

It's because of the generosity of our community that Hospice services can remain free of charge. If you are a supporter of Hospice Waikato, our whole team sincerely thanks you for your support.

Indie's Story

Many parents would say they would do anything to express their love for their children - fortunately, most don't have to.

But love was tested for Eryn and Erin Booth. It meant hardly any sleep and holding a screaming baby for hours in hospital throughout the night - "the noise was so loud, she could be heard at the end of the ward. With the door closed!"

Love meant getting on their knees before an unknown God they weren't sure existed, desperately praying for their precious child to live. It meant leaving friends, work and home to live in an unfamiliar city in order to access support from their families and give more time to their suffering child.

Indie Booth was born just over a year ago (February 2021). She was diagnosed with tuberous sclerosis, a rare genetic condition that causes noncancerous tumors to grow in the brain. Despite the occasional seizure, the condition was under control. Developmentally, "she was actually