

# FRIENDSHIP



Spring 2020

**Starship Star  
Lennox**

**Thank you for  
supporting Starship**

# A message from our CEO

Dear friends,

Welcome to our Spring 2020 newsletter. Thank you for taking the time to connect with us and our cause.

These last few months have been challenging for many of us in the Starship family. There was our successful initial eradication of COVID-19, when we opened our doors fully again, then 100 days free from community transmission... and the dreaded resurgence.

This has certainly caused disruption and uncertainty for our staff, children, and families. But rest assured, our mission to create better health and brighter futures for our children remains as strong as ever.

I hope you're getting through this challenging time as best you can, and you're able to spend time with people you love in spite of the difficulties you might be facing. I also hope you share my optimism that we will get through this in much better shape than many of our peers overseas.

So far this year, my faith in New Zealanders has only grown stronger. And there's a reason for that. Like you, most New Zealanders have proved themselves to be kind, understanding, and community-minded. And like you, they've shown they're willing to prioritise the health of vulnerable people in their community.

It is in that spirit of community I share these stories with you today. You'll hear some heart-warming updates about



*Aisha and son, Milan*

Starship children who've benefited from your generosity. You'll hear about exciting new fundraising activities you can get involved in, and see how our partners are helping us deliver better health and brighter futures to us all.

On behalf of the Foundation, thank you again for your support. You are making a real difference in the lives of children, staff, and families at Starship. The following pages are proof of that.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aisha Daji Punga'.

Aisha Daji Punga,  
Chief Executive, Starship Foundation

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

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LICENSED REAA 2008

ASB

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# Avery back on her feet thanks to you

In June, we asked New Zealanders like you to support our Starship National Air Ambulance appeal. On August 20th we reached our \$500,000 donation target for 2020. If you supported this appeal, thank you. Because you haven't just helped to keep an airplane flying...

This gorgeous little battler, in the middle of the photo, is named Avery. You might have read about her during our Starship National Air Ambulance campaign.



In February, 3-year-old Avery was in a horrific car crash in Manawatu that left her with life-threatening injuries. She was rushed to Palmerston North Hospital and was found to have internal injuries, a broken leg, and potential brain injuries. She was immediately transferred to Starship via the Starship National Air Ambulance where she was suspected to have a spinal cord injury.

Receiving swift access to the best possible care at Starship has given Avery fantastic recovery prospects. Prompt treatment from the experts meant an accurate diagnosis and treatment plan for Avery's injuries. That, in turn, means specialists have said her journey towards walking again is "very, very promising".

**Thanks to supporters like you, our Air Ambulance was able to get Avery to the specialist paediatric spinal care she needed as soon as possible.**

After four and a half months for treatment and rehab in Auckland, Avery and mum Rochelle returned home at the end of June. Avery has continued making fantastic progress in the weeks since. Day by day, she's learning to build the strength she will need to hopefully one day walk again. Every day her legs get stronger, and she becomes a little more confident. Avery can walk with a walking frame now! Mum Rochelle is grateful to staff at both Starship and the Wilson Centre for their ongoing help and support. She's also thankful for all the support she's received from people she doesn't know...including Starship supporters like you who donated to the Air Ambulance campaign.

**"Thank you for your showing your support, it has been really heart-warming having so many people care about Avery, and the kindness hasn't gone unnoticed. We appreciate it so much and it has helped through this tough time." - Rochelle**

Supporting the Starship National Air Ambulance means you give kids like Avery and parents like Rochelle the best possible chance at a brighter future. We see the impact of your kindness and generosity every day. And so do parents like Rochelle.

# How you're helping Lennox get stronger

We first introduced you to Lennox in last year's spring newsletter. Born with significant heart and lung irregularities, Lennox spent much of his early life in Starship. He was able to leave the hospital after almost a year of near-constant treatment. But first, his parents needed to know how to attach him to a ventilator.

Thanks to generous Starship supporters like you, the Starship Foundation started a simulation program in 2010. Today, the Douglas Starship Simulation Training Program gives parents like Larissa (Lennox's mum) the chance to practice real-life scenarios on lifelike manikins. That means when Lennox went home, his family knew how to attach his ventilator and deal with any emergencies. This is a great example of how you're helping to give children like Lennox better health and brighter futures.

The family have settled into a more regular life since he came home... and it seems to be helping. In the past year, Lennox has grown bigger and stronger (as you can see on the front cover!). He still needs ventilation support at night, but he's slowly working his way toward breathing independently fulltime. His mum says his development is very good for a child with his medical history.

