

# THE LOGOS PROJECT

## Annual Report

### 2015



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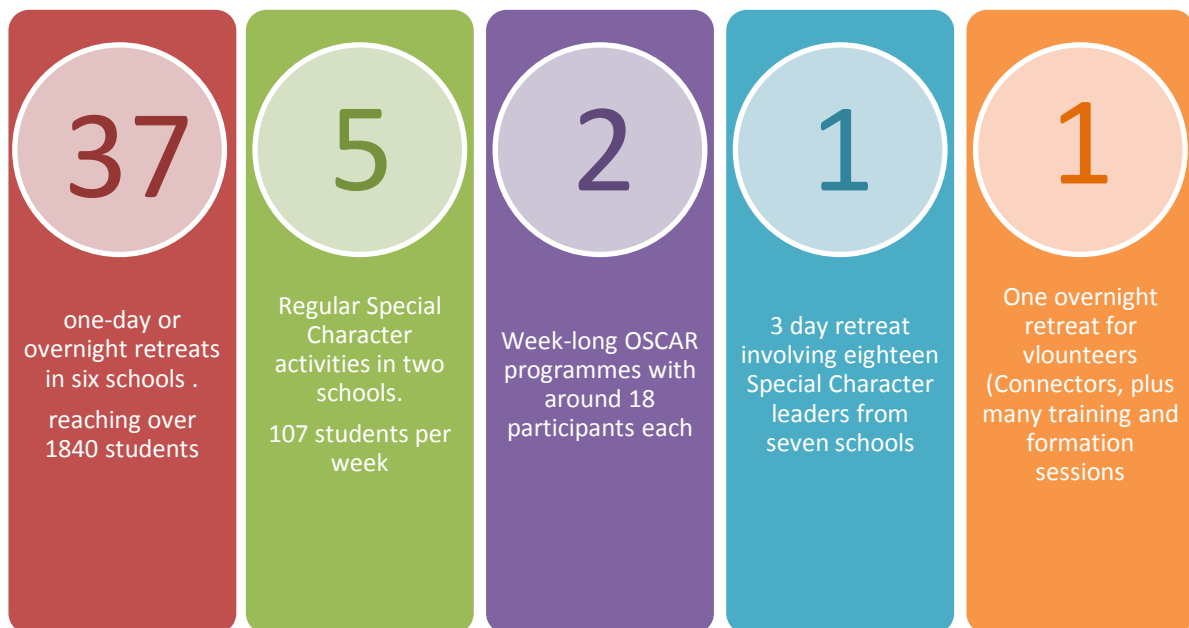
## Introduction

Founded in 1999 by the Society of Mary, The Logos Project works with young people within the Auckland region.

Primarily, a youth development agency, the Logos Project works with young people ,enabling them to make a positive impact within their communities and wider society.

The youth work team runs a range of programmes designed to develop young people, helping ground them in their values and identity. In doing so, the Logos Project helps to make these young people more fully integrated members of our society.

## Delivery Overview - 2015



A family violence resiliency programme at two colleges involving over 140 year 7 students .

Connectors and staff supported the delivery of initiatives from Caritas Aotearoa and the Marist Brothers

Sacramental programmes in three schools with 40 participants receiving the Sacraments of Initiation

Eucharistic Ministry training in three schools with more than 30 participants

Weekly class Mass in four schools, fortnightly Mass in two schools and 16 school Masses in four schools.

## Retreats

*St Dominic's, St Peter's, St Paul's, Liston, Marist, Sancta Maria Colleges*



The Logos Project retreats give students an opportunity for faith formation and spiritual growth and include practical, experiential, and reflective activities. Programmes and processes are created that focus on, and are relevant to, the participants.

*'At St. Paul's College we have often engaged Logos to run most of our student retreats.*

*I have had students come to me and say that they are able to connect with the Logos team at a very personal level. With this sort of a relationship the students are then able to accept the messages conveyed which are in keeping with the school curriculum. We find that Logos do take these retreats very seriously and deliver the Catholic message to the students.'*

Pamela D'Souza, Director of Religious Studies, Head of Department, St Paul's College

## Special Character Activities

*St Peter's and St Dominic's Colleges*



Special Character work supports students in their personal development, and encourages them to participate in their school and community activities.

The Logos Project nurtures relationships with students and witnesses their personal growth. In turn, this increases the team's understanding of them and helps the Logos Project best serve their needs.

## Special Character Retreat

Each year begins with an overnight leadership retreat for Special Character leaders from schools across Auckland.

This retreat supports student leaders, enabling them to actively contribute to the Special Character of their school. It provides an opportunity for leaders to link faith and life, prepare for the year ahead as leaders, as well as build lasting relationships with students from other colleges.



It also provides an opportunity for Connectors (volunteers) to bond and work together to support the retreat. It is a key moment to set the tone for the year and get everyone involved in a project together.

*'We were woken up at dawn to start our day in a prayer meditation surrounded by nature to watch the sunrise as we felt and listened to God's presence through creation... The Special Character Retreat not only helped us to strengthen our relationship with God but also to form relationships with our fellow teammates whilst learning about leadership'. Prefects 2015, Marist College*

## Chaplaincy

*Sancta Maria, Liston, Marist and St Dominic's Colleges*



Fr Kevin Murphy sm has provided school chaplaincy for many years and is well known within the schools in the Auckland Diocese.

