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FRIENDSHIP

Autumn 2025

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Welcome to your Starship Friendship Newsletter

With the year now well underway, I'm taking this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks for the incredible support you've shown Starship. As Starship cares for more children than ever before, that wonderful support is especially important right now.

Thanks to you, the Starship team stands ready to provide specialised, life-saving care to critically ill and injured children, no matter where in New Zealand they live. This newsletter is filled with inspiring examples of how you are helping to make that possible.

It's been a really tough year economically for many Kiwis, but amazingly, against this difficult backdrop we raised \$19.8million, which enabled us to support the front line of New Zealand paediatric healthcare. You can read more about how we've used your generosity and the direct impact it's had on children's lives on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.

Aimée's story is a powerful example of how your support makes a difference. Flown to Starship at just 8 days old for life-saving surgery, Aimée's procedure restored her voice. Thanks to the advanced medical equipment funded by

donors like you and the expertise of her Starship surgeon Dr. Colin Barber, Aimée's life has been transformed. Read more about her journey on pages 6 and 7.

You may have read about Chase's incredible journey in our recent appeal. Now 7 years old, he's thriving thanks to your support. See how he's doing on page 10.

Thank you, once again, for your compassion and generosity. It's only with your help that we can continue to provide world-class care to the children who need us.

I hope you enjoy reading about the extraordinary things you are helping to make possible in this newsletter. The children and families we care for are deeply grateful for your commitment to ensuring that our vital work continues.

Warmest regards,

Joanna Simon
Chief Executive
Starship Foundation



How Jeanette is bringing the very best healthcare to New Zealand children...



...and how you can do the same.

At 82 years young, Jeanette Logie is a doting grandmother of six, enthusiastic ukulele player and passionate Starship supporter. She lives in the small town of Mosgiel, outside Dunedin.

Having trained as a radiographer and worked at a medical school, Jeanette has had a lifelong interest in medical research, treatment and care. But it was a family tragedy that first connected her to Starship.

“My cousin’s granddaughter died in a car accident at just seven years of age,” Jeanette says. “It was a tragedy close to my heart, and I felt a real pain at the loss. It made me think about what it would be like to lose a little one.”

Jeanette decided to leave a kind-hearted gift in her Will to Starship to help other children and families in their time of need.

That gift will help provide specialised, lifesaving care to New Zealand children who need it for many years to come, something Jeanette says she finds both inspiring and rewarding.



Baby Talo has a brighter future thanks to Starship and the generosity of people like you and Jeanette.

“Starship is a star for me,” she says. “There are so many people there doing good things. But for the work to go on, they need new buildings and extra equipment and training.

“If I can do a little bit to help with that it makes me happy.”

Compassionate gifts in Wills like Jeanette’s, are vital to making sure Starship can continue to provide world class care to New Zealand children when lives are on the line. We are deeply thankful for the difference she will make long into the future.

If you would like to learn more about leaving a gift in your Will, which is one of the most powerful and effective ways you can support Starship, please contact Rebecca Williams on 021 222 4747 or at Rebecca.Williams-Starship@adhb.govt.nz. You can also find more information on our website.

Your Impact: Transforming Lives and Shaping the Future of Paediatric Care

Children from all over Aotearoa New Zealand come to Starship, whether it's for minor injuries or illnesses, or for the more severe and life-threatening. Starship is the centre for specialised paediatric healthcare. This past year was busier than ever. 158,134 children came to Starship for treatment, a 13% surge on last year.


158,134 Patient stays, visits and appointments	100,908 Follow up outpatient appointments
39,706 Visits to Starship's Emergency Department	More than 1,000 appointments with Starship Outreach Clinics outside of Auckland

What we raised together

This year our donors helped us to generate \$19,864,176 to help support real and meaningful child healthcare projects that deliver lasting positive impact every day.


Putting your generosity to work

With your generous support, every \$1 spent on fundraising, operating costs and governance has generated \$2.94 this year.. Of this, \$10,003,495 has been directed into projects supporting Starship to enhance clinical care, research and improving the patient experience.




50%

Children cared for in PICU were from outside of Auckland




187

Flights on Starship's National Air Ambulance




1,226

Children cared for in PICU (Paediatric Intensive Care Unit)




801

Children cared for in NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit)



51%

Of children in PICU were Māori or Pasifika



54%

Of children admitted were aged under six years

Clinical Care \$7,503,732

\$1.9million PICU

\$1.5million Starship National Air Ambulance

11 Pieces of specialised medical equipment.

10 Medical and allied staff.

80 Upskilling, training courses and conferences for Starship staff.



Starship Nurse Joanna Archer.

Patient Experience \$656,947

\$61k Purchased books, one for every child who spends a night in hospital.

8 Refurbishments and makeovers.

\$13.5k Necessary extras to enhance the patient experience.

