

**Be safe  
little one.  
We'll be  
watching  
over you.**

**Becoming a Starship Guardian Angel**

Your guide to leaving a gift to Starship in your Will



# Your gift to future generations of little ones

Our children. Our grandchildren. Our future generations.

Keeping them safe and well. Healing them when they're hurt. Caring for them during their time of suffering. These are some of the most powerful, heartfelt forces we can ever feel in our lifetimes.

You could say, we live to create a safer, healthier, happier world for our little ones.

And by leaving a lasting gift to Starship, you can do exactly that.

We call the wonderful people who support Starship in this beautiful way our Guardian Angels, because they have pledged to watch over the health and wellbeing of the little ones in our care for generations to come. And that's what Guardian Angels do, isn't it?

As you look through this brochure you will hear from some of our Guardian Angels about the motivation behind their generosity, and you'll read about some of the precious children their acts of kindness have helped us to watch over.

And most of all, you'll find out how easy it is for you to become a Guardian Angel, and how fulfilling it is to be one.

Thank you!

## Why I'm a Starship Guardian Angel

Alison McDonald >

"When you get to my stage in life you start to think – well, my kids are raised, they're doing well for themselves, but now the next generation is coming up, so what can I do for those kids because they're the future."



Alison McDonald – Starship Guardian Angel

## Watching over Tia

There are four children in Tracy and Andrew Higgott's hearts. Their two boys aged 12 and 8. And their twin girls, Sophie and Tia, who were born in 2010.

Tragically though, Tia is no longer with them. She died in Starship three days after she and her sister were born, in grave danger, and fourteen weeks premature. However, Tia will always be in the Higgott's hearts.

Tracy and Andrew have since named a star after her, and become Starship Guardian Angels, pledging to leave a bequest to Starship in their Will in little Tia's memory. In doing so, they have joined a growing community of special people who want to watch over the health and wellbeing of future generations of children.

Even though they are still young parents, the act of leaving a lasting gift to Starship in their Wills is of profound importance to them.

**"We left a bequest in our Will because it's a way of remembering Tia that hands on a legacy on her behalf. Paying it forward for future generations of children."**

Tracy and Andrew Higgott



Tracy and Andrew Higgott's three children – Adam, Sophie and Jamie





## Lily: one day at a time

Little Lily Leadbetter was born literally fighting for her life. One day at a time.

Months earlier during a routine scan, nurses had picked up an anomaly that turned out to be a rare, incurable condition called Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS). Lily's mum and dad were shocked to hear this condition was incurable and extremely serious.

The only way to treat HLHS is through three stages of surgery: one operation immediately; one at three to six months; and one at around two to three years. With the added possibility of a heart transplant at the age of five.

The survival rate for the first surgery is only 75%, diminishing to 50% by the third procedure, which some children are not well enough to have at all. However, as recently as 1983, there was no treatment for HLHS at all.

Today, Lily's prospects are good, thanks to the skill of our surgeons, the state-of-the-art care we provide and the on-going advances being made through research.

Who knows what advancements tomorrow may bring for Lily. But one thing's for sure, our Guardian Angels will be at the heart of it.

**“You can’t think that far ahead with a heart baby. You don’t know what’s around the corner. You live in the here and now. Just taking it day by day.”**

Veronika Leadbetter, Lily’s mum

## Guardian Angels: watching over tomorrow’s sick children

Sadly, little ones will always fall sick and suffer injuries.

And they will always need someone kind and caring to watch over them.

That’s why it’s so important for New Zealand to have a world-class children’s hospital. A warm and welcoming place, staffed with the best doctors and nurses, kitted out with the best medical equipment, undertaking cutting edge research, and providing children with the best possible medical care.

By becoming a Guardian Angel and leaving a lasting gift to Starship in your Will, you’ll be watching over New Zealand’s little ones long after you’ve passed on, ensuring they get the quality of care they need and deserve.

These days, more and more good people like you appreciate that leaving a lasting legacy in your Will is one of the most wonderful acts of kindness any of us can hope to bestow during our lifetime.

