



Dear friends and valued supports,

COVID-19 has affected our ability to fundraise through traditional ways, our six hospice charity shops have not been able to fully operate, some grant funding has been withdrawn and many fundraising events have been cancelled. We are therefore taking a new approach and reaching out to our community through this appeal.

If you're able to, we need your help right now.

While we all focus on taking steps to look after our health during this difficult time, some people in our community are also living with a life-limiting illness. The Covid-19 pandemic restrictions have made this time even more difficult for our patients and their families. Many people rely on support from Waipuna Hospice to make this part of life's journey easier.

Sally, the daughter of one of our patients, told us how a Waipuna Hospice nurse brought joy and comfort to her mother when she was dealing with her illness. This touching story beautifully illustrates the importance of the service we provide.

This week is hospice awareness week, please take a moment to read this brief extract and understand how Waipuna hospice contributes to the wellbeing of our community.

Sally remembers feeling lost, "we didn't know what to expect – we didn't know what we were doing. We were pretty much the blind leading the blind. But whenever the hospice nurses came in, it was like a light was shone into our family." Wiping tears from her cheeks, Sally smiles at the memory, "you gave us so much, not only medical support – you also helped us understand what was happening to mum and what to expect, so it didn't seem as frightening. It felt more natural. I don't know what we would have done if hospice wasn't involved. You not only helped mum pass away in a really peaceful environment with no pain but you also helped us as a family go on that journey together".



Patients who have a life-limiting illness often experience difficult times beyond their illness. That is why Waipuna Hospice services cannot stop during Covid-19.

As well as protecting patients, we have to consider the financial implications of the virus. Our monthly shortfall in income is **\$500,000 each month, which puts Waipuna Hospice under extreme pressure in our ability to continue providing the same high quality standard of end of life care.**

With regards to Waipuna Hospice's ongoing care, I can assure you that we are following Government advice and have put stringent measures in place to protect staff, volunteers, patients and their whānau. If you or a loved one are currently in our care, please feel free to contact our clinical team on 07 552 4380 if you have any concerns.

Every month, we support nearly 250 people living with a life limiting illness. In the last 4 weeks, we had 68 new referrals. That's why we must continue.

Our patients and their families need our support now more than ever before.

Your donation will help us to continue essential hospice care in our Western Bay of Plenty and Tauranga communities. Without your donation, we will struggle to support some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

I am enormously proud of our role in the community and our dedication to providing a caring and compassionate service for people living with a life-limiting illness. I am determined that we must continue to provide the same levels of personal, round-the-clock care, not only during the current crisis but long into the future as well.

Please help, any amount of your donation whether \$30, \$75 or \$200 will go a long way in helping us do our job.

Me mahi tahi tatou mo te ora nga o te katoa - We should work together for the wellbeing of everyone. With my thanks and very best wishes.

Richard Thurlow - CEO, Waipuna Hospice

P.S. You can make a gift by visiting waipunahospice.org.nz/hawk or through internet banking: 03 0435 0469107 02 or by cheque made payable to Waipuna Hospice (please include your name, phone number and HAWK2020 as a reference). If you have any questions, please email supporter@waipunahospice.org.nz or phone us on 07 552 4380 ext 239. Thank you for your generous support.

YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT MY LOCAL HOSPICE!

- I would like to donate \$30
- I would like to donate \$75
- I would like to donate \$200
- I would like to donate \$ _____

I enclose a cheque payable to Waipuna Hospice

Cardholder Name

Card #

Expiry Date / Signature

Please tick if you would like to receive regular communication by email. My email is: