



Contact: Amandeep Kung
Job Title: Marketing and Communications Manager
Phone: 552-4380 Ext: 239
Email: amandeepk@waipunahospice.org.nz

Waipuna Hospice celebrates 30 years and many more to come with our community

Always Caring. Always Here.

From small and humble beginnings Waipuna Hospice has grown to become one of New Zealand's leading hospices. Originally, Waipuna Hospice began as an idea. How could specialist palliative care and support be provided to those facing terminal illness? How could those services be provided in peoples' homes so they didn't feel alone and afraid?

These caring ideals became a desire, which was actioned on 30 June 1990, nearly 30 years ago. Over a hundred volunteers came together to hold the first public meeting and elected an organising committee for Waipuna Hospice. A few months later, on 18 September, Waipuna Hospice become an incorporated society.

Initially volunteers worked alongside nurses out in the community from a villa on Cameron road, owned by the hospital, which became the drop-in centre. Once news of this new service began to filter into the community, demand grew rapidly and soon outweighed the ability of the volunteer team to meet it. The first crisis of 'supply and demand' presented itself.

This crisis was met by Pat and Jack Jenkins. They saw hospice care in action and could not envision a community without these vital services. They left the most charitable gift, a bequest in their will for the specific purpose of continuing hospice services within the community. With the use of the Jenkins legacy, a manager was appointed in 1996 and a professional palliative nursing service was established.

Within a very short time, demand once again grew and the villa was unable to cope with the number of people requiring specialised palliative care. This time Veta May James invested in Waipuna Hospice by giving a sizable gift to the hospice. In 1998, through Veta's generosity Waipuna Hospice was able to move to its current location on Te Puna Station Road, overlooking the Wairoa River. A year later building extensions were completed for a new community service wing.

Between 2003 and 2004, the third crisis hit. There was simply not enough money to continue to fund the In-patient unit, and Waipuna Hospice was in real danger of having to close its doors. This time it was you, our community who rallied and provided tremendous investment in Waipuna Hospice to ensure the essential specialist care and support services would continue to be provided to those facing life limiting



illness. It was during this turbulent time that the Waipuna Hospice Foundation was formed to focus on the future long-term security of Waipuna Hospice. "Always Caring. Always Here".

Since then, Waipuna Hospice has continued to grow and expand due to investments from the Waipuna Hospice Foundation and the amazing support of people in the Western Bay of Plenty community. People like you who continue to invest in the idea of specialised palliative care for the dying and the bereaved. People like Pat, Jack, and Veta who have provided a legacy. A legacy that you can continue as we face the challenges of tomorrow.

Now in 2019, Waipuna Hospice has teamed up with Acorn Foundation to help facilitate bequests from our biggest supporters, making it easier for you to leave a legacy or gift to Waipuna Hospice, helping ensure we will always care and always be here for our community. We have been providing care and support to our community for 30 years and we look forward to many years to come.

Acorn Foundation General Manager, Lori Luke, says, "Acorn is thrilled to partner with Waipuna Hospice to establish a Community Group Fund in honour of their 30th Anniversary. This fund will allow people in the WBOP to provide either one-off or on-going support for our local hospice using a perpetuity model that will help it to prosper for the next 30 years—and beyond."

END

Additional Information

Funds raised go directly towards providing specialist palliative care for patients living with a life limiting illness within Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty from Waihi Beach to Paengaroa. Waipuna Hospice also provides a range of support services for patients and their families, including counselling, chaplaincy services, books and resources, caregiver education, bereavement support, advocacy, advanced care planning, therapeutic massage, biographies, social work and child, adolescent and family services.

Waipuna Hospice is not funded by government, while some of our services are contracted from the District Health Board we need to raise \$4.25 million to meet the shortfall in our operating costs. That's a little over \$81,700 per week! Grants, bequests, special public appeals, events, volunteering, merchandise and our Waipuna Hospice charity shops help raise funds towards this enormous fundraising target.

Note to the Editor:

Waipuna Hospice delivers vital palliative care and support services, information and advocacy to help people make the most of their lives. Palliative care is the care that is provided towards the end of someone's life when suffering a life-limiting condition and with less than one year to live. This form of care includes not only medical and nursing care but also psychosocial and spiritual modalities of care, taking into account their emotional, spiritual and social needs. We are not just the end of the road; 3-6 months is the average length of care for each patient – for some it is much longer. Our goal is to help people make the most of their lives; to live every moment in whatever way is important to them. Hospice palliative care is available not only to the person with a life limiting illness but also to the carer and family of the individual, both before and after the death of a loved one.



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We expect to care for around 1,000 patients this year and provide support services to them and their families. The majority of our patients are cared for under our Hospice at Home service. Our Inpatient Unit provides short-term admissions for pain management, symptom control, respite care and in some cases end of life care. Our Day Services clinics provide for newly referred and more active, independent patients. We offer support services to all patients and their families including counselling, social work, therapeutic and lymphedema massage, respite, healthcare assistance, caregiver education and a Day Programme to which our patients can come for companionship, a shared meal, entertainment or activities.

Everything we provide is at no charge to patients and their families because we believe that hospice care should be available for everyone who needs it. Whilst provided at no cost to people using hospice services it costs a lot to provide. This financial year we need to raise \$4.25 million to cover those costs.

OUR VISION

High quality end of life care for all.

OUR MISSION

To provide the best possible specialist hospice palliative care, enhancing the quality of life for those facing end of life and bereavement.

OUR VALUES (CARE-Quality)

Compassion - Supporting one another – patient, families, whanau, friends, staff, volunteers and colleagues

Advocacy - Ensuring equity of access to services for all our communities

Respect - Upholding autonomy of each person and their community, accepting one another’s cultures and beliefs

Empathy - Acknowledging uniqueness, supporting with dignity, respect and compassion

Quality - Committed to continuous improvement, aligned to values and core services