

FRIENDSHIP


Starship
Foundation

Autumn 2023



**Thank you for
supporting Starship**

Welcome to your Autumn Friendship Newsletter

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of the Starship Friendship Newsletter. It contains inspiring stories of individuals and organisations who have made an incredible impact on our children.

We honour Dame Rosie Horton, our patron and founder who passed just recently.

We acknowledge the enduring commitment of Barfoot & Thompson over the last twenty years.

And we share the story of John & Eve who have generously left a gift in their Will to Starship.

In addition, I'm also proud to share stories of the children, staff, and families who make Starship such a wonderful place...and of the impact you make as a supporter.

Whether you're a Star Club monthly donor, a frequent giver, or you've left a gift in your Will to Starship, you help bring brighter futures to our children.

Mac – after barely surviving a brain injury – now has his licence. Marley has fully recovered from his near-death ordeal. Flight Nurse Rowan takes to the skies to retrieve our most critically ill and injured children.

You have played a part in all these stories. For that reason, it's my privilege to share them with you.



Warm regards,

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

Jo Simon
Chief Executive
Starship Foundation

A huge thank you to our Five Star Partners:



Visit us on Facebook and Instagram:



A tribute to Dame Rosie Horton: a tireless champion for Starship's children

You may have heard the sad news of Dame Rosie Horton's passing. I would like to pay tribute to our pioneer supporter who, with your help, worked tirelessly to champion better healthcare for all New Zealand children.

Starship wouldn't be where it is today without Dame Rosie and her friends.

30 years ago, the hospital lacked paediatric equipment. Even getting to Starship could be a challenge.

'Rosie' was initially reluctant to get involved with Starship, with numerous other charity commitments filling her calendar.

A patient's story changed her mind.

Dame Rosie met a mother and her acutely unwell child who had travelled from Southland to Starship.

The journey had taken them four days by bus.

Rosie thought that simply wasn't good enough. New Zealand's children deserved better.

Dame Rosie mobilised her friends, and the Friends of Starship was born.

Their first fundraising event was the TV3 telethon in 1993, raising \$1.5 million for Starship. Since then, donors like you have helped raise over \$160 million for the hospital.

It's hard to believe that only six weeks ago we were at her home, where she and husband Michael hosted a 30 year reunion for the Friends of Starship.



We were regaled with stories of her waiting outside the Northern Club in the '90s, approaching prominent businessmen for their support. She was persuasive, and persistent...some members even complained to Rosie's husband about her motivated fundraising!

As the event proved, she was an incredibly dedicated voice for our children. The Starship Foundation's ongoing success is an enduring tribute to her efforts.

We are forever grateful for her vision, her feisty fundraising and her generous spirit. Her legacy will live on as we carry on the important work she started.

- Jo Simon, Starship Foundation CEO

Thank you for keeping the Starship National Air Ambulance Service flying for children like Marley

With your help, Starship continues to retrieve New Zealand's most critically ill children from hospitals across Aotearoa.

Kind-hearted people like you helped us raise over \$80,000 for our Air Ambulance campaign. Each year we need to raise \$1.5 million to keep the Starship Air Ambulance flying.

Your generosity is already making an impact. With your support, we retrieved 54 children between January and April this year.

Children like Marley from Christchurch, pictured right. Marley was just 11 days old when he developed a blood infection that almost claimed his life.

With help from supporters like you, the Starship National Air Ambulance team flew to retrieve him.

Today, he's a happy, healthy little boy.

By donating to the Starship Air Ambulance, you're helping children like Marley when they need it most.

But you're doing so much more than that

Having a critically ill child is every parent's worst nightmare. They have to confront the reality their baby might not survive.



As a result, the Starship National Air Ambulance team doesn't just represent outstanding medical care...

For parents like Marley's mum Katie, it represents something far bigger: hope.



SAVING & IMPROVING LIVES
Better Outcomes For Our Children

EQUITY
For all New Zealand Children



Hope that their child will receive the highly-specialised care they need. Hope that things will get better.

Hope for their child's future – for their life as a family.

Thank you so much for helping Starship provide hope to parents like Katie in their time of need.



Marley – back to better health thanks to you!

Air Ambulance staff profile:

Rowan

Meet Rowan, a nurse in Starship's Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), and a fully-fledged member of the Starship Air Ambulance flight team.

Before he took to the skies, Rowan had gained a wealth of nursing experience in New Zealand and overseas.

"I graduated nursing school in 2005, and since then I've been working in a range of environments. My career has seen me moving between general paediatrics, neonatal intensive care units (NICU) and now PICU. **It's been one of the most rewarding roles of my nursing life.**"

Rowan particularly enjoys the varied nature of the job, both in terms of the patients' age and the conditions he helps to treat. "Every day is different – no two patients are the same."

