



Starship
Foundation

**Thank you for
supporting Starship**



FRIENDSHIP

Winter 2023

Welcome to your Winter Friendship Newsletter

Thank you for taking the time to read this winter edition of the Starship Foundation's Friendship newsletter.

As we look hopefully towards spring, it's a great time to look at the new growth and progress you're enabling at Starship.

If you've given to Starship recently, many of these stories have been made possible thanks to you.

The pages in this book prove all your donations – big and small – can make a difference.

One such donation – a remarkable gift in a supporter's Will – meant the Starship Foundation could move into its new home on July 18. You can see more from the official opening ceremony on pages 4 and 5.

Not all our projects happen on this scale, but collectively they can do truly amazing things. Funding research into Wheeze treatment means you could help reduce winter hospital admissions.

By supporting our staff during winter, you're ensuring our most critically ill children get the care they need.

And your support for Starship's Neurology department is literally saving lives.



For being a part of the stories within this newsletter, and for the stories yet to be told, thank you sincerely for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanna Simon".

Joanna Simon
Chief Executive
Starship Foundation

A huge thank you to our Five Star Partners:



Visit us on Facebook and Instagram:



Thank you for funding research into Wheeze treatments

Wheeze is the shrill, coarse whistling or rattling sound a child's airways make when they are partially blocked.

About 3000 children are admitted to hospital with Wheeze every year in New Zealand. It's the most common cause of hospitalisation for children under five.

With your help, that might be about to change.

With funding from supporters like you, Starship is participating in an Australasian study. The study will test the medicine OM-85, to see if it prevents wheeze-related hospital admissions.

If the trial proves successful, it could greatly reduce the number of children coming to Starship with Wheeze in winter...and to hospitals all over the country.

“Wheeze is the most frequent cause of preschool-aged children being hospitalised, and the current treatments aren't that effective,” says Starship Paediatrician Dr Cameron Grant, who is leading the New Zealand component of the study.

“It causes repeated trips to the hospital, and a lot of angst for the child's family.”



Dr Cameron Grant, Nurse Coordinator Marisa van Arragen, and Starship star Tomasso

As a result of your generosity, the project is now underway.

Thank you for funding this important initiative, and other critical research projects to improve health outcomes for our children.



PREVENTION

Keeping children out of hospital

EQUITY

For all New Zealand Children

Whiti Ora: a new chapter begins for the Starship Foundation



On Tuesday July 18th, the Starship Foundation was delighted to move into Whiti Ora - our new home.

Whiti Ora is the call of the pīpīwharauoa (shining cuckoo), 'kūi, kūi, whiti ora e!'. It is a sign of spring, of new beginnings; a

transition to a healthier state. It signifies the Starship Foundation's mission to nurture and grow a nation of healthy children.

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei kaumatua led a moving event, officially opening the building under the early morning Matariki stars.

The building completes a journey that began more than four years ago when the Starship



Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei blessing the new building under the Matariki stars

Foundation was informed Trevor Ellett had left an incredibly generous gift to Starship in his Will. He was determined that his bequest help Starship invest in research and innovation...the sort of research and innovation that would leave a long-term legacy.

As well as providing a home for the Starship Foundation, Whiti Ora will house Starship's research and innovation support team. It also features a seminar room and spaces for simulation training...all of which will foster new ideas and knowledge-sharing to help improve the care we can offer our children.

The building design itself is also inspired by the pīpīwharau – the shining cuckoo. The pīpīwharau often lays its eggs in the riroriro's (grey warbler's) nest, which then raises the chicks as its own. A fitting metaphor for Starship, I'm sure you'll agree!

Whiti Ora will help drive world-class research and innovation at Starship for many years to come and help us retain and attract world-class clinicians. As a result, it will have an enduring impact for our children, staff, and families.

Did you know you can easily leave a gift to Starship in your Will? After providing for loved ones, even 1% of your estate makes a significant difference. Email Rebecca.Williams-Starship@adhb.govt.nz for more information, or call us on 0800 782 774 for an information pack.

Thank you for saving lives in Starship's Neurology department

Our sincerest gratitude for some of the remarkable projects you've helped fund over the last few years in Starship's Neurology department.

Individually, these projects have ranged in size... some small, some big. But the cumulative impact of those projects has been massive.

Specifically, your support for two separate initiatives is changing lives.

The first of those is specialist research funding.

If Starship didn't have a research programme, our patients would not benefit from the really important knowledge that comes out of those research projects. Also, our doctors and nurses might then have to go overseas to upskill. When that happens, there's always a chance they won't come back.

