

FRIENDSHIP


Starship
Foundation

Autumn 2020

Otis

**Thank you for
supporting Starship**

A message from our CEO

Dear friends,

Welcome to the latest edition of our Friendship newsletter.

In this edition, I wanted to express my gratitude for your continued support and generosity, that humbly remind us all that our children still need our help and share our refocused efforts for the months ahead. Our first priority is to keep our Starship National Air Ambulance flying and I am delighted to share the winning inspiration to our creative lockdown challenge as we start to raise awareness of these life-saving flights.

In this newsletter we also share the story of Otis and how you can help support babies like him who are facing life threatening breathing challenges.

We also take a moment to celebrate the Starship Outpatients upgrade made possible by Mercury's wonderful customers, and much more. Thank you so much for taking the time to read our newsletter and for supporting our Starship children from across New Zealand to have brighter futures.

My warmest regards - take care, be kind and stay safe.



Aisha Daji Punga,
Chief Executive, Starship Foundation



**A huge thank you to our
Five Star Partners:**



Visit us on Facebook and Instagram:



StarshipFoundation



StarshipFoundation



Thank you for supporting our heroes

On March 28, we asked for your support to help us make care packs for our healthcare heroes at Starship and the wider adult health team as they prepared for and fight COVID-19. Many have had to juggle longer hours, caring for patients, and an increased workload at home.

Some have even been living away from their families to keep them safe. With help from generous supporters like you, we've raised more than \$141,000. Thank you!

With that money, we've delivered more than 2,538 care packs to staff working across child and adult health at Starship and Auckland Hospitals. That includes doctors, nurses, cleaners, orderlies, and community healthcare workers who are incredibly grateful for your kindness and generosity.

Here's what Sarah Little, the Nurse Director of Starship, had to say:

“On behalf of the Starship nursing team a heartfelt thank you to you and your team for your work in supporting them during the national lock down. As with many New Zealanders nursing staff have experienced heightened anxiety and concerns for the future over this time. The Wellbeing packs were unexpected and greatly appreciated. Please thank your team and the donors from us for all their work, donations and thoughtfulness.”

Helping our babies to breathe easy for a brighter future

The baby you see on the front cover is Otis. He was born eleven weeks early at Starship. His mum Sam remembers how relieved she felt when she heard his little cry. He was alive. She says...

“I wasn’t scared...I knew he was in the best place he could be”.

But he wasn’t out of the woods yet. Otis needed urgent specialist treatment, or there was a chance he wouldn’t survive.

Thanks to a dedicated team of Starship experts, Otis didn’t just survive. Today, he’s a healthy six-year old boy living a full and active life. Here’s a picture of him (giving thumbs up!) and his older brother George.

All up, Otis spent three months with breathing support. It helped him develop into the healthy boy you can see in the picture when, at birth, his life was in serious danger.

Some newborns struggle to breathe when they’re born. Some, like Otis, spend weeks breathing with help from a ventilator.

There are special cases when babies need more than just a ventilator, too.

Some newborn babies suffer from pulmonary hypertension when they are born. It’s a slightly complicated medical term, but the result is this: not enough blood can get through the lungs and so not enough oxygen gets to the body. Our emergency treatment for pulmonary hypertension is to provide nitric oxide gas to the baby. This oxygen improves blood flow through the lungs, and limits damage to their heart, lungs, and brain.





When our NICU staff use nitric oxide, it is literally a matter of life and death for the baby. We're asking for your help to purchase a modern system to deliver this life-saving gas.

The machines we currently use for this task are reaching the end of their life cycle. The machine you can see is an 'Aeronox 2.0 machine.

This machine will help more Starship babies avoid long-term brain, lung, and heart problems. In many cases, it will help save their lives.

It automates much of the gas delivery process, is fully alarmed, and has a crystal-clear display to help our staff working in pressure situations.

Overall, this machine is safer, more flexible, and much easier to use than our present system.

Right now, NICU needs three more of these machines to ensure we can continue providing life-saving care for some of our most critically ill babies.

You might not work in NICU, but you can help create more happy endings like Otis and Sam's. And I think you'll agree that's something worth supporting.



If you are in a position to donate money to go towards buying a new Aeronox 2.0' machine, please email us at starshipfoundation@adhb.govt.nz, call us at 0800 782 774. Or visit www.starship.org.nz/foundation/story/Otis



Hailey, a Starship patient, in the newly refurbished Starship Outpatients Department

Outpatients' refurbishment enhances experience for children, whānau and staff

Not so long ago, our Outpatients Department was in need of an upgrade after almost 30 years of limited refurbishment. And no wonder - it sees 80,000 patient visits every year!

Our Five Star Partner Mercury came to the rescue. Their customers can add a Starship donation to their monthly bill, meaning Mercury could bring this much-needed project to life. Outpatients now has new rooms, equipment, and a new staff base. It even has an Augmented Reality experience known as 'The Wonderful Starship Forest'. Interactive walls magically come alive

with movement, sound and interaction – a fun and distracting experience for kids and their families while they wait for their appointments.

We cut the ribbon on 3 March to officially celebrate the completion. The new space is bright, spacious, and welcoming. A sincere thank you to Mercury and their wonderful customers for supporting this project. You've helped enhance the Outpatients experience for our patients, their families, as well as our staff.