With significant experience under his belt, and a desire to grow in his role, Rowan applied to join the flight team in 2021.

"I wanted a new challenge. I love flying around the country to retrieve children in difficult circumstances. You have to be able to adapt and think on your feet, which I love."

While it's not always easy, Rowan thoroughly enjoys his job. "It's a privilege to be a part of the difficult and often emotional times these kids and families are going through. It's the best job in the world."



During his spare time, Rowan sometimes takes to the skies to indulge his passion in photography. And he's really very good at it! Check out Rowan's work at www.instagram.com/rowansims

Thanks for helping Mac get his licence!



SAVING & IMPROVING LIVES
Better Outcomes For Our Children

EQUITY
For all New Zealand Children

All over New Zealand, children and young people are living brighter futures because of your generosity.

Just like Mac from Alexandra.

He was 14 when he suffered a brain injury during a mountain biking accident.

Despite wearing a helmet, Mac's injury was severe. Doctors at Dunedin Hospital had to remove part of his skull to relieve the swelling in his brain.

The initial surgery was a success, but there was no certainty Mac would recover. **At one stage, doctors at Dunedin Hospital had to consider the possibility of turning Mac's life support off.**

Mac was alive, but his future was clouded with uncertainty. He needed expert care from Starship's Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and specialist paediatric neurologists to give him the best chance for better health.

He spent three weeks in PICU under constant supervision, and spent almost two months in Starship in total.

New Zealanders like you have helped Starship build ten more intensive care spaces for children and young people like Mac. Today, more children like Mac from across Aotearoa can receive care in a state-of-the-art intensive care unit at Starship.

That gives them the very best chance to return to a mostly-normal life at home. Like Mac.

He's had to re-learn lots of things. He has reduced left arm function, reduced balance, and lower energy levels...a big challenge for a boy who loved sport and physical activity.



"We've already discussed boundaries!", says mum!

But thanks to ongoing support from Starship, his local care team, and his loving family, Mac has made tremendous strides.

Mum Maree recently gave us an update on Mac. He just earned his Restricted licence, giving him independence his parents couldn't have dreamed of after his accident.

He attends school almost full-time, and is looking forward to finding work that fits his limitations.

By donating to Starship, you're helping give children and young people like Mac the best chance for a brighter future. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Celebrating 20 years of partnership

**BARFOOT
THOMPSON &**
LICENSED REAA 2008

Starship
Five Star Partner

2023 marks 20 years since Barfoot & Thompson joined the Starship Foundation whānau.

Over the last two decades they've contributed an extraordinary \$6 million towards Starship. This has made great things possible for Starship children, families and staff.

If your child has needed Starship, it's likely you've experienced that generosity first-hand.

From support for Radiology on level 1, right up to the oncology vascular service on level 7, Barfoot & Thompson's support is present across the hospital.

Some of the highlights include:

- **An equipment upgrade for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit**, supporting our tiniest patients and their whānau.
- **The Magic of Reading programme**, ensuring every child who spends a night in Starship receives their own book to take home. Since 2003 over 230,000 books have been gifted.
- **Whare Hauora, a healthcare unit for two Auckland schools**, bringing healthcare directly to children in their communities.
- **The establishment of Whitinga ora pēpi, New Zealand's first neonatal transitional care unit**, wrapping care around newborns with high health needs.



Senior Starship clinicians Dr Mike Shepherd and Dr John Beca celebrate with Peter Thompson and Kiri Barfoot

***“We cannot thank Barfoot & Thompson enough for their incredible support for Starship, children, families and staff over the past 20 years.*”**

This support has truly made a world of difference and will continue to be felt for generations to come.”

- Jo Simon, Starship Foundation CEO

Transforming care for our littlest patients and their whānau



Rosie and Darren with twins Agi and Gerry in Whitinga ora pēpi

A recent example of Barfoot & Thompson's impact is in New Zealand's very first neonatal transitional care unit.

Whitinga ora pēpi ('babies transitioning to wellness') provides wrap-around care and support for new babies with high health needs. These are often babies who are born late pre-term or prematurely and need dedicated support to thrive and transition home.

Since opening in November 2021, the incredible team has supported more than 350 mums and 400 babies (lots of twins!)

Whitinga ora pēpi is a unique collaboration between Starship's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Te Toka Tumai Auckland Women's Health.

Nurses and midwives work side-by-side, caring for mums and babies together to give them the best possible start in life.

Barfoot & Thompson helped to make the unit possible, generously funding all of its furnishings and equipment.

"I want to say a huge thank you to Barfoot & Thompson for giving us what we needed to get Whitinga ora pēpi up and running.

It's had a huge impact on not only our team here, but every whānau that's come through the door."