His family are incredibly thankful for Starship – and to Starship Foundation supporters like you who have helped to fund equipment, training, and research that directly benefit kids like Lennox.

"I say it all the time, but... every child deserves a chance," says Larissa. With support from people like you, Lennox has the chance to live a full and healthy life... and he's making great strides.



*Lennox and his mum, Larissa, when he was 8 months old*





*Lennox and his sister having fun*

Last year, Larissa and her family were looking for a way to show their appreciation to Starship staff and supporters. The Starship Foundation's 'Bake it Better' campaign looked like the perfect opportunity. "I hope other people are willing to sign up or donate....just give what you can." she says.

We're humbled by her willingness to 'give back', given the challenges her family has faced.

And we are constantly humbled by the generosity of Starship supporters like you. Thank you for helping

ensure parents like Larissa and children like Lennox can leave hospital with confidence. Thanks to your kindness and willingness to help, Lennox is quickly growing into a strong, independent little person.

PS: If you want to know how you can 'Bake it Better' just like Larissa, read the article on the next page.



## Bake it Better for Starship

Bake it Better for Starship is back for 2020! While we're all coping with uncertainty of changing alert levels, Bake it Better for Starship is still a fun way to keep busy, stay connected and be creative – and it can be done from the safety of your own home! Get creative about selling your treats - organise a contact-less drop-off, get your friends to donate an 'IOU', host a Zoom morning tea, ask your friends to “sponsor” a crazy creation... the options are endless!

It's a piece of cake! The funds you raise will go towards Starship's National Children's ICU and help provide life-saving care, equipment, and support for seriously ill and injured children, and their families.

Go to [www.bakeitbetter.org.nz](http://www.bakeitbetter.org.nz) for more information and to sign up, or email [starshipfoundation@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:starshipfoundation@adhb.govt.nz) for more information on how to get involved. We encourage you to explore wholemeal, whole grain, and low-sugar options when you bake. Happy baking!



**EQUITY**  
No Child Is Left Behind

# New mums facing tough times receive a helping hand

The lockdown period has been a tough one for New Zealanders across the country; add becoming a new mum into the mix, and things can become insurmountably tougher.

In a joint initiative, we combined forces with the Middlemore and Well Foundations to bring some much-needed relief to mums facing emotional and economic hardship across the Auckland region.

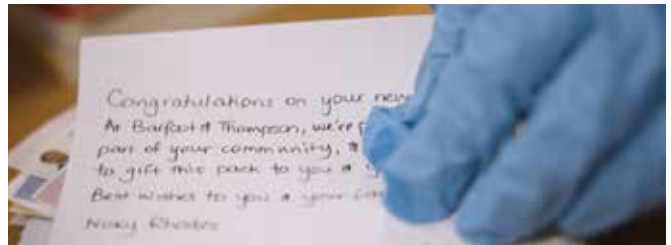
With backing from our Five Star Partner Barfoot & Thompson, we have been able to provide care packs filled to the brim with all the baby essentials to help 300 new vulnerable mums.

Managing Director of Barfoot & Thompson Peter Thompson says that the project has been a rewarding opportunity to give back to our community.

**“We are committed to supporting families and this was a great chance to lend a helping hand to mums trying to adapt to the challenges of being a first-time mum under very difficult circumstances.”**

Over four weeks, Barfoot & Thompson staff volunteers rolled up their sleeves to organise the packing and delivery of over 300 care packs. Packs were filled with a range of items from baby onesies and nappies to baby wipes, thermometers and books along with a personalised handwritten card.

We are so grateful for the wonderful generosity of our Five Star Partner for bringing this project to life.



# How supporters like you helped families and staff during lockdown



CHILD WELLBEING & WHĀNAU SUPPORT  
Making Tough Times More Bearable

This year has been a challenging one for staff, children and families at Starship. Thankfully, we've been able to provide a warm and reassuring environment thanks in part to you.

In spite of all the uncertainty this year, Starship Foundation supporters like you have kept giving. That means we've been able to continue providing care and support for families that need it. Families like Alex's.

Carmel and Adrian moved down to Christchurch in 2015 from Auckland for a change of scenery. They hadn't anticipated they'd have to come back in 2019...and they certainly didn't anticipate why.

Their five-year-old son Alex had been sick on and off for months, but woke up crying one September morning in 2019. His head was sore so he couldn't sleep, so his parents took him to Christchurch Hospital to try and figure out what was wrong. An MRI scan changed all their lives. Alex had a brain tumour (medulloblastoma), and needed an immediate operation to remove it.