3,429,000 Users reached via Safekids digital engagement programme.



Aston looking at the helicopters from his room in Starship.

Research \$1,842,815

4 Fellowships Including Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

5 New research projects Including investigating childhood bone and joint infections.



Starship surgeon Dr Colin Barber.

Starship is known for changing and saving the lives of children with the most serious illnesses and the most critical injuries. Though the running costs are covered by Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora, it's only with the help of its dedicated charity and our generous supporters that the hospital can continue to research innovative treatments and access the best equipment and facilities for children and their families. We believe every child deserves to thrive. Everyone has a part to play, and together everything is possible.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being a vital part of this life-saving work. Your support makes all the difference.

You can view the whole Impact Report on our website.

You are supporting innovative surgery for Kiwi kids

Aimée had a tougher start to life than most children, but she's thriving now – thanks to the generosity of wonderful supporters like you who help to fund the Starship Air Ambulance and the latest in medical equipment at Starship Hospital.

You may remember Aimee's story from our Christmas appeal. When she was just 8 days old, Aimée was airlifted to Starship on the Starship Air Ambulance for life-saving surgery on her heart. The surgery was a success, but it meant damaging the nerve connecting her brain and the left side of her vocal cords, explains Dr Colin Barber, Aimee's specialist and one of New Zealand's leading paediatric Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) surgeons.

"As a result, the left side of Aimée's vocal cords were effectively paralysed," Dr Barber says.

With the right side of her vocal cords unaffected, Aimée was still able to talk in a whisper, but doing so was exhausting for the playful little girl. As she grew older, her paralysed vocal cords made some activities harder for Aimée than her peers, especially being heard amongst her classmates in the noisy school environment.

Dr Barber identified Aimée as a possible candidate for an innovative – but challenging and delicate – procedure called Vocal Cord Reinnervation that would restore her voice.

"With this procedure we take a different nerve – one that has a less important function – and we use that to set up a new connection between the brain and the vocal cords, one that bypasses the damaged nerve," Dr Barber says.



Starship's Ear, Nose and Throat surgeon (ENT) Dr. Colin Barber, fondly known by his patients as Dr Jellybean.



Thanks to Dr Barber and donors like you, Aimée (left) can be heard loud and proud just like her sisters.

When she was four years old, Dr Barber led a team of surgeons to conduct the procedure on Aimée, making her one of the first young children to benefit from this surgery.

“It was a complex procedure that took around four hours to complete, but I’m proud to say it was a success. Within a few months, the volume of Aimée’s voice had returned to normal,”

Dr Barber explains.

“This surgery would have been impossible without the advanced surgical and imaging tools funded with the help of our wonderful supporters.

“Although Aimée may not be destined for a career as an opera singer, I understand that her voice can now be heard loud and clear above the din of the school playground!”

Aimée’s family and her team of specialists and doctors are extremely grateful for the generosity of supporters like you.

“Not only does Aimée have a voice today with the help of Starship supporters, but she has her life because of their help in supporting the Air Ambulance.” says Dr Barber.

**Starship surgeon
Dr Colin Barber**

“I am delighted for Aimée and I want to thank, once again, the terrific supporters who helped make all this possible.”

Barfoot & Thompson's support is helping kids thrive

Our amazing Five Star Partner Barfoot & Thompson is helping young kids like Duskie keep up with their friends in the playground. We are so grateful for Barfoot & Thompson's support in helping to fund vital secondary activity limbs for young amputees. This generous contribution is changing the lives of young children like Duskie who have lost a limb.

Six-year-old Duskie was born with part of her lower leg bone missing. At just 11 months of age, her right leg was amputated just below the knee. A primary prosthetic limb has helped Duskie hit important physical developmental milestones, such as walking. But when the bubbly little girl started school, she found it difficult to keep up with her friends, particularly in the playground.

Starship referred Duskie to the Peke Waihangā Artificial Limb Service. With support from Starship and funding from Barfoot & Thompson, Duskie was fitted with a secondary activity blade to help her get active in fun and exciting ways. The special blade is fitted with a spring that allows Duskie to run, jump, climb and play – just like her friends! In fact, she's adapted to her new blade so well that she decided to take part in last year's Auckland Marathon. What a legend!

"Without Barfoot & Thompson and the Starship Foundation, we wouldn't be able to afford a blade like this for Duskie. It really is a game-changer for her and she's so happy keeping up with all her friends on the playground now," says Danielle, Duskie's mum.

Barfoot & Thompson has been a Starship Foundation Five Star Partner since 2003. In that time, they have donated more than \$6 million to Starship, enabling us to make numerous improvements, initiatives and programmes possible for Starship staff, children and families. Their commitment to help fund three years' worth of secondary activity limbs for young amputees who are referred to the Peke Waihangā Artificial Limb Service is setting these kids up for a faster, brighter future!

