



baskets of blessing

## Chairman's Report 2025

### Charity: Baskets of Blessing

**Prepared by:** Maurice Prendergast, Chairman

**Reporting Period:** Calendar Year Ended 31 December 2025

## A Year of Purposeful Growth and Quiet Impact

In 2025, *Baskets of Blessing* once again stood in the gap for many in our community facing hardship. This year has seen our organisation respond with quiet efficiency and unwavering compassion, extending meaningful support to thousands of individuals and families across Central Otago. Our reach, resilience, and relationships all deepened in 2025—and it is my privilege to reflect on this impactful year.

### Anchored in Our Mission

Our mission—to bring love and care through practical acts of kindness—remains as vital as ever. From thoughtfully packed food boxes to home-cooked frozen meals and comfort-filled gift baskets, every gesture is designed to say, “You are not alone.”

We operate without fanfare but with deep intentionality: to uplift people navigating grief, illness, trauma, displacement, or financial strain. Our model is founded on trust, inclusivity, and responsiveness.

### Highlights from 2025

In 2025, our committed team of volunteers contributed **29,646 hours**—a record in our history. These efforts enabled the dispatch of:

- **9,517 meals cooked**
- **9,844 frozen meals dispatched**
- **352 gift baskets dispatched**
- **2,118 food bank boxes dispatched**
- For a total of **12,314 dispatches**, up from 11,658 in 2024

Compared to 2024, food bank boxes rose by **44%**, and overall dispatches increased by **5.6%**. Despite slightly fewer hot meals cooked, consistency in our frozen meal supply ensured we maintained strong meal support year-round.

## **Community-Centred, Volunteer-Driven**

Our strength lies in the beautiful mosaic of people who give their time, skills, and care. Our volunteer base spans retirees, preschoolers, migrants, occupational therapists, youth groups, and those living with dementia—creating a deeply inclusive culture of service.

Rescue food continues to be a cornerstone of our operations, transforming surplus into sustenance with dignity and joy. Our alliance with Kiwi Harvest remains key, and our new commercial freezer—funded through generous grants—has enabled higher volumes of safe meal storage.

## **Operational Stability, Financial Stewardship**

As a volunteer-led charity, every dollar matters. In 2025, we continued to prioritise resource efficiency. Securing ongoing funding to cover our base operations—particularly the rental of our Arrowtown hub—remains a core focus for 2026. The Board continues to take a conservative approach to spending, ensuring sustainability without compromising responsiveness.

## **Looking Ahead**

In 2026, our focus will turn to infrastructure growth and volunteer support. With increased demand and wider geographic reach, we will explore new systems to streamline nomination, packing, and dispatch processes. We also aim to deepen our collaboration with local agencies to prevent duplication and amplify shared impact.

## **Closing Reflections**

To every donor, volunteer, grant partner, and friend of *Baskets of Blessing*—thank you. You have helped to wrap love in boxes, cook care into meals, and deliver dignity alongside nourishment. Together, we have quietly changed thousands of lives. And we will continue.

**With gratitude,**  
Maurice Prendergast

*Chairman*  
8 January 2026