

SPRING 2025



FRIENDSHIP



Thank you for being there for sick and injured children.

INSIDE

**Lottie and
Frankie's fight
for life**

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lasting legacy of
care**

**Thank you for
caring about
children's
health**

Your support helps critically ill kids like Lottie and Frankie breathe easier

*Frankie & Lottie are now home,
happy, and healthy thanks to you*



Thanks to the wonderful generosity of Starship supporters just like you, our Winter Appeal raised \$200,531 to help care for sick and injured children like Lottie and Frankie.

You might remember reading the twin sisters' heart-wrenching story in a letter we sent recently.

Born prematurely, the girls spent their first month of life in neonatal intensive care. Their start was already fragile, but when they caught the respiratory virus RSV, things became truly life-threatening. Within hours, the virus overwhelmed their tiny lungs. They were fighting for every breath, and for their lives. Their terrified parents rushed them to Starship.

Starship's dedicated team of specialists was ready. It started with the specialist team of doctors and nurses in Starship's Emergency Department, who took immediate action to stabilise their breathing.

It continued for the next seven days in Ward 25, as Lottie and Frankie continued to receive the specialised support that they needed to get well enough to go home.

Thanks to these extraordinary teams, and to generous supporters like you who help make their work possible, Lottie and Frankie got the care they needed to recover.

"I'm 100% sure they wouldn't be alive today without the amazing Starship team." their mum Anna says

Today, the twins are happy, healthy and back home with their family.

"They're now 2 years old," Anna says. "They love being outside - riding their bikes, swinging and going down slides, and playing with their cousins."

I hope Lottie and Frankie's story inspires you to help other critically ill children and their families breathe easier.

Your generous support helps make sure the Starship team is ready and equipped to provide specialist, life-saving care to the tiniest, most vulnerable patients. Thank you so much for the difference you make.

Kilometres for Kids 2025

A huge thanks and congratulations to all those legends who got active and made their kilometres count for kid's health last March.

Kilometres for Kids is a fundraising event to help keep Starship's Air Ambulance flying and bringing life-saving care to sick and injured children all over New Zealand.

This event was a great success, with 6541 New Zealanders walking, running and cycling a combined 2,309,589 km

and raising a whopping \$1,109,157. What an awesome effort.

Fiona and James Eadie were inspired to take the challenge after their son Ezekiel was flown to Starship for an emergency, lifesaving procedure.

"We benefitted from having this amazing service when our son needed heart surgery," Fiona says. We are thankful we still have Ezekiel with us due to those services."



*"We did it! Together as a family we have completed 85km of exercise. Walking or cycling. Completing the challenge together was fun."
Fiona and James*

If you, your club or your organisation would like to fundraise for Starship, we'd love to help! Scan the QR code or go to starship.org.nz/foundation/start-fundraising or you can contact Gina and the Team on 0800 782 774 or email us at fundraising4starship@starshipfoundation.org.nz.



Thanks to you, more kids are receiving timely treatment

This June, Starship was delighted to open the new Athlae Lyon Day Stay Unit, part of the \$48 million expansion of the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU).



Dr John Beca looks on as Health Minister Simeon Brown and Cliff Lyon cut a ribbon to officially open the Athlae Lyon Day Stay Unit

Consisting of six new treatment bays and two new treatment rooms, the Day Stay Unit will increase capacity and improve patient experiences at the hospital by allowing children and whānau to access timely treatment without needing to stay overnight.

"It will free up more inpatient beds for acute and planned care that requires an overnight stay," explains Dr John Beca, Starship Director.

The Day Stay Unit was named in honour of longstanding Starship supporter, Athlae Lyon, a beloved champion for children's health, whose 14 years of service left a lasting imprint.

Athlae was the inaugural Vice Chair of Friends of Starship and served as a Trustee of Starship Foundation for 18 years, passionately advocating for the hospital and its little patients.

After her passing in 2010, the Lyon family founded the Athlae Lyon Starship Research Trust (ALSRT), which has contributed more than \$4 million towards the Day Stay Unit and vital clinical research. Athlae's husband Cliff says his family is inspired to know her work will live on.

"Athlae gave so much of herself to Starship – her time, her voice, her heart. Knowing her legacy now lives on in a place that helps children every day is something we're immensely proud of."

Thank you for helping Athlae's legacy of care live on through your support for Starship.



You're making a difference in so many ways

Your support for Starship improves children's health and wellbeing in more ways than you might realise. One of those ways is increasing access to specialised therapy equipment for children with physical disabilities.

Together with Pelorus Trust and our Five Star Partners Barfoot & Thompson, you are helping fund essential equipment like Tumble Form Seats and the Totstander, tools that play a crucial role in early intervention for children with conditions such as Cerebral Palsy, Down syndrome and Global Developmental Delays.