By supporting Starship, you're ensuring our staff can stay at Starship and build their expertise as they help our children.

In an internationally competitive field, I can't begin to explain how important that is.

In addition, you've helped us fund pilot programmes that are now saving children's lives. That is no exaggeration.

A couple of years ago, Starship supporters



Kristie and Charlotte, who's receiving life-saving treatment thanks to you

like you funded our first Neuromuscular Nurse Specialist pilot programme. The position is now government-funded – you gave us the chance to prove what a difference it would make.

And it really has made a tremendous difference!



SAVING & IMPROVING LIVES
Better Outcomes For Our Children

EQUITY
For all New Zealand Children

Our first Neuromuscular Nurse Specialist, Sharron, now coordinates medication and treatment for twenty-two children and babies with Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

It affects the spinal cord's ability to send messages to the rest of the body – it's similar to Motor Neuron Disease. Until recently, some babies with this condition didn't survive beyond six months.

The government now funds two medications to treat it. Sharron helps organise travel and logistics, as many of these families live outside Auckland. She also helps with the delicate process of administering one of the medications via a spinal tap.

Thanks to Sharron's role, we can look after these children and families throughout the whole process.

In fact, her role has been such an unmitigated success we've been able to hire another Neuromuscular Nurse Specialist.

Without you, this wouldn't be a reality.

It's all very easy to talk about the difference this makes for staff, but the biggest impact is felt by children and families.

The pictures above are of Charlotte and mum



Charlotte, at home and in good health

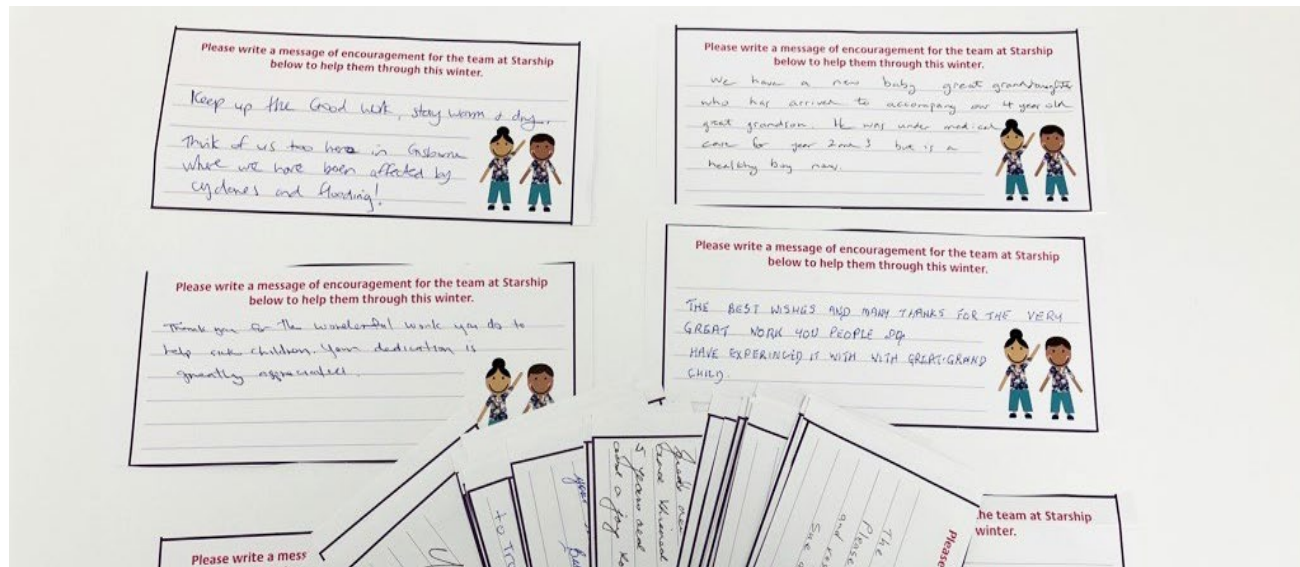
Kristie from Pukekohe. She was born with Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Her family uprooted their lives and moved to Queensland so she could access the treatment that kept her alive.

Now, they're back in New Zealand, and Charlotte's receiving the life-saving care she needs at Starship...thanks in part to you.

Our most sincere thanks for making all of this possible, and for all the ways you're helping Starship's Neurology department. You really are making a life-changing difference.

Thank you for funding our biggest-ever project



Your notes to our hardworking staff...soon to be displayed on Starship's PICU construction hoardings

At the start of 2021, we asked New Zealanders like you to help upgrade Starship's Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU).

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we've completed spaces for ten new intensive care beds.

