

It's because of the generosity of our community that Hospice services can remain free of charge. If you are a supporter of Hospice Waikato, our whole team sincerely thanks you for your support.

December 2025

Talyn's Story

Rainbow Place was thrilled to be selected as the charity of choice for this year's Aotearoa NZ Anaesthesia Annual Scientific Meeting, held at the Claudelands Events Centre from 13-15 November 2025. We are deeply grateful to the conference organisers and to all delegates who contributed generously to support our service.

As part of the event, the New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists captured the remarkable story of Talyn Print, one of our special Rainbow Place children. We are delighted to be able to share Talyn's story with you all.

Talyn Print is a 13-year-old Waikato teenager with a passion for crafts.

Talyn was born with two rare genetic conditions. The primary one is KAT6A syndrome, which is so rare that only two other children in New Zealand have been diagnosed. KAT6A is a multi-organ condition. For Talyn, it has meant neurological, gastrointestinal, kidney and eye challenges that have developed since birth.

Talyn had significant kidney problems from birth. He had failure to thrive, was missing milestones, and began experiencing seizures, but it wasn't until age five that his parents received clarity. Advances in genetic testing allowed specialists to identify KAT6A, giving Talyn's family some long-awaited answers. Around this time, hospital staff encouraged Talyn's parents to connect with community organisations that offer respite or support, including Rainbow Place. The complexity of care and support Talyn needs meant a lot of the other available options weren't suitable.

Accepting they needed this type of support and that Talyn may need paediatric palliative care took time, as it does for many families.

Palliative care for children is broader than end-of-life care; it includes support for children living with complex, life-limiting conditions. Rainbow Place has become central in Talyn's world. "They're like another family," his mother Hannah shares. Talyn regularly stays for a couple of nights in their inpatient unit, where two dedicated children's rooms are stocked

with everything visiting kids might enjoy. Staff tailor both medical care and activities to each child.

Talyn is "craft-crazy," so the Rainbow Place team prepare his room with art supplies, themed decorations, and even duvet covers that match his interests. "They go the extra mile. He notices it and he loves it," says Hannah. Their care also gives her peace of mind. "I have confidence and faith in the care he's getting there, which means I can actually relax."

Rainbow Place also offers in-home respite. Healthcare assistants visit to help with care or simply to spend time with Talyn.

"They were quite adventurous on their last visit," Hannah adds. "They brought along everything to make papier-mâché. The glue, the paper, even the hairdryer was going". A nurse specialist also visits regularly, checking on Talyn and supporting the family with any updates or concerns.

Talyn has a visual impairment, but it hasn't dampened his creativity. "He's so careful with the scissors—very particular," Hannah says. His bedroom walls are covered in art.

Continued on Page 2...



Pictured: Talyn, enjoying a special moment of creativity.



Alex Gordon

Chief Executive Officer

As we approach the end of 2025, I want to use this Christmas newsletter to simply say thank you. Hospice care is never delivered by one organisation alone. It takes an entire community to support people living with chronic and life-limiting illness, and this season offers a moment to recognise everyone who plays a part.

Every day, our remarkable team of clinicians, support staff, and volunteers walk beside patients and their families with compassion, skill, and unwavering professionalism. Their dedication is extraordinary, and I am deeply proud of the care they provide at such a critical time in people's lives.

I'm also reminded of the countless others who stand beside us—those who fund our work, volunteer their time, donate goods and shop in our stores – you support us in ways both big and small. At a time when the gap between government funding and the real cost of providing care continues to grow, your generosity ensures that no patient, and no whānau, faces a bill for the support they need. That is an incredible gift, and one we do not take lightly.

If this newsletter has arrived in your inbox or letterbox, it's because you are connected to our service in some way. Thank you for your interest, your kindness, and your belief in the importance of hospice care in the Waikato.

From all of us here, I wish you a joyful Christmas and our warmest wishes for a wonderful 2026.



Pictured (from left) – Alex Gordon (Chief Executive Officer), Dr Peter Rothwell, Susan Hassall (Board Chair), Glenice Gallagher and Sir John Gallagher.

A legacy of care - announcing our new life members

One of the highlights of Hospice Waikato's recent Annual General meeting was the recognition of individuals whose outstanding service and commitment to Hospice Waikato spans many years and our Board Chair, Susan Hassall, was absolutely delighted to announce three new Life Members.