A clinical trial at Starship offered the best chance of a swift return to full health. With that news, the family moved back to Auckland. Since then, Alex has undergone radiation therapy and seven rounds of chemotherapy through Starship's oncology department... including during lockdown.

Throughout lockdown levels, Starship staff have worked in challenging conditions to ensure children like Alex from all over the country receive the treatment they need. Some staff have had to isolate from their families,



others have had to re-train outside their specialty area to ensure they can cover emergency pandemic scenarios.

While Starship staff were treating dozens of children like Alex during the stress of lockdown, donors like you were ensuring they were well looked after. Thanks to you, frontline healthcare workers received care packs to ensure they were fed and refreshed... given most food outlets were closed and many staff had to juggle longer hours with children at home, your generosity was VERY well received. Not just by staff, either. With your help, Starship staff have performed remarkably well during an incredibly busy and uncertain time.

"I can't speak highly enough of the [Starship] team



and the work that they’ve done, it’s just been amazing really,” says Carmel. “It’s been a difficult year, but the hard work and dedication from Starship staff has helped Alex through to the end of his treatment. We are absolutely thrilled to say that Alex is now cancer free! All of his final treatment scans have come back clear. Thank you to every single person that was part of our journey.”

We are extremely grateful for your support in ensuring Starship staff can continue providing outstanding

treatment for children like Alex during this difficult time. On behalf of all the staff, patients, and families of Starship, thank you for continuing to support us through the challenges of 2020. The energy and encouragement from donors like you helps ensure we can provide world-class care for kids like Alex and his family... no matter the alert level.

# There are many ways that you can donate to the Starship Foundation to help children like Alex and Lennox



Donate via  
our website:  
[www.starship.org.nz/  
foundation/donate](http://www.starship.org.nz/foundation/donate)



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



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

# Donate the Change

Long-time Starship Foundation partner ASB has set up another way for its customers to bring better health and brighter futures to our children, through its new initiative Donate the Change.

From July 2020, ASB customers have had the option in the ASB mobile app to round up all electronic transactions to the nearest \$1, \$2, \$5 or \$10, with the rounded amount donated to several charities including the Starship Foundation.

ASB head of Community and Sponsorship Mark Graham says the project came about through a desire to do more to help its community partners.

“Community is a huge focus at ASB, and we have been long-time supporters of a number of incredible organisations as part of this. Our relationship with the Starship Foundation goes back to the day the hospital opened in 1991, and we’ve been a proud partner ever since.

“We set up Save the Change in 2010 as an easy way for our customers to save small amounts as they spend. It adds up over time which helps our customers progress towards their savings goals. It is so easy and automatic that we have recently enabled it on our mobile app.



“Through that, we came up with the donate the change concept where instead of saving their change, our customers could choose to donate their change and make a difference for organisations like Starship. It might seem like a small amount of money, but we know it adds up quickly, and every little bit helps,” says Graham.

To find out more, please visit [asb.co.nz/community](https://www.asb.co.nz/community)



## Step it up for Starship!

Come and join Team Starship at the ASB Auckland Marathon on November 1st 2020! It doesn't matter if you walk, wheel, jog or run, every dollar you raise will help bring better health and brighter futures for all Starship kids. Not a runner? Doesn't matter! You can join the full marathon, half marathon, 11km traverse, family 5km, kids marathon or wheelchair marathon. To join the team, simply grab your own spot in your chosen category, and then set up a fundraising page by clicking the orange 'Join Team' button on our team page at [www.aucklandmarathon2020.everydayhero.com/nz/team-starship](http://www.aucklandmarathon2020.everydayhero.com/nz/team-starship)

If you're one of the first 30 stars to raise \$1,000, we'll refund your entry fee. And when you raise \$300, you'll get an exclusive Starship dri-fit top. We want you to look the part when you're stepping for Starship after all! After the race, Team Starship is planning to hold a post-race event for you and your support crew at the finish line, with food, fun, and most importantly... massages. Best of all, the funds you raise will go towards equipment and treatment for kids at Starship. For more info, or if you have any questions, email Kirsty at [kirstyrobi@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:kirstyrobi@adhb.govt.nz)



**Thank you to all of our donors who have donated to our dermatology laser appeal. You can also help children like Hazel have brighter futures by donating here:**

**<https://dermatology-laser-appeal.raisely.com/>**

**Thank you for your support!**