With phase one complete, the project moves to phase two. This phase involves new whānau spaces for PICU parents and family, our first Medical Day Stay Unit, and new office spaces for PICU staff.

The scope of the project is significant. In fact, we're filling in levels 2 and 3 of the Starship atrium to fit it all in! As a result, we've put up hoardings to minimise the impact of construction noise on patients and family. We're planning to decorate the hoardings to make them more welcoming.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting this expansion. The biggest project in the Foundation's history wouldn't be happening without your help!

Thank you for helping kids like Alfie



CHILD WELLBEING & WHĀNAU SUPPORT
Making tough times more bearable

EQUITY
For all New Zealand children

In June, we asked Starship Foundation supporters like you to help Starship navigate a challenging winter.

You responded generously, helping raise \$66,000 at the time of writing.

In doing so, you've helped support our staff to do their best work at a challenging time.

You also helped kids like Alfie get the care they need.

Alfie was born at Dunedin Hospital just 23 weeks into mum Aimee's pregnancy. He was eight months old at the end of winter 2022 when he fell ill with a cold.

His delicate little lungs couldn't cope, and he was placed on life support. Starship's Air Ambulance team retrieved him and brought him back to our Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) where he was nursed back to health.

Despite his rough start to life, mum Aimee and dad John have some encouraging news... and a message of sincere gratitude to you.

"Alfie recently came off high-flow oxygen support



Alfie, at home in Duntroon, North Otago

– he's now on low flow oxygen and doing really well. Thank you so much to everyone who donated to help Starship carry on helping sick babies just like they did for Alfie!!"

It's not too late to help other children like Alfie this winter.

Donate now

Community Star: Adam

On October 29 this year, thousands of people will traverse the Auckland Harbour Bridge as part of the Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Marathon.

As in previous years, hundreds of kind New Zealanders will fundraise for Starship as they run. Some of them, like Adam, have a touching personal connection. Here's why Adam's running for Starship:

*Dane...would not be alive if it wasn't for the great work that goes on at Starship. **He has had three open heart surgeries, two emergency flights, and at one point had to spend 10 days on [heart/lung bypass machine] ECMO.***

Dane has a rare genetic condition called Williams Syndrome. This means he will always need some extra help and support from the team at Starship to live a healthy life. He is the sweetest little boy and he loves holding hands, music, the outdoors, toy buses and a good hug!

I am hoping to raise some money not only to help Dane, but to help out other kids going through



Adam and Dane in Starship

their own challenges. Please if you are able a donation of any size very much appreciated and it will make a difference. Chuck in a buck and let's help out our kids!

**If you'd like to run or walk the Auckland Marathon for Starship (or the 5km, 11km, or half marathons) go to:
<https://aucklandmarathon2023.grassrootz.com/Starship-foundation>**

Improving outcomes for children with rheumatic fever

Mercury and their wonderful customers have helped to make a critical update to the New Zealand Guidelines for Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease Diagnosis and Management.

Rheumatic fever is an autoimmune disease, often beginning with a sore throat (strep throat). For some children, an untreated sore throat leads to rheumatic fever. When this happens, the immune system can attack the heart, joints, brain and skin.

In 50% of cases, heart damage occurs as a result. This is called rheumatic heart disease - a potentially life-threatening condition.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease occur much more frequently than in comparable countries. Approximately 140 children under 14 are hospitalised each year.

Starship Paediatric Cardiologist and Associate Professor Dr Nigel Wilson says, **“It’s tragic to see happy, healthy children have their lives changed by heart damage from rheumatic fever, a preventable disease.”**

The guidelines, updated in association with the Heart Foundation, are vitally important.

The updates will help ensure rheumatic fever is diagnosed and treated earlier, and fewer children experiencing rheumatic heart disease. Ultimately,



Dr. Nigel Wilson, Starship Paediatric Cardiologist

this means fewer lives cut short and increased quality of life for hundreds of children across the country.

“We are all so grateful that the Starship Foundation and Mercury have helped fund the guidelines, which are used by health professionals to provide the best possible care,” says Wilson.

“You are making critical differences in the care of New Zealand’s children, thank you.”



Support Starship

Give now to continue helping children and young people like Alfie.

[Click to donate](#)

*As part of our vital fundraising work, the Starship Foundation uses an agency to make calls on our behalf. For this reason, it's possible you will receive a call asking you to give a monthly donation to Starship or to update your current payment details. For security purposes, **we will never ask you for your debit or credit card's CSV/security number**. If you're ever uncertain whether you're receiving a legitimate phone call, feel free to call us on the number above. Try and write down the number that called you so we can confirm it was us!*