The names will be familiar to many of you – Sir John and Glenice, Lady Gallagher, and Dr Peter Rothwell.

Scan to find out more about how these generous members of our community have supported Hospice Waikato.



From Page 1...

His medical needs are extensive: he is fully reliant on feeding through a MIC-KEY button and home TPN through an IV line. He uses two overnight pumps and recently had an ileostomy formed. Hannah points out how it can sometimes feel like you're bringing the hospital home. Managing complex home-based care while parenting three other sons means the family has had to create a "new normal." Rainbow Place nurses have helped with practical tips to organise equipment and integrate medical routines into home life.

Despite these challenges, Talyn loves going to school when he can. "He's a social butterfly," Hannah says. "When we go to the hospital, he's said hello to everyone before we get to our destination."

Rainbow Place also supports Talyn's brothers through sibling days full of activities and treats, giving them space to form friendships with others in similar situations. Parents, too, find community through morning teas at Rainbow Place and a child-free coffee group where they can "let their guard down" and talk openly.

"There are aspects of this journey that friends and family can't always understand," Hannah says. "These parents get it."

Grateful for the support they've received, Hannah has joined Rainbow Place's Family Advisory Committee and a national advisory group for paediatric palliative care in Aotearoa. "Through this, I've been privileged to hear the stories of other families across the country. Many don't have access to a service like Rainbow Place which has reinforced just how essential it is. "It opened my eyes to how amazing they are, and how much we need better wraparound services across the country."

As the official charity partner for the 2025 Aotearoa NZ Anaesthesia ASM Rainbow Place was supported through donations in lieu of speaker gifts, the QR code quest and the much-loved Rainbow Bears were available to purchase in the industry exhibition hall. The Meeting raised over \$4,000 towards Rainbow Place's new multi-sensory environment space that will engage children's senses of sight, touch, sound and movement.



Bucket List Banquet 2026

We are excited to share the details for the Hospice Waikato & Montana Food and Events Bucket List Banquet 2026. *A Night at the Grand*, taking place on Saturday 16 May, promises to be a glitzy, high-energy evening, interlaced with intriguing illusion, the smooth crooning of Sinatra, and high-octane dance troupes that will light up the stage. It's also a wonderful opportunity to bring together the Waikato business community for an evening of networking, connection, and collective generosity – all in support of Hospice Waikato.

Perhaps you can help with the success of next year's event? We are looking for luxury designer items for the auction – something along the lines of an authentic designer handbag or a man's designer watch? For details, email rosemarypoole@hospicewaikato.org.nz, or phone Rosemary on 027 778 8003.

If you'd like to know more about next year's event, please scan here.



A moment to remember

In early 2026, we are introducing "A Moment to Remember at Hospice Waikato" – an activity set for reflection and connection. It's a gentle invitation for our patients and their families to pause and put into words the moments, memories and feelings that matter most. It offers a meaningful way to reflect, express, and share their story – by capturing a private recollection, creating the heartfelt message for someone special, or recalling the memory of their greatest love story.

The specially designed writing paper will prompt our patients and their families to share reflections with honesty, humour, love and gratitude, with these moments remaining personal to the writer, or shared as a precious gift.

"A Moment to Remember at Hospice Waikato" is available to our patients and their families – because every story deserves to be told, and every memory holds meaning.

If you'd like to learn more, please reach out to cherie@hospicewaikato.org.nz.



Hospice Waikato's Giving Tree

Thursday 27 November, 2025, was a very special evening. Not only did we announce three new Life Members of Hospice Waikato, but we unveiled the Hospice Waikato Giving Tree. This tree stands in recognition of the members of our community whose generosity strengthens Hospice Waikato.

The kōwhai flowers honour our Life Members – those whose enduring support has helped shape our service. Each leaf symbolises a significant gift, enabling us to provide compassionate, free care to the people of the Waikato, now and for generations to come.

We are absolutely delighted to be able to acknowledge these people in this way and we invite you to visit our Cobham Drive site to view this beautiful piece of art in person.

If you are interested in understanding the criteria to be included on this tree, please email cherie@hospicewaikato.org.nz.

Meet our new trustees

We are pleased to introduce three exceptional leaders to our Board of Trustees: Xavier Mitchell, Tina Boyd, and Diane (Di) Koti. Each brings deep expertise, strong governance capability, and a shared commitment to supporting compassionate, high-quality palliative care for individuals and whānau across the Waikato.

