

FRIENDSHIP



Summer 2020

Ahlia & Family

**Thank you for
supporting Starship**

Thank you for last year!

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on 2019, I am immensely proud of what you've helped us achieve. With support from donors like you, we've had some wonderful successes.

Perhaps the biggest story was the Lindsay Foundation's extraordinary pledge of \$1.5 million to the Starship National Air Ambulance service. This came on top of the overwhelming support of donations like yours. You can read about this on page 8.

While this was perhaps the biggest story to come out of Starship last year, there have been a number of heart-warming stories that haven't had as much attention.

In this newsletter, you'll see you've helped us purchase a much-needed upgrade to Starship's magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine. Now, doctors can see much higher-definition images, and children have the comfort of a quieter machine. Our Head of Radiology David Perry explains more on page 3.

Happily, that leads on to one of the sweetest stories I've heard from Starship in 2019.

To a small child, our MRI machine can still be big, loud and scary. Thanks to you, that has changed.

Last year, we asked for your help to fund 'Play Specialists' to help young children through the stress and uncertainty of having an MRI scan. As you'll see on page 6, these

A huge thank you to our Five Star Partners:



Aisha Daji Punga - Chief Executive Starship Foundation with Matt Chisholm at the Auckland Marathon.

specialists dramatically reduced the number of children requiring a general anesthetic...all thanks to soft voices and soft toys.

Given what we have been able to collectively achieve this year, I am truly looking forward to the impact we will make in 2020. That includes a bigger Bake It Better campaign kicking off in May (find out more about this on the back page).

Thank you again and again for helping children around New Zealand access world-class healthcare and brighter futures. Your ongoing support helps us perform little miracles every day.

From all of us at the Foundation, thanks for your continued support.

Nga mihi nui ki a koe – great acknowledgements to you all.

Aisha Daji Punga
Chief Executive, Starship Foundation

Keeping pace with technology - better outcomes for our children



BETTER OUTCOMES, FASTER RECOVERY & LESS INVASIVE TREATMENT



MRI Clinical Specialist, Alison Pinfold and Consultant Radiologist, David Perry with Starship Patient, Ava Stoneham who has benefited from the MRI upgrade.

In 2019 Starship's magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine received a \$910,000 upgrade thanks to the generosity of Starship Foundation supporters like you. David Perry, Paediatric Radiologist, Starship Child Health explains how it's helping.

"Better images – it might sound simple, but with clearer and more detailed images, as radiologists we can diagnose disease and monitor the effects of treatment with greater accuracy and certainty.

"This new scanner brings an innovative set of imaging tools which allow us to scan children in less time and with

less noise, and the images are better than ever before. It allows us to detect and monitor disease in ways we could never previously.

"Here at Starship more than 2000 children need an MRI scan each year, teenagers, toddlers, newborns and even unborn babies from all around New Zealand. We see children with the most complex medical conditions. The recent MRI upgrade has a positive impact for each and every one of them and we are very grateful to Starship supporters like you for making this possible sooner than it might otherwise have been.

"Thank you!"



How your donation is helping premature babies survive and thrive

On July 2 last year, Waiheke Island resident Adelaide went into labour.

She was only 32 weeks pregnant, and history was repeating.

Two and a half years earlier, her son Tyson had also arrived eight weeks early. She and her husband Leon knew the helplessness and fear they were about to encounter.

But they also knew their baby would receive outstanding care thanks to Starship's world-class Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

After a four-hour labour, Adelaide gave birth to Ahlia. Because she was eight weeks premature, Ahlia's little body wasn't fully developed yet.

After a quick cuddle with mum, Ahlia was admitted straight to NICU.

Donations like yours mean the NICU is equipped with state-of-the-art incubators, and equipment to help premature babies like Ahlia regulate their breathing.

Having spent weeks in NICU with Tyson, Adelaide and Leon knew Ahlia would be well cared for. Adelaide says:

“It is quite scary still, but the technology and the care at that early stage is really what impacts their life”.