**Guardian Angels are a deeply treasured part of the Starship family.**



Bob Ivanovic – Starship Guardian Angel – with his grandson Louis

**“Becoming a Guardian Angel is a good thing for Starship and a good thing for the Guardian Angel, because you know you’re helping a child down the track. Adults can fight their own battles. Kids can’t. They have to have people there fighting for them.”**

Sean McKillop –  
Starship Guardian Angel





## Siavash: back from the brink

Cyrus and Siavash. Twins. Born at only 24 weeks. Both incredibly fragile. Both extremely close to death.

Little Siavash could not breathe unaided. Not even with a traditional ventilator. In fact the only reason he's alive today is because of the sensitivity of a breathing machine specially designed for fragile lungs like his.

Today Cyrus and Siavash are growing up like any normal toddler twins, totally unaware of how close they came to death.

You can probably imagine how grateful their parents are for the foresight and kindness of our Guardian Angels. People who leave behind gifts to go on providing state-of-the-art equipment like the breathing machine that saved Siavash's life.

**"You might not get to see the effects of the donations you make, but as a mum I got to see the changes in my babies week by week, so I know your contribution is huge. Thank you so much."**

Teresa Scott, Cyrus and Siavash's mum

## How you can become a Starship Guardian Angel

All you have to do to become a Guardian Angel is let us know that you've included Starship in your Will.

You can call us, email or write to us in the strictest confidence at the address on the back of this brochure.

We don't want to pry into your private affairs, but the simple act of letting us know makes an enormous difference to our ability to plan for the future.

We know you might choose to change your mind, but having an indication of how many people are intending to leave a bequest to Starship gives us a really good idea of

where we stand over the coming years. And it enables us to plan for major investments, like the purchase of new equipment, major hospital upgrades, and lifesaving research projects.

As soon as you have let us know about your bequest to Starship, we will immediately welcome you into the Guardian Angel family.

**Your pledge means we can plan for tomorrow's children, today.**



Bob and Ljubica Ivanovic – Starship Guardian Angels – with their grandson Louis



## Mia: miracle surgery

For the first four years of her life, little Mia Rennie suffered what Starship neurologist Dr. Claire Spooner described as, some of the most distressing epileptic seizures she'd ever seen.

**“Mia’s body stiffened and started to jerk, she let out the most horrific gut-wrenching scream.” Anna, Mia’s mum.**

This poor little girl suffered up to fifty of these seizures a day. And after four years of this torment, she was left unable to walk.

Her parents tried all kinds of treatments, but nothing worked. Then one day, they heard Starship’s Dr Claire Spooner talking about surgical advances. Dr. Spooner soon took Mia on as a patient and subsequently discovered that she had an operable lesion affecting the motor cortex of her brain.

The very day after her surgery, Mia was seizure free for the first time in her life, and immediately began to get better. Within five days, she was sitting up by herself.

It’s gifts like those of our Guardian Angels that help make miracles like this possible.



**“Not only has Mia learned to walk again, but she swims, does gymnastics and chases her friends around at school. Starship is world-class.”**

Anna Rennie, Mia’s mum



## Emily: heart of the matter

Emily was just five when she fell sick in school one day. By the end of the day she was vomiting, hallucinating and could barely recognise her mum and dad. She was rushed to Starship by ambulance, where an ultrasound scan revealed a life-threatening heart infection.

The infection had done terrible damage to Emily’s heart, almost two-thirds of her valve had been eaten away. Her parents Susan and Joe were distraught.

**“They needed to do urgent open-heart surgery, and weren’t sure she’d make it through the night.” Susan, Emily’s mum.**

In a delicate, eight hour operation, the Starship surgical team used some of the lining of Emily’s heart to repair the severely damaged valve. But that was not the end of Emily’s journey; she needed to come back for a second operation within only a month.

Thankfully, Emily is now doing incredibly well and is back at school and enjoying life to the full, thanks to wonderful supporters like our Guardian Angels.



**“Starship is one of those places you hope you’ll never need, but want them to be there for you if you do.”**

Susan Domett, Emily’s mum



# How to include Starship in your Will...

Including a gift to Starship in your Will is much easier and less daunting than it might sound. But there are a couple of things we strongly advise you do:

Firstly...share your plans with your family, so they understand your intentions.

Secondly...speak to your solicitor and discuss your options.

There are several different ways you might choose to leave a gift to Starship. For example, you might want to leave the “rest and residue” or what is left after making provision for your loved ones. Or a percentage of the total amount of your estate. Or a percentage of the residue. Please discuss these options with your solicitor.