Generous donations lift spirits of Starship children

Ahead of lockdown, we put a number of measures in place to help keep our Starship children safe. This meant that only one support person was allowed, restricted movement in the wards and hospitals and some of the children's favourite places such as our much loved playrooms had to be closed and the shared toys had to be put away.

As we all know, children love to play and our wonderful team of Play Specialists approached us to see how we might be able to help to keep the children entertained and distracted during this time.

Within days of putting the call out, we had a stream of kind donations from a number of our corporate supporters and local businesses who jumped at the chance to lend a hand. The immediate response and generosity blew us away and our kids were pretty happy too!

Thanks to our Starship partners EVENT Cinemas, Scholastic NZ, and StaplesVR for lifting the spirits of our Starship children.





Neuromuscular nurse specialist appeal pilot program

This year we asked you to help us fund Starship's Neuromuscular Nurse Specialist Pilot Program. Thanks to your generosity, We're delighted to say we're almost two thirds of the way towards funding the programme in full. We recently spoke to our Neuromuscular Nurse Specialist, Sharron, to see how she's getting on. While her job is more complex thanks to social distancing, she's continuing to support children and families throughout New Zealand. She says...

"It's been challenging.. It's taken a few weeks to adjust to the strict distancing requirements, and COVID protocols that come with treating emergency cases."

During the Covid-19 lockdown Sharron continued with her regular Neuromuscular clinics via digital communication. She also continued to co-ordinate the Spinal Muscular Atrophy programme with children continuing their treatment at Starship. Neuromuscular clinics will start soon at Starship and Sharron is looking forward to seeing her clients in person again. Sharron continues to work very closely with 'Make a Wish' ensuring neuromuscular children, who are eligible, are granted their very special wish.

Sharron has two things in particular to share:

Firstly, a big "thank you" to Starship Foundation donors like you for supporting her role.

Secondly, she wants people to remain vigilant. Children like Nate (from our February appeal) with neuromuscular conditions often don't have a strong immune system. If they were to catch COVID-19, it could be life-threatening. That's creating a lot of concern for their families.

"I hope COVID doesn't become normalised. A lot of our neuromuscular children are at a high risk", says Sharron.





Max, our Starship Star!

On Facebook we recently shared this image of our little Starship Star, Max. His mum Lizzie told us:

“Max has Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome and is undergoing a bone marrow transplant. The team of health professionals here are amazing. Max loves all the nurses and the colourful printed tops!

Being from Christchurch and not having any family up here has been difficult. But each member of the team has made us feel 100% supported. We will be forever grateful.”

All the best to Max, Lizzie, and all our children and families in Starship. We're right behind you!

To read more beautiful Starship Star stories like Max's, follow us on our Facebook page [facebook.com/starshipfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/starshipfoundation)

If you would like to send through any words of encouragement to our incredible Starship children, please email us at starshipfoundation@adhb.govt.nz and we will pass them on!





Air Ambulance lockdown challenge

Throughout lockdown, critically sick and injured New Zealand children have still needed to get to Starship urgently. In fact, almost every second day, there is a life-saving flight from around the country on our Starship National Air Ambulance. You can follow all of the life saving trips our Starship Air Ambulance takes across New Zealand to children in urgent need, through the Flightradar24 app.

We asked our children to come up with something creative inspired by our Starship National Air Ambulance during lockdown. We embarked on our Facebook Starship Creative Lockdown Challenge. We were so impressed with the creativity of the children (if you haven't seen them then check out the Starship Facebook page). From LEGO creations, to animations to a Starship Air Ambulance cake!

The lucky winner was the Starship Air Ambulance cake created by Hannah, age 12.

Hannah wins her very own art easel, thanks to Learning Spaces Global for generously donating the prize. We can't wait to see what creations Hannah gets up to next!



We need to raise \$500,000 this year to keep our Starship National Air Ambulance flying.

Find out more about this vital service and how you can help at keepstarshipflying.org.nz.



Donate to the Starship Foundation

A donation from you will help Starship continue to provide world-class healthcare and brighter futures for children across New Zealand. Your donation will go towards funding life-saving programs like the Starship National Air Ambulance and new technology like the Aeronox breathing machine. There are many ways you can donate to the Starship Foundation. Thank you so much for your kindness.

1. Donate via our website: www.starship.org.nz/foundation/donate
2. Donate through internet or phone banking. Select 'Starship Foundation' as a bill payee or enter account number: 12 3011 0820075 00

Remember to include these fields so we can receipt your donation: Name, Contact Number and your Constituent ID if you have one

3. Phone the Starship Foundation at 0800 782 774 and donate straight over the phone

If you have any questions please email us at starshipfoundation@adhb.govt.nz

Thank you so much for helping us provide better health and brighter futures for our children.

All donations of \$5 or more are tax deductible. Registered charity **CC24272**



EQUITY
No Child Is Left Behind



The Starship National Air Ambulance needs you

We need to raise \$500,000 this year to keep the Starship National Air Ambulance flying. **Can you help?** Our Air Ambulance flies critically sick and injured children from all over New Zealand who are in urgent need of life-saving care and treatment.

We are relying on generous donations from supporters like you to ensure the Air Ambulance service will be ready to go at a moment's notice year round for every child in need. For more information please visit www.keepstarshipflying.org.nz.