Twice she'd gone into labour two months early, and twice Starship's NICU helped her baby get through the crucial first few weeks.

It isn't just the equipment and facilities that has left a lasting impact on Adelaide and Leon, however.

Thanks to support from generous donors like you, we provide regular training and development opportunities for our staff. It might seem like a small thing, but it helps us retain the very best doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals.

In Adelaide and Leon's case, it means they had some amazing nurses to help them navigate Ahlia's first few weeks.

Many of the same nurses had tube fed Tyson around the clock. They'd picked him up and cuddled him when he cried, and carefully noted his every wriggle.

Two and half years later they did the same for Ahlia, even when Adelaide and Leon weren't in the room.

“I'd call them up at night and they would be like, 'It's ok, I've got her'. You just get that sort of security”.

The same nurses also provided support for Adelaide, whether it was a smile, a hug, or a quick wellbeing check-up.

It's a level of care and empathy that Adelaide and Leon will never forget. And it's the same level of care and empathy we want to continue providing with help from you.

With your support, we'll continue to provide this outstanding level of all-round care for babies and vulnerable families in NICU in 2020 and beyond.



Adelaide and Leon at home on Waiheke with Tyson and Ahlia.

Additional Play Specialist support proving valuable

When we asked for your support to expand Starship’s Play Specialist Service last year your response was overwhelming.

We’re delighted to keep you updated about just how much of a difference your kind donations have made already. Starship’s Emergency Department has Play Specialist support for seven days a week now, because children and whānau need treatment and procedures around the clock.

And in Radiology – where our children have scans and imaging done - Play Specialist support is demonstrating its incredible value.

Children like Neve (pictured here), who needed an MRI at Starship to help the team treat her hip dysplasia, are much more likely to manage the scan without having a general anaesthetic thanks to the support of the additional Play Specialist.

In a 14 month period 132 of the 136 children referred to the dedicated radiology play specialist Shannon loane, managed their scan while awake. Previously, these children would have had a general anaesthetic. That’s a 96% success rate.

“But the most significant savings are for the patient and their family,” explains Nicky Woollaston, Team Leader, Hospital Play Services at Starship. “They avoid the risks linked to the anaesthetic, there’s no need to go without food before their procedure, less time in hospital and they leave feeling really positive about their hospital experience.”

Neve’s Mum Meg’s words say it all.

“We are so incredibly proud of Neve having an MRI without sedation. It was a tense 45 minutes requiring no movement from her but she showed us just how tough she is. I cannot express how grateful I am to the amazing play specialists for their help in preparing her to get her to this stage. I am so grateful for our wonderful children’s hospital and for the people who work in it tirelessly for our kids to make these experiences all okay when they are scared and nervous.”

Thank you for helping children like Neve.



EQUITY — ENSURING NO CHILD IS LEFT BEHIND



PATIENT WELLBEING AND LIFTING SPIRITS



Starship Play Specialist Rachel Pienaar helps Neve prepare for an MRI scan by showing her what to expect.



Neve Aho proudly displays her certificate of bravery after having an MRI

An extraordinary pledge of support for our flight crew



A \$1.5 million pledge from the Lindsay Foundation will help the Starship National Air Ambulance service continue its life-saving work flying critically ill children from hospitals around New Zealand to specialist paediatric care at Starship.

The generous gift of \$500,000 this year and the same again in 2020 and 2021 gives a substantial boost to the fund, already supported by many of our wonderful regular givers, that keeps us flying.

Brendan and Jo Lindsay felt inspired to support the air retrieval team at Starship after hearing the story of 5-year-old Harri Brown, who was flown from Christchurch to Starship when he was just a few hours old.

Harri was born with a critical heart condition known as aortic stenosis and before his parents could even hold him, he was rushed to Starship by the Starship National Air Ambulance to undergo emergency open-heart surgery.

Now, thanks to that life-saving flight and the work of Starship's Congenital Cardiac Service, Harri's heart functions almost completely normally.

Aisha Daji Punga, Starship Foundation Chief Executive, says,

"We are both delighted and truly grateful to receive the extraordinary contribution from the Lindsay Foundation which covers a third of what we need to raise each year for this vital Starship service. I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you from the Starship National Air Ambulance team and from families like Harri's to the Lindsay Foundation, Starship Foundation's regular givers who donate each month and all those who responded to the Air Ambulance appeal in June," she says.



EQUITY — ENSURING NO CHILD IS LEFT BEHIND



SAVING AND EXTENDING LIVES



194 retrievals in 2019

\$1.5 million is required each year to help fund the Starship National Air Ambulance, and we'd love to hear from anyone who would like to join our wonderful regular givers and support this service.

Email: starshipfoundation@adhb.govt.nz or visit starship.org.nz/donate

How Ethan’s story inspired your support



SAVING AND EXTENDING LIVES



Ethan’s family was grateful to have him at home for this Christmas.

We shared Ethan’s Starship story with you in our Christmas appeal, and have been overwhelmed with your heart-warming response.

Along with your donations, messages of support for Ethan and children like him who are being treated and cared for at Starship this holiday season have flooded in. Linked together as a paper chain they have filled our tree with messages of compassion and love. Just take a look opposite and you’ll see.

Last Christmas, Ethan’s family were visiting their cousin’s farm in Northland when the ten-year-old came off his motocross bike. After running to the scene his Dad, Matt, knew straight away it was serious.

Suffering from major internal bleeding, the ten year old from Helensville was admitted to Starship’s Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) where he lay in an induced coma for 36 hours. Ethan remained in PICU until January 8th.

He lost a kidney and his spleen as well as breaking both arms, his hand and some bones in his back. The skill and dedication of our medical teams first helped stem Ethan’s internal bleeding, then managed his pain as he slowly began to recover.

At Christmas, Ethan and his family were grateful to be at home together.

Thank you for your kind generosity to our Christmas appeal and for sending us your heartfelt messages to our children at Starship. Support from people like you brings hope for better health and brighter futures to children like Ethan.



Along with your donations, messages of support for Ethan and children like him who are being treated and cared for at Starship this holiday season have flooded in. Linked together as a paper decoration they have filled our tree with messages of compassion and love.



BAKE IT BETTER IS BACK



First of all, thank you for your support for Bake it Better in 2019.

Together we raised more than \$145,000 for Starship with our first ever nationwide bake-sale. That's enough to fund a specialist neuromuscular nurse at Starship for a year (plus change!). It could keep the Starship Air Ambulance service running for over a month.

As you read this, that money is providing brighter futures for children at Starship.

Thanks to your continued support, we're motivated to make Bake it Better even more fantastic in May 2020.

How can you help?

If you're a passionate Starship supporter, we need your help to spread the word. You don't even have to be a baker! We just need you to be our champion in your community.

That could mean encouraging your child or grandchild's school, sports club, or community to register with 'Bake it Better'. It could mean sending an email or facebook



message to your work contacts encouraging them to sign up. It could mean raising 'Bake it Better' it at the monthly bowls club meeting so Dianne puts it in the calendar (she's good like that).

We'll have tips, recipes and posters all available for you to use at bakeitbetterforstarship.org.nz (you can set up a simple fundraising page here, too). More than anything, we need your ongoing support and energy to provide better health for our children.

If you want to get involved directly, you can hold a bake sale at your local school, in your workplace, in your community or at home with friends and family. You can also raise funds online, for people who want to bake with you in spirit.

Whether you like your goodies sweet, savoury or with a sprinkle of cinnamon, every little bit(e) counts (pun intended).

REGISTER NOW AT
BAKEITBETTERFORSTARSHIP.ORG.NZ