

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.

September 2025

Chase's Journey: a Story of Courage, Love, and the Power of Hope

At just eight years old, Chase has faced more medical challenges than many will encounter in a lifetime.

Born with dilated cardiomyopathy, a serious heart condition, and Barth Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder, much of Chase's early life was spent in and out of hospitals, managing critical health issues from a very young age. For the first six years of his life, he lived with heart failure, enduring circumstances that required significant strength and resilience.

In 2023, at the age of six, Chase's heart could no longer function on its own. He was fitted with a Berlin Heart – a mechanical device that temporarily took over the work of his failing heart. Over the course of four months, this device helped sustain him while he waited for a donor heart. Eventually, due to what Chase's family acknowledge were tragic circumstances, a suitable donor heart became available, and Chase underwent a successful heart transplant – a life-changing moment that gave him a new opportunity for health and recovery.

Throughout this time, Chase and his family have been supported by Rainbow Place, the children's service of Hospice Waikato. Rainbow Place, New Zealand's only dedicated children's respite hospice service, has been a part of Chase's care team since he was two years old, providing specialised support and respite care to help him and his family navigate complex medical needs.

Rainbow Place's care goes beyond crisis support. Respite stays are a vital part of our service, offering families a break while ensuring children receive attentive,

compassionate care in a safe and engaging environment. Earlier this month, Chase returned for a three-day stay – time spent enjoying activities like gardening, rock painting, and relaxing in a spa bath, all tailored to his interests.

"During respite, our paediatric nursing team designs each stay around the unique needs of each of the special Rainbow Place children in our care," says Lauren Fenn, Rainbow Place's Clinical Nurse Manager. "This even includes theming each child's room to make their experience as comfortable and enjoyable as possible."

For Chase, these visits have offered not only a reprieve from medical routines but also moments of connection, creativity, and enjoyment.

Now thriving with his new heart, Chase continues to grow and explore life with the same quiet determination he has shown throughout his journey. His story reflects the importance of integrated, child-centred care – and the powerful role services like Rainbow Place play in supporting families through complex health journeys.

After six years, Chase remains a much-loved part of the Rainbow Place community – a remarkable young man whose strength and courage continue to leave a lasting impression.

As Chase returns home, the dedicated Rainbow Place team are already preparing the themed respite room for the next special, medically-fragile child. With great care and thought, they're setting the stage for another young person to enjoy time away from home – giving their family a much-needed break to catch their breath and simply focus on everyday life.



Christmas goodness with Simon Gault

We didn't know too much about Simon Gault when we approached him to do a Christmas collab with us! We knew he was a former NZ MasterChef judge, an amazing chef with stocks, seasonings, cookware and cocktails to his name, and that he has owned many top restaurants in New Zealand - Euro, Giraffe and Gault's on Quay to name just a few. What we didn't know though, was Simon's commitment to the community and his personal connection to hospice care.

"Christmas for me has always been about family, sharing food, and giving back. Last year, my father spent his final days in hospice care, so I've seen first-hand the incredible compassion that surrounds patients and families. The people at hospice truly do the work of angels. Supporting Waikato Hospice is my way of honouring that, and if enjoying a slice of fruit cake helps raise awareness and support, then I'm proud to be part of it."

We're offering a very special opportunity to pre-order a Simon Gault Christmas Cake for you, your family, your friends and your colleagues this Christmas, whilst supporting Hospice Waikato at the same time. As if this offering isn't tempting enough - check out how great these cakes actually look - <https://youtu.be/M8KAKRH7zmQ>

Scan here to order your Christmas cakes today.



Our sweet partnership with Good Bitches Baking

Since August 2016, Hospice Waikato has been on the receiving end of a very special kind of support—one that's wrapped in kindness, tied with ribbon, and delivered fresh every Sunday. Thanks to the unwavering dedication of the Good Bitches Baking (GBB) team, home baking has become a heartfelt symbol of care, connection, and community for patients, families, and staff.

Since this partnership began, the amazing volunteers who are part of the Good Bitches Baking charity have gifted Hospice Waikato an incredible 1,595 boxes of kindness—each one a moment of care, comfort, and connection. With a standard monthly delivery of 23 boxes across four weekends, the impact continues to grow, box by box, bake by bake.

To read more, please scan here.



Transforming end-of-life care for people with disabilities

A groundbreaking collaboration in the Waikato region is reshaping how end-of-life care is delivered for people with intellectual disabilities in residential facilities – bringing together expertise, compassion, and a shared commitment to better outcomes.

The partnership involves IDEA Services, Hospice Waikato, ConneXu, and Health New Zealand Waikato Disability Support Services (DSS), who have joined forces to create a more coordinated, person-centred approach to palliative care for people living in residential facilities, and supported by disability services.



“This really matters,” says Kim Fuller, Clinical Nurse Consultant at IDEA Services. “People with intellectual disabilities often have complex health needs – and when they face life-limiting conditions, the health and disability systems can struggle to respond in a unified, coordinated way.”

The team behind the initiative is proud of what’s been achieved – and hopeful about what’s next. “We’d love to see this shared across New Zealand,” says Kim. “Because every person deserves compassionate, high-quality care at the end of life – and this is what’s possible when services work together with a shared purpose.”