Duskie enjoying her summer holidays.



Addison – our big-hearted community fundraising star

Last year, six-year-old Addison joined hundreds of runners at the Auckland Marathon, completing the 5-kilometre route with her mum and raising an incredible \$4,652 for Starship!

Three years ago, Addison was diagnosed with a rare type of leukaemia. It was a stressful and frightening time for her parents. Thankfully, Addison was able to receive the specialised care and treatment at Starship, where compassionate clinicians and nurses dedicate their lives to caring for sick kids.

Addison decided she wanted to do something to help other sick kids after her family got the fantastic news she was in remission. Four and a half months after finishing chemotherapy, she lined up at the start of the marathon ready to run for Starship.

On the day, despite being unwell for two weeks, Addison did her best and had heaps of fun.

“She gave it her absolute all to get through to the finish line! She had one fall but got back up and



Addison and her proud family.

carried on like the trooper she is,” her mum Jess said.

Addison said the run was hard but *“worth it to donate money to Starship”*.

“I felt good running, but my legs were really sore!”

We are so grateful to people like Addison and all the other amazing runners and individuals who choose to raise awareness and much needed funds for Starship.

If you, your club or your organisation would like to fundraise for Starship, we'd love to help! Go to <https://www.fundraiseforstarship.org.nz> or you can contact Gina and the Team on 0800 782 774 or email us at gfergusson@adhb.govt.nz

A life transformed with your help and support

We recently shared the incredible story of a very special boy, Chase. At just 14 days old, Chase was diagnosed with heart failure. As his condition worsened over the next few years, he needed a Berlin Heart—an artificial heart—while waiting for a transplant. He received the Berlin Heart at Starship, the only children's hospital in New Zealand with specialised paediatric cardiologists.

“Life on a mechanical heart is incredibly hard,” says mum Kelsi. “After 4 months, we were exhausted and so relieved when we got the call that Chase was getting a new heart.” After his successful heart transplant, Chase spent months in Starship doing cardiac rehab and physiotherapy before he was finally able to go home.

Kelsi recalls, *“The first thing he wanted to do when we were allowed to leave the hospital was to go to the beach and feel the sand on his feet. We finally got to see Chase run—something he hadn't been able to do in his first seven years.”* Kelsi recalls how, due to Chase's heart failure, they carried him to the top of many mountain peaks in a backpack to create memories as he was unable to walk far.

Thanks to your support,
Chase is living a full, happy life.
Your generosity makes a real
difference for families like theirs.

Now 7 years old, Chase is thriving. ★ His family—parents Kelsi and Andy, little brother Jasper, and their dog Nina, are embracing the outdoors with hiking, mountain biking, and motocross. Chase has always known he had a *“special heart”*. He recently drew a picture of himself holding his new heart in his hands.

Kelsi adds, *“Chase wouldn't be alive without the team and equipment that Starship has and it's so specialised to paediatrics. Starship provides unbelievable care. It's not just the doctors and nurses but the entire team. We're so grateful.”*

Andy, Kelsi, Chase, and Jasper—enjoying a day of biking together, embracing life and adventure after Chase's heart transplant.



Key milestones reached in Starship's PICU rebuild

Rebuilding Starship's PICU (Paediatric Intensive Care Unit) is the biggest project ever undertaken in the hospital's history, but it's one that Clinical Director Dr John Beca says is vital.

"Driving this rebuild was the fact our country needs more PICU beds," Dr Beca says. "We're New Zealand's Children's Hospital, and we simply don't have enough beds for the growing number of children who need care."

Completing a building project of this magnitude in the heart of a fully operational hospital has come with its fair share of challenges. But as Site Manager Duncan Cowell explains, everything has been done with the health and wellbeing of Starship's little patients in mind.

"All the normal methods of building, which would generally be straightforward, need to be meticulously planned to ensure as minimal disruption as possible to the young patients and the incredible staff at Starship."

With that in mind, the whole site has been encased behind a temporary wall with noise reducing materials. Families staying on wards or visiting outpatient services would barely believe the progress being made behind those bright, child-friendly barriers.



The Atrium infill under construction.

Stage 2 of the project (the Atrium rebuild) is now well underway. This includes the new Athlae Lyon Medical Day Stay Unit, Whānau rooms and the Douglas Simulation Suite.

When complete, this project will not only provide more beds for critically ill and injured New Zealand children. It will also offer much better spaces for the Starship team to provide support, therapy and care to children and families.

Through your support for the Starship Foundation, you have provided critical funding for the PICU rebuild. Thank you for helping to make sure Starship is ready to meet the healthcare needs of New Zealand's children into the future.



Support Starship

Give now to help provide specialised life-saving care for children and young people like Chase.



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. 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!