These children often struggle to sit, stand, or walk safely on their own due

to weak muscles and poor coordination. Tumble Forms provide secure, supported seating so little ones can eat, play and interact safely. The Totstander helps children



learn to bear weight through their legs, vital for bone and muscle development, by gently bringing them into a standing position.

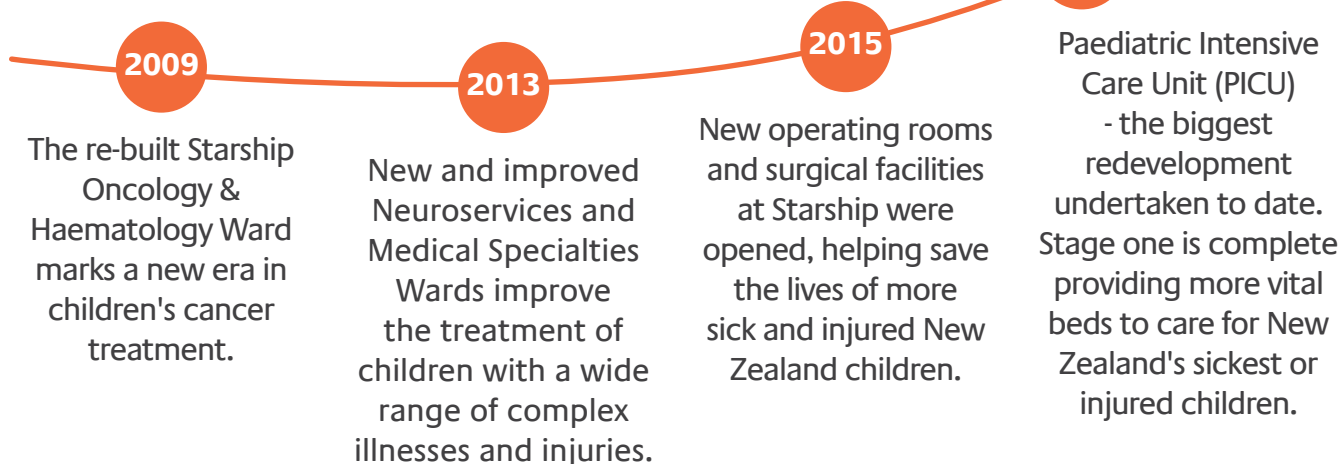
This equipment helps therapists deliver care that prevents complications, builds independence, and improves long-term quality of life.

Here's what Starship's Paediatric Physiotherapists said about your support:

"Thank you to all the generous Starship Foundation supporters. It has made a significant difference to the quality of service we are able to provide."

A helping hand since 1991

All these and many more milestones are the legacy of compassionate New Zealanders like you. With your help, we can go on providing some of the best possible care to New Zealand children - well into the future.



Thank you so much for making the big-hearted decision to join the Starship community. It's an honour to have you on board. Your generous support will help New Zealand's only dedicated Children's Hospital can continue to deliver world-class to the littlest patients.

Mercury going above and beyond for children with inherited metabolic diseases

Starship thanks our Five Star partner Mercury for helping to improve the health and wellbeing of children with inherited metabolic diseases (IMDs).

IMDs are genetic conditions that often result in a patient being unable to produce or process specific enzymes or proteins which are vital to regular bodily functions. These conditions are typically lifelong and incurable.

To support children like James and their families, Mercury is funding a part-time Metabolic Dietician for the next two

years to provide education around lifestyle, medication and diet. One of the many projects Mercury is funding this year.

Soon after he was born, doctors discovered James had a rare metabolic disorder that affected how he processed fats. Starship's Metabolic Team started working with him straight away.

"We feel incredibly lucky that James was put under their care," his mum Molly says. "They instantly put us at ease. They were, and still are, our own personal superheroes."



Happy and healthy James. Molly and Sam, James' parents say "The Starship Metabolic team are our own personal superheroes"

A legacy that will last for generations

As Paediatric Hepatologist and Service Clinical Director here at Starship, Dr Helen Evans has been caring for children facing life threatening liver diseases for nearly two decades.

In that time, she's met some remarkable patients and families, and it was her work with them that inspired her to include a gift in her Will to Starship.

"My work means everything to me," Dr Evans says. "By leaving a gift in my Will to Starship, I realised I could leave a legacy that extends my work beyond my lifetime."

"It's a powerful way for me to help not just a few children, but an entire community of kids, their families, and the amazing staff who care for them far into the future."

By leaving a gift in your Will, you too can be there for sick and injured children who will need Starship in the years to come.

"There's no minimum amount you need to give," Dr Evans says. "And it's a comfort to know that every cent goes to improving little lives. It all goes towards something meaningful."



Dr Helen Evans has seen first hand the difference a gift in your Will can have.

Please reach out to Rebecca Williams on 021 222 4747 or email her at rebecca.williams@starshipfoundation.org.nz if you would like to learn more about leaving a gift in your Will to Starship.

Support Starship

Give now to continue helping critically ill and injured children who need Starship.

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