CHRIS DUGDALE

A Passion for People, Property and Projects ……

…. making a difference in the lives of others.

I grew up in Leeds in the North of England, moved to Bristol to train as a teacher and then started out on a lifetime of adventures and projects!

My first major overseas trip was to spend a year as a volunteer in Uganda. I started fundraising at the age of 10 and from then on looked for ways to help people. I am a grassroots type of person and prefer to just make a start, working things out from the bottom up, hoping to use my skills and experience to contribute to making a difference in the lives of others.

On returning to the UK, I purchased my first home at 23, and by 26, I was headmistress and owner of a private school in Leeds. Eventually, after living in the Seychelles and South Africa I arrived in New Zealand with a husband and a blended family of five children. I worked for Rank Xerox for five years before leaving the corporate world to purchase a restaurant and a house renovation shop and then started the Wellington Nannies College with a friend.

Warwick and I married 35 years ago and with the addition of our three daughters, we now have ten children between us, as well as grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In 1997 we did a 6 month YWAM Family Ministries DTS in Rotorua and established several YWAM King's Kids teams in the Wellington area.

For 18 months our family joined a community that ran a Christian Retreat Centre in Lower Hutt. We then set up our own community for 12 families in Upper Hutt. We lived on site and managed this property for the next 14 years.

I serve on the Leadership Team at Maungaraki Baptist Church, where I have been a member for 29 years. Between 1995 and 2004, I project managed the relocation and restoration of our two church buildings.

My passion for property spans 50 years and over 100 properties, many of which have undergone renovation.

This passion for restoration is not limited to buildings. I have mentored a number of young people by employing them to work with me on different projects. Lives were changed as we talked and worked together on different projects. At the same time they were learning useful life skills such as basic building, painting or gardening.

Recently, I have met a number of wonderful people with a vision to helping others, but needing financial help to make a start. Over the past few years we have built up an asset base through the Dugdale Charitable Trust. This has enabled us to assist some of these projects to move forward with either donations or loans.

SKILLS AND STRENGTHS

- Entrepreneurial skills
- Problem Solving
- Thinking outside the Square
- A 'Let's Just Do It' attitude

DUGDALE CHARITABLE TRUST

The Trust was started in 2011 with $10 in our bank account. In partnership with other individuals and organisations, we built 7 houses as charity fundraisers in Wairarapa, and donated 100% of the surplus from these projects.

We then built six houses in Upper Hutt, and used the surplus to create an investment fund. The Dugdale Charitable Trust has also bought and sold apartments in Wellington, and invested in suburban retail shops.

Funds have been donated to various organisations including:
- Ronald McDonald House
- Hospice Wairarapa
- Life Flight Trust – Rescue Helicopters
- Asthma Foundation,
- Cancer Society,
- Riversdale Surf Life Saving Club,
- Dalefield School,
- YWAM DTS students.

CURRENT TRUST PROJECTS

Uganda: Provided funds to purchase Secondary School buildings and to build a Primary/Nursery School allowing many orphans to attend school who otherwise could not do so.

The Village at Carterton: Practical building advice and funding to 'kick start' the vision to help 'at risk' youth in the Wairarapa.

YWAM Nelson: A loan which enabled the purchase of a large old building called Garindale. I am a Trustee of YWAM Nelson

Arapohue Rural Retreat.
A loan to Wild Side Trust, enabling the purchase of the Arapohue property in August 2020. I hope to be able to contribute ideas, advice and support, to assist this project as it goes ahead.