Together, they strengthen the Board's breadth of experience across public service, health, social wellbeing, community development, and kaupapa Māori approaches to care.

We look forward to formally welcoming Xavier, Tina, and Di with a mihi whakatau in early 2026.



Have your contact details changed? Please email Cherie at cherie.mccleery@hospicewaikato.org.nz with your updated details.

The Privacy Act 2020 requires us to advise you that we keep supporters' names and contact details on file to help with fundraising. We undertake to keep the data safe. Please advise us if you do not want your personal information stored. If you would like to see your information and/or correct any mistakes, please contact us. Also, notify us if you wish to be removed from our mailing list - please email marketing@hospicewaikato.org.nz

Our wish list

We are in need of supermarket vouchers for patients in need and petrol vouchers for volunteers who travel to support patients in their homes.

These can be mailed to us at PO Box 325, Hamilton 3240, or delivered to Karen Mansfield at our 334 Cobham Drive site in Hamilton. We would also appreciate receiving donations of clean memory sticks, which we will use for Patient Stories.



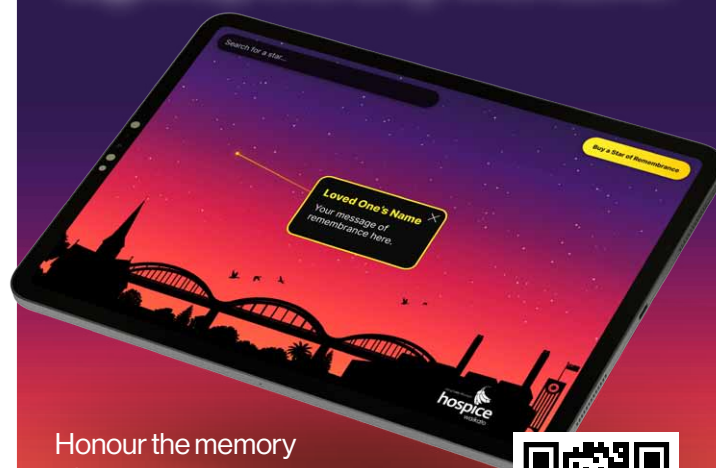
Thank you

The funding we receive from our community is crucial in enabling us to continue offering our services free of charge. Income from our retail shops, grant applications, and generous donations covers around 30% of our operating costs, with the remainder funded by Health New Zealand.

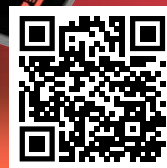
We are deeply grateful to the many generous individuals and organisations that stand behind Hospice Waikato. Whilst our list of individual donors is too vast to include here, we are truly grateful to each and every one of them. We would, however, like to acknowledge the organisations listed below.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| • Alandale Residents Club | • O'Sheas Law |
| • American Classic Car Club - Midlands | • Par NZ |
| • BNI - Hamilton Open | • Presbyterian Exercise Class |
| • Catholic Womens League | • Purple Patch |
| • Challenge - Dealer Co NZ | • Riverlea Trust |
| • Creative Spaces | • Rodmor Charitable Trust |
| • Good George Brewing | • Scouts Waikato |
| • Latitude Homes | • Tamahere Country Club Care Centre |
| • Lewis Lawyers | • Trelise Cooper Group |
| • Matangi Hall | • Waikato Lily Society |
| • New Zealand Lottery Grants Board | • WEL Energy Trust |
| • Ngaruawahia Women's Golf | • World of Tyres |
| | • Southwell School |

Light Up the Sky with Love



Honour the memory of someone special by dedicating a star in our **Stars of Remembrance** virtual night sky.



You can help us make a difference!

Would you like to support Hospice Waikato and Rainbow Place in delivering compassionate care to patients and families? Your donation—big or small—makes a real and meaningful difference. We are truly grateful for your generosity. **Simply scan or click the QR code to make a donation.**



Perfect gift for Xmas!

Our limited edition gin is a wonderful collaboration with Good George Brewing, reflecting our tagline "Living Every Moment," and is a tribute to the joy of life, a reminder to embrace the present and cherish the memories made along the way.

Crafted to support Hospice Waikato, every bottle sold helps provide care and comfort to those who need it most. Whether you're raising a glass with friends, thanking clients or gifting something truly meaningful, your purchase makes a difference.

Scan the QR code to purchase.