Fr Kevin also provides additional support for colleges such as staff retreats, assisting new RE teachers and input on school charism and Catholic character.

## Pastoral Care

*St Paul's and St Dominic's colleges*

*Jade Speaks Up* is a teaching resource from Violence Free Waitakere which helps students create strategies to keep themselves safe, particularly in relation to family violence.

Staff at St Dominic's College, where the programme was delivered for the first time, said how positive it was that the programme created a safe space for students to explore topics that would otherwise remain unspoken, and that they have received positive feedback from students on how useful it was to learn practical ways to keep themselves safe.



Students at St Paul's said that the most important thing that they would take away from the programme is

- 'That violence isn't the answer, to breathe, think and do and to help others'
- 'Violence free begins with me, this is because I know that for a fact I can have the opportunity to have a violence-free life'
- 'I have the right to be safe and I will take away my Personal Safety Plan'
- 'Breathe, think and do because if I was in a hard situation I would breathe, think and do'

## OSCAR (Out of school care and recreation)

OSCAR programmes were held during the April and July school holidays. 36 children attended programmes that looked at themes of daring to dream, and the solar system.

In October, the combination of a programme review and a planned building move for 2016, led to the decision to cancel the OSCAR programme. The Logos Project has worked with many families and young people over the years, and were disappointed to no longer offer the close-knit, personal OSCAR service that has been in operation since 2010.



There is the possibility that with the right venue, the right numbers and the right funding, The Logos Project may bring OSCAR programmes back in future years.

## Connectors (Volunteer programme)

2015 saw a new cohort of volunteers join the existing Connectors to make a team of eighteen young adults. The year started with a series of training and induction sessions before they began volunteering on retreats and programmes. They also assisted with the planning of events for the Caritas Challenge and Youth Week. Much practical learning from these experiences was made, including developing skills in project planning and management, budgeting, leading youth work activities, promotion, and completing risk assessments and evaluations.



The Connectors also had plenty of opportunities throughout the year for practical work experience by joining staff on OSCAR programmes and school retreat days.

Danielle, 23, joined the Connectors in January 2015. Reflecting on the year, she said *'The Caritas Challenge gave an opportunity to be challenged to think outside of yourself, which is rare outside of a school environment. We were challenged to think of others, and the world, in a Christian way.'*

*My biggest learning from the year is that stepping forward to take charge of something can be scary and challenging but it's really worth it, and you can do it when you give it a go. People didn't mind me stepping up, and supported me in stepping into leadership.*

*If you're thinking of becoming a Connector, I would say that you've got to be ready to be challenged personally but if you're up for that then Logos is a great place for formation and gives you a set of skills that you can use for your whole life.'*

## Working together

The Logos Project is proud to be able to collaborate with and support other organisations including the Auckland Society of St Vincent de Paul (Vinnies), the Marist Brothers and Caritas Aotearoa.

In 2015 The Logos Project continued its long-running contract for services with Vinnies Auckland. For six years Logos and Vinnies have worked together to support the growth of the Vinnies schools programme, with Sam Mano from The Logos Project being one of the 'faces' of Vinnies. In 2016, Sam returns to working full time at Logos. The Logos Project looks forward to new opportunities for collaboration with Vinnies in the future.



Connectors and staff continued to support the work of Caritas Aotearoa in Auckland. Activities supported included the Caritas Challenge leadership days in Auckland, a 24-hour Filipino immersion retreat for the Caritas Challenge and Caritas's awareness raising work in four primary schools during Social Justice Week.

For the eighth year The Logos Project contributed to the annual leadership day run by the Marist Brothers. 40 year 13 students took part in the day, which included a session using activity based learning, which was delivered by Logos staff and Connectors.

## Behind the scenes.

Much has been put in place throughout 2015 to help strengthen Logos for the future. The most significant of these is moving premises to a more suitable building. The Logos Project has been based at the historic Josephite convent on St Benedicts St since 2007 and it has been wonderful to be part of this grand building's story. Now is the time to create a base which is more modern and more suited to the smaller team. Staff and volunteers will move Logos to its new location in Eden Terrace, and look forward to welcoming you to the new base in 2016.

Staffing has also shifted in 2015 with some leaving to take up roles in youth work, pastoral work and in other not for profit areas. The Logos Project is fortunate to replace these staff with new team members who bring many varied talents and skills. During December, Jen Martinez took over the leader role and, along with the board, is undertaking a review of the organisational structure and staffing needs. At the governance level, Mila Burke and Laurence Caltaux joined the Board of Trustees.

The Logos Project is grateful to the following organisations for their financial support in 2015:

Ara Tahoi

Catholic Caring Foundation

Catholic Education Services Board

Dominican Sisters New Zealand

Koch Foundation

Lottery Auckland Community Board

Marist Sisters New Zealand

Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart

Sky City Community Trust

Society of Mary New Zealand

## Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard this year to make it successful, especially the staff, board members and volunteers. Thanks to those who continue with us into 2016, and those who have moved on to new ventures.

Our work is made much easier through the continued support of our many volunteers. Thank you to all of our Connectors, old and new, for turning up with enthusiasm and putting in the hard work. Thanks also to our other volunteers, especially Juliana Massey sm for her ongoing support and valuable contribution that she brings to The Logos Project.

Final thanks go to all those who make our work possible – teachers and school staff, parents and whānau, and all the young people who participate in our programmes with openness and energy.