything. He's exploring books and toys and using some words.

We had nothing but some clothing. Now we have everything. We have a home that we feel so comfortable and safe in. I tried to explain how I felt to someone and it's hard. It's a home filled with furniture that I didn't choose and has no history, and yet it was chosen with such care and it's what I would have chosen if I had the means. We still look around and marvel that without ever meeting us, you gave us what we needed – a home to grow in.

At first, I felt a bit disconnected like I couldn't grasp this was ours; but very quickly it became more than just comfortable, it became comforting. We've had mother and son cooking days, making pancakes and cookies which I would never ever have thought was possible.

I will forever be grateful you gave us a home free of the trauma of the past. It's a gift of healing, support and love.



Stories straight from the heart

Yesterday was one of the happiest days of my life. When you are really down in life, but when you know there is someone who has your back, it's a wonderful feeling.

I really, really appreciate the effort you have put in, going into every small detail, choosing my favourite colours and from buying the cutest little fancy things to the big appliances. I have no words to thank you.

The cute little girly stuff, soft toys, kitchen items, and all the cute ornaments, baby's toys, and all the big appliances, I could name every single item you got me and for the baby. As a mum, seeing your baby happy with all these cute little toys you have chosen for him, I am so much grateful for all this love. Thank you for your great help and for this care.

You gave us a FULL HOUSE where we can now rest and think straight about the next steps I have to take, peacefully.

"I am absolutely mind blown by your generosity and the love and care you put into homes. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."



"I walked into my house and wept with joy for giving me above what I expected.
My little grandchild had said to our empty home 'how can we live here with nothing?'
But now we have everything we need to start over.
Thank you for all the loving care and making my house into my home."



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Ngā mihi thank you
for helping create
loving homes for
our Woven Earth
families and their
children. Together,
we're breaking
the cycle of family
violence, one loving
time.

Dear family,

We wish you all
the best in this
next chapter of
your life.