



Holistic approach to homelessness paying off

Manager of the Māngere Town Centre and Māngere East Village business associations, Dave Fearon, says a recent local board-backed, community-driven initiative is proving to be a win-win for the people of Māngere.



Dave Fearon



Toni Helleur

OURAUCKLAND recently reported a new, holistic approach to working with Māngere's homeless. [SEE ARTICLE](#)

Local resident Toni Helleur, *pictured above*, has been funded by the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board to work in the Māngere Town Centre and Māngere East Village to help those living on the streets and those youth who are turning to vandalism and theft.

The dual objectives are to see what help can be provided to those who are homeless or begging, while also making the shopping centres great places to come and visit.

Dave reports that the programme has already made quite a difference.

"Māngere has long had its problems and our town centre security guards can only go so far in dealing with the situation," he says.

"Toni is very solutions-focused, and she's been great in getting to many of the root causes of the problems. She works with us, local businesses, Police and community agencies to lead a more holistic, wrap-around approach. A lot of our homeless had been falling through the cracks in the system. At Māngere East Village people are now being taken to WINZ and the housing people are getting involved to help find solutions."