- Rebecca Clark, Co-Charge Midwife, Whitinga ora pēpi



CHILD WELLBEING & WHĀNAU SUPPORT

Making tough times more bearable

EQUITY

For all New Zealand children

Community Star: Andrew

Everyday New Zealanders like you raise funds in the community every week. Some have a passing connection to Starship. For others, it's much more personal.

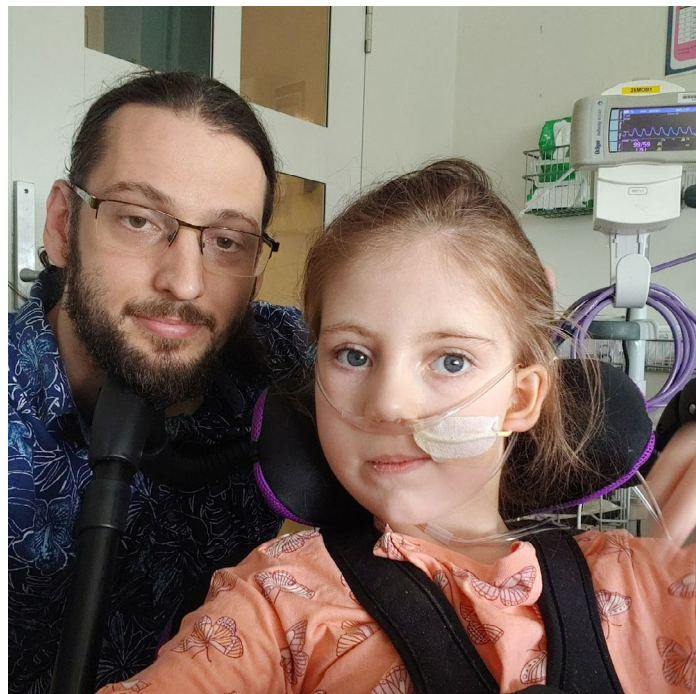
Andrew knows Starship's Paediatric Intensive Care Unit better than most. His daughter and Starship Star Patricia has been admitted many times.

“Starship have saved my daughter's life on multiple occasions, and that is no exaggeration.”

Patricia is a 'medically complex' child, meaning she has a range of health challenges. She's had heart and bowel surgery at Starship. She also remains vulnerable to infections, especially respiratory ones, and was recently back in Starship due to rhinovirus.

To show his gratitude for Patricia's care, Andrew ran Round the Bays to raise vital funds for Starship.

“This was a small way for us to be able to give something back, and to raise some awareness of the great work done by Starship all the time, not just for us, but for many other families in their hardest moments.”



Andrew and daughter Patricia

Thanks Andrew, and to all our community supporters who go the extra mile (sometimes literally!) to raise funds for Starship.

**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>**



Guardian Angel profile: John and Eve

Starship Guardian Angels are a special group of generous New Zealanders who've left a gift in their Will to Starship.

If you're one of them, thank you so much for your generosity! You're helping ensure New Zealand's children have the best possible chance to enjoy the magic and wonder of childhood.

John and Eve are two such people who plan to leave a gift in their Will to Starship. For them, it feels like a natural progression from their monthly donation to Starship.

It's also a way to ensure the ongoing success of a cause that's close to their hearts.

As passionate aviators, John and Eve are keen supporters of the Starship Air Ambulance. While they haven't seen the Starship plane itself, they often volunteer to support Hato Hone St John ambulance staff at Auckland and Starship hospitals during busy periods. "They often don't have time to take a break, so we give them food and support", says John.

There, they met a Starship Air Ambulance team preparing to fly and retrieve a child. It gave them



John and Eve: community stalwarts and Starship

a valuable insight into the services Starship offers, and how far their support reaches.

Thank you, John and Eve. And to all Starship monthly donors and Guardian Angels, thank you so much for your kindness and generosity!

If you are interested to learn more about leaving a gift to Starship in your Will, please call 0800 782 774 or email rebecca.williams-Starship@adhb.govt.nz

Support Starship

Here's more ways you can help children and young people like Maiwa (pictured), Mac, Marley, and Patricia.



Internet or phone banking



Select 'Starship Foundation' as a bill payee
or

Enter account number: 12-3011-0820075-00

Please include your name, contact number, and supporter ID (if you can) so we can send you a receipt!



Phone us on 0800 782 774

Got questions? Feel free to email us at starshipfoundation@adhb.govt.nz

LEAVE A GIFT TO STARSHIP IN YOUR WILL

If you'd like to know more about leaving a gift in your Will to Starship, email Rebecca Williams at **Rebecca.Williams-Starship@adhb.govt.nz**, or phone 0800 782 774. As little as 1% can make a significant difference for our children.

Thank you so much for providing better health and brighter futures for our children.