Bishop's Action Foundation

"Voluntary and community organisations are fundamental to society because they are major stakeholders in building social capital that underpins healthy and well functioning communities." says Bishop's Action Foundation CEO Simon Cayley.

"Yet many of these organisations are small and possess limited resources when measured against the challenges and critical issues they address, and this raises issues of the capacity of organisations to operate effectively. As a capacity builder within the region, we welcome the arrival of Techsoup in New Zealand; it has made a significant difference for our ICT capability and is great news for groups within our region too."

Working from a community development centred approach the Bishop's Action Foundation was established as a charitable trust to create and support initiatives that meet the unanswered needs of communities within the Taranaki region. They are driven by the goal to enhance the social, spiritual, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the region.

Who are they?
The Bishop's Action Foundation: ICT Gateway
Where are they?
New Plymouth – New Zealand
What do they do?
Work as a regional capacity builder in the Taranaki region for charitable organisations in the Community voluntary sector
What did they receive?
Microsoft SBS Server, Terminal server, Windows XP and Office Professional 2007
The Outcome?
"The donated software from Microsoft via TechSoup NZ meant the savings we made could be invested into the hardware, therefore providing the Bishop's Action Foundation with a more stable solution."
Patrick Edwards – ICT Gateway: Bishop's Action Foundation

In developing Keystone Taranaki, a project plan to deliver essential capacity and support for voluntary and community organisations, the Bishop's Action Foundation identified a number of key deliverables that included training; leadership development; a critical friends programme for mentoring capacity building support and advice; and a community sector ICT project – the ICT Gateway.

The ICT Gateway is an initiative to support IT and Communication innovation within the voluntary and community sector. By providing a range of good practice resources and guidance, the ICT Gateway aims to support organisations to improve strategic planning and management of ICT technologies; help access expertise and hardware resources; and to work collaboratively with each other to maximise the benefits offered by changing ICT technology. Since completing their own upgrade project the ICT Gateway initiative has provided various ICT solutions for other organisations such as; New Plymouth Cancer Society, New Plymouth YMCA, Pregnancy Help (National) and New Plymouth Women's refuge.

"We found the process to register and place an order with TechSoup New Zealand was very smooth and simple. We recommend it to all the organisations we work with and would like to thank TechSoup New Zealand and its partners for the programme, we look forward to working with you in the future." Patrick Edwards ICT Gateway Co-ordinator.

TechSoup New Zealand provides donated software from companies such as Microsoft to eligible New Zealand non profit groups, assisting them to build their ICT capability. TechSoup NZ is a partnership between Australian based ConnectingUp Australia, TechSoup and the NZ Federation of Voluntary Welfare Organisations.

Techsoup New Zealand www.techsoup.net.nz