No matter how much you leave to Starship, large or small, we will be eternally grateful. And we promise to put it to good use, helping sick children like those you’ve read about today.

Here are some examples of the kind of wording you could use:

**I give to Starship**

The rest and residue of my estate.... or

\_\_\_\_\_ percent of my estate.....or

\_\_\_\_\_ percent of the residue of my estate

The sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Free of all duties and testamentary expenses for its general purposes and I direct that the receipt of that organisation shall be sufficient discharge to my executors for this bequest.

**“Becoming a Starship Guardian Angel after making my bequest was a lovely way to be acknowledged. And having seen how things have improved in my lifetime, I know I will never regret leaving a gift to benefit children at Starship in the future.”**

Margaret Sadler – Starship Guardian Angel



Hinewai Ritchie – Starship patient

**“Without Starship, there would be far fewer happy, healthy children around the place. And without bequests, Starship would be lost. We gave a bequest when June passed on, and my gift in June’s memory is in my Will for when I go too.”**

Leo Andrews – Starship Guardian Angel who sadly passed away in February 2013



Jessica Buddendijk and Nelleke van Horrik – both treasured Starship Guardian Angels

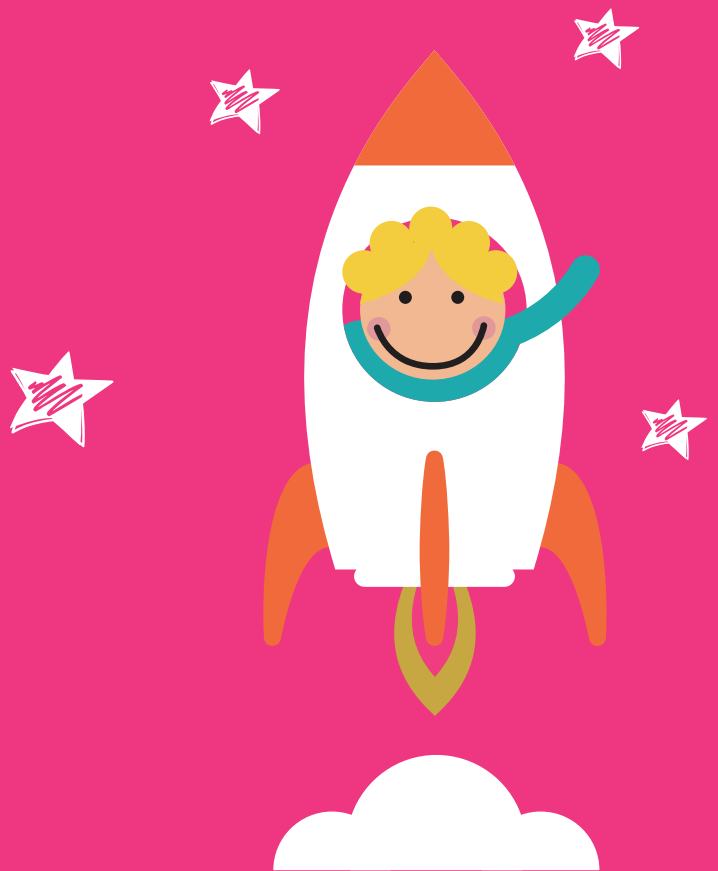
**“We enjoy being part of the Foundation’s wider family. And Guardian Angels is a very unique part of that. I’d like parents and grandparents to think very seriously about making a bequest for their kids and their grandkids. That’s what it’s all about.”**

Tim and Karen Jones – Starship Guardian Angels



Cameron Bartle – Starship patient





If you would like to speak to someone about leaving a bequest, or the next steps to becoming a Starship Guardian Angel, please contact us in the strictest confidence on the details below.

**Starship Foundation**

Freecall: 0800 STARSHIP  
(0800 782 774)

Web: [starship.org.nz/foundation](http://starship.org.nz/foundation)

Email: [starshipfoundation@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:starshipfoundation@adhb.govt.nz)

Write: PO Box 9389  
Newmarket  
Auckland 1149

Visit: Level 15  
Auckland City Hospital Support Building  
Park Road  
Grafton  
Auckland 1023