Scan to find out more.



Will you help Nourish a Week?

Nourish a Week is a dedicated donation opportunity which directly supports Hospice Waikato’s Inpatient Unit, enabling those people or businesses with a special interest in ensuring hospice care remains free, to donate a week of meals for patients being cared for in the Unit.

Your tax-deductible donation of \$1,000 will fund seven days of nourishing, home-style meals for patients receiving end-of-life care.

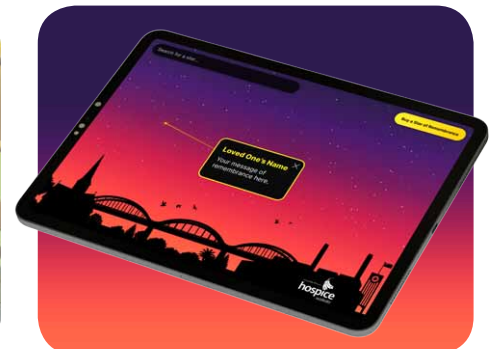
Scan here for more details.



Join us to Remember

Join us at one of our upcoming Remembrance Services as we come together to honour and remember your loved ones.

Scan here for more details.



Light up the sky with love

Honour the memory of someone special by dedicating a star in our Stars of Remembrance virtual night sky. Each star is a shining tribute, helping Hospice Waikato provide care and comfort for families when they need it most. Click here to purchase a star for your loved one. Buy a star. Share their story. Let their light shine on.

Scan here for more details.



Our Wish List

If you can help source any of these items, please reach out to us!

- Supermarket vouchers for families in need
- Petrol vouchers for volunteers travelling to support hospice care
- USB sticks for Life Stories
- Small packets of chips for our drinks trolley
- Donations of packaged biscuits for Kōwhai House



Thank You

Receiving funding from our community is crucially important in enabling us to deliver our services for free. The income from our retail shops, grant applications and donations contribute approximately 30% of our total operating costs, with the balance being received from Health New Zealand.

As always, there are simply so many organisations to thank for supporting Hospice Waikato. Please take a moment to read these names, and support these organisations if you can.

Amber Nurseries, Aotearoa Gaming Trust, Awatere Care Suites - Oceania, Beattie Rest Home, Bidfood Hamilton, Braemar Hospital, Brier Family Trust, Cambridge Oaks Lifestyle Village, Epoch Consulting, Gilmours Hamilton, Glenice & John Gallagher Foundation, Good Bitches Baking, Good George Brewing, Hamilton City Council, Hillcrest High School, Huntly Lions, Latitude Homes, Lions Club of Kihikihi, Lions Club of Tirau, Mahood Bros Partnership, New Zealand Community Trust, North & South Trust, Rotary Club of Hamilton Central, St Andrew's Anglican Church, St Paul's Opportunity Shop, Trust Waikato, WEL Energy Trust

We'd also like to acknowledge the following New World Supermarkets who took part in our Donate at the Till Campaign earlier this year, and to every single member of our community who donated:

Cambridge, Glenview, Hillcrest, Matamata, Morrinsville, Ngaruawahia, Rototuna, Taumarunui, Te Kauwhata, Te Kuiti, Te Rapa, Tokoroa, Waihi, Whangamata, Whitianga

We are grateful for every single donation we receive, whether it's clothes, furniture and bric-a-brac donated to our shops, time given by our volunteers, or financial donations - it all helps us to deliver our Hospice services free of charge.

If you'd like to make a donation to support our service delivery, our website has a 'Donate' button.

Our online donation page makes donating by credit card very easy and also includes information on how to make a donation via bank transfer. This automated process means your receipt will be forwarded to you via email. If you'd like more information about how you can support Hospice Waikato with a regular financial donation, or become a Friend of Hospice Waikato, please call us on 0800 HOSPICE, call us locally on 07 859 1260, or email cherie.mccleery@hospicewaikato.org.nz.

Will you support Hospice Waikato & Rainbow Place?
Please make a donation today to support patient care.

E-receipts

Would you like to receive your receipt via email? Please include your email address below and return this to us in the prepaid envelope provided.

Section 1. Your contact information

^ YOUR NAME

^ YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

^ YOUR PHONE NUMBER

Section 2. Your donation

\$

^ VALUE OF MY DONATION

☐

Donate via Internet Banking. See HW bank details, below.

☐

Credit Card - Monthly . Debit this amount to my credit card monthly.

☐

Credit Card - One Off. Debit amount to my credit card just once.

^ NAME OF CARDHOLDER

^ CARD NUMBER

☐

Mastercard

☐

Visa

^ EXPIRY DATE

^ SIGNATURE

Please return this form in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope to:

Hospice Waikato, PO Box 325, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240

Scan the QR code to donate:



hospicewaikato.org.nz/en/donate

Donate via internet banking to:

Westpac 03-1555-0091553-00. Please ensure you use your name and DON04 as a reference so we can identify your donation.

Donate over the phone by:

Calling 07 859 1260 to speak to one of our team.

Donations over \$5 can qualify for a LD1 tax credit: Hospice Waikato Trust, Charities Commission , Reg No: CC20547, IRD No: 26-079-713.

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