



Season's Greetings



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December 2011

As 2011 draws to a close and the Christmas holidays begin, the Rainbow Place team send warm seasonal greetings to all the children, young people and the families we have been supporting, and to all friends and supporters of Rainbow Place too.

We know that this season, usually associated with joy and thanksgiving, will be for many tinged with sorrow because a loved one has sadly died or is just too sick to join in the festivities. Our hearts go out to all who may find this time of year just too hard and we enclose a few suggestions at the end of this newsletter which may be helpful around caring for yourselves and your loved ones.

Rugby World Cup Looking back over a busy year, the past few months have shown no sign of things quieting down. We were thrilled to have Stephen Donald pop in for a cup of tea and a chat following his World Cup triumph and just before he left New Zealand to play rugby in Bath, England. We like to point out to people that he was a Rainbow Place hero before he became a New Zealand hero with 'that kick'.

Rainbow Place Variety Concert In October we had our second successful Rainbow Place Variety Concert featuring local talented youngsters. This year we held the event in Cambridge and we would like to thank the Raleigh Street Christian Centre for allowing us to use their fantastic venue and for all their help and support.

Partnership with Hamilton Artmakers continues ... Many of you who have visited Rainbow Place over the past month or so will have noticed our stunning new signs encouraging visitors to drive with care and watch out for children. This safety initiative was made possible through our continued partnership with Artmakers. The figures on the signs are images of real children from Silverdale Primary School.

We also worked with Artmakers and Waikato University students to create two digital stories about Rainbow Place, one from the perspective of young people supported by Rainbow Place and one from the perspective of our Manager. Thank you so much to Sylvie and the Artmakers' team.

A Beautiful New Car As our workload has grown and in order to cover the whole region effectively, two cars was just not sufficient anymore. Another wonderful organization, Rural Women, heard of our plight and came to the rescue raising funds and purchasing us a brand new bright red car now affectionately known as 'Chica' after a special lady who left money to be used by Rural Women for a good cause. 'Chica' has already been well used out there in the community and has so far clocked up over 4782 kilometres.

Rainbow Place Christmas Celebration This year we made a break from our usual traditional Christmas Party for children young people and their families. Several local businesses and individuals helped us by sponsoring children and young people to go to the movies. Their generosity also enabled us to give our movie-goers a goody-bag each, and a great time was had by all.

Sincere thanks to:

First Credit Union - DairyNZ - BNI Morrinsville - friends & supporters of Rainbow Place

**Rainbow Place closes Friday 23 December and re-opens
8.30am Wednesday 4 January 2012**



Rainbow Place Review by Professor Philip Darbyshire As you will remember, Professor Darbyshire has been carrying out a major review of our services this year. We welcomed him back for a week at the beginning of December with his final report and recommendations for the future growth and development of Rainbow Place. The report was very positive around the work we are already doing but gives us a firm foundation from which to grow the service as we move forward. The final report and recommendations can be accessed on the Rainbow Place website via www.hospicewaikato.org.nz. We will be giving regular updates as we work through the recommendations, many of which we have already started to work on.

And finally, news hot off the press ... Rainbow Place has won a national award for our work with children and young people. Penny went to Parliament on 14 December on behalf of the team to receive the 2011 **'Every Child Counts' Award** for an "organisation that has made a significant difference to improve the status and wellbeing of children."

We now have a stunning trophy that will take pride of place at reception, and will act as a reminder to us as to why we are here doing the work we do. It's all for the awesome children, young people and families who we have the privilege of supporting on their journeys through serious illness, change, loss and grief.

What an exciting end to the year! 2012 is just around the corner and we look forward to working with you all in the coming year.



From the Rainbow Place team ...

Penny - Margaret - Lynda - Jenni - Sheryn - Gail - Lynne

Marian - Paula - Loren - Julian - Linda - Suzanne - Paul - Cherie - Lily

May the blessings of Christmas bring you peace throughout the year

Suggestions for the Festive Season

Make a special decoration to hang on the Christmas tree in memory of your special person

Light a beautiful candle for your special person

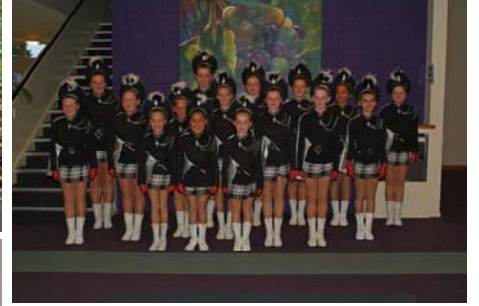
Take time out from all the festive activities to think and remember

Share special memories with family and friends

Be gentle with yourself and don't expect too much of either yourself or other members of the family

Plant a flower, shrub or tree dedicated to your special person





A Year in the Life of Rainbow Place ...

