

Volunteering at the Soup Kitchen

- Shamiran Jabrail

Last year our nephew visited us from London. While he was here, he travelled around the north island. When he came back to Wellington, he asked us if we had seen a place called Jerusalem because he thought we would like it a lot. We hadn't been there, so once he left, we decided to visit.



Jerusalem is a small settlement on the Whanganui river. It has a beautiful old church and convent where you can stay overnight. While we were there we watched some films about Suzanne Aubert, the French nun who came to Wellington in the 19th century to help the poor. Suzanne spent time at the convent at Jerusalem and worked with the local Maori there.



When we came back to Wellington, we saw the Soup Kitchen on Tory St and realised that it was set up by Suzanne Aubert and is now run by her organisation, the Sisters of Compassion. Last year, when my English tutor Mary started to visit, I asked her if there was any volunteering I could do in Wellington, so I could give something back to New Zealand, meet Kiwis and improve my English. I told Mary about the Soup Kitchen and we decided to volunteer there together.



Last November we did a training course at the Soup Kitchen, and now we are volunteers there. I am enjoying the work. We do many different jobs like serving coffee and tea, washing plates, wiping tables, serving bread and greeting the guests.

For more information on the Suzanne Aubert Home of Compassion, see: <http://www.compassion.org.nz>