Welcome | Nau mai

Kia ora, welcome to Community Foundations of New Zealand’s national newsletter. Grab a cuppa, sit back and enjoy the trip through localised generosity in New Zealand.

How to summarise what is happening across our nation in terms of local generosity? The sky really is the limit; we are seeing a wide growth in donor-led endowment funds, grants and projects, all with such a sense of local purpose, love and care.

Community foundations are a fairly new concept in New Zealand (by world standards) and spreading across the country. It’s easy to see why; place-based philanthropy (or, more simply, local generosity) is well-aligned with the kiwi way. We care about our communities and we care about their uniqueness and the people and causes within. We care about the future.

And, believe it or not, it’s incredibly hard to give your money away effectively! So a credible and respected foundation in your community which will manage your money well, while meeting your wishes as donor, is key.

Will you join us? We are building permanent endowments at a local level for future generations to benefit from, forever. It’s a more than little bit ‘wow’ and an incredible encore for your life’s work, don’t you think?

Give where you live
Leaving a lasting legacy | Leaving a gift in your will to your community

Leaving a gift in your will to a good cause is certainly a growing trend around the world, and it’s a practise fast gaining momentum in New Zealand.

The really powerful thing about leaving a gift in your will to your local community foundation is that you are leaving a gift which will make its mark on your community - forever. Your gift will never be spent; it will be invested, with the proceeds going to a cause that you can choose yourself.

It’s a powerful way to leave a lasting legacy, to enable your life’s good work and passions live on.

The ripple effect of leaving a gift in your will...

At the Acorn Foundation Eva Trowbridge is one of many generous donors who has left a gift in her will. Over time the Eva Trowbridge Endowment Fund has impacted many lives through the awarding of local tertiary scholarships.

A recent recipient of an Eva Trowbridge scholarship award was Sukhjit Kaur, who found herself in ‘a fight for her life’ through domestic violence which had escalated to a point where she had feared for her and her children’s lives. Eventually her abusive husband was imprisoned, but she was left with no income and in significant debt. Determined to better herself Sukhjit enrolled herself in further education, but with no access to loans or allowances she was left with the difficult prospect of studying, working and managing as a solo mum with no support.

Receiving a scholarship from the Eva Trowbridge Fund changed Sukhjit’s life. It was a gift that allowed her to complete her Bachelor of Social Work and start a career helping others.

Sukhjit’s story shows the ripple effect from one generous donor, making a huge impact on one life, a life which is now helping many, many more.

Interest-free loan growing social enterprise | Creating employment opportunities for migrants in Wellington

Fledgling social enterprise Pomegranate Kitchen has received an interest-free loan from Nikau Foundation in Wellington. The loan will be put towards expanding the business to meet growing demand.

Founded in 2016, Pomegranate Kitchen is a charitable business which employs former refugees and offers catering, cooking classes and lunch deliveries in Wellington.

Refugees comprise all Pomegranate Kitchen’s staff, from management to menu design to chefs. Sharing the flavours of home is one of the joys for the team, who hail from Afghanistan, Syria, Ethiopia and Iran.

The loan to Pomegranate Kitchen isn’t the first social loan that Nikau Foundation has provided. In 2014 Nikau Foundation helped kick start the Stories Espresso bar on lower Cuba Street, founded by Zeal Education Trust. "We’d love to provide more interest-free loans to enterprises with social benefits” says Nikau Foundation’s General Manager Louise Parkin. “It’s wonderful to see people creating sustainable businesses that address wider issues in our society.”
A whole new look! | For Hawkes Bay and Auckland Foundations

In Hawkes Bay: "‘Live Here, Give Here’ communicates the importance of giving back to the community we all love and encourage more people to get involved. This simple but powerful message was developed with many hours of help and guidance from a group of talented Hawke’s Bay professionals and their businesses. Together we all worked hard to distil the essence of the Foundation’s purpose. Hawke’s Bay is ‘Our Community, Our Responsibility and Our Future’ and we all need to work together to make Hawke’s Bay a better place for everyone.”

Jules Nowell-Usticke, Hawkes Bay Foundation Chair

And a refresh for Auckland's community foundation: "We operate in a fast-changing world and it was time to update how we presented ourselves to the Auckland community. From early March Auckland Communities Foundation became, simply, Auckland Foundation. One of the key themes of our refreshed approach is to be more simple and straightforward, making it easier for our donors and community groups to work with us. Behind the scenes we’ve been making changes to bring this to life and our new name reflects this.”

Dellwyn Stuart, CEO, Auckland Foundation

New funds for community groups in Nelson | Community Group Funds

Donors wishing to support the long-term sustainability of a charity or community group have several options in Nelson, including contributing to a named fund for their organisation.

Some of the strategic Community Group Funds launched in the last 12 months with the Nelson Bays Community Foundation include:

- Brook Waimarama Sanctuary Trust
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Nelson Anaesthesia Education & Research Fund
- ERRV Special Needs Foundation Inc

Contributions may be made at any time to help grow these Funds, or a gift can be made in a Will.

Community Group Funds make direct giving to local causes super easy!

Wise words from Gisborne | Building resilience through workplace giving

Workplace Giving is something that the Sunrise Foundation in Gisborne is serious about building on.

Glenda Stokes, Executive Officer, says that they have recently signed up yet another workplace, Coates Associates, to regular workplace giving. "We are thrilled to welcome the team at Coates Associates to workplace giving. Workplace giving is like building a brick wall. The more companies that join and help their people to give a small donation (brick) each week, the bigger and stronger the wall becomes.”
**Advance Ashburton | Advancing local generosity**

Ashburton Hospital has received a whopping $1.5 million cash injection thanks to community generosity.

Advance Ashburton trustee Gary Fail presented David Meates, Canterbury DHB Chief Executive with a cheque for $1.5m to go towards the upgrades of Ashburton Hospital.

The donation is in conjunction with the Mackenzie Charitable Trust, the Lion Foundation, the Ashburton Licensing Trust and the Trevor Wilson Charitable Trust.

This will go towards the $8.7m of improvements underway at the hospital which includes building a new 1040sqm Acute Assessment Unit and Day Procedure Theatre.

David Meates says it is wonderful to receive such a generous contribution from the community. "It’s remarkable how supportive and engaged the community has been right from when we first announced the upgrade to the facilities after the Canterbury quakes."

"We are very grateful to have had the people of Ashburton backing us on this journey. Their commitment has meant the best health services, for what has become a very strong and vibrant rural community, are available both now and long into the future."

**Momentum Waikato | The pulse of the community – Vital Impact Programme**

Momentum Waikato are proud to announce the launch of their new Vital Impact Programme – providing high-impact solutions that will create a real and lasting difference in the community. CEO, Cheryl Reynolds, says, "Every Waikato person has an opportunity to participate – a child with $10 pocket money can team up with a person who gives 10% of their salary, or a successful business leader who gives $10 million, alongside many other generous Waikato people who wish to collectively support significant projects. It’s about taking action and making a difference together." For further details visit Momentum Waikato’s website.

**Did you know??**

Vital Signs is an international movement which was first started by the Toronto Community Foundation in 2001.

It is now a valuable tool for community foundations around the world, including the Acorn Foundation in Tauranga, which published New Zealand’s first Vital Signs Report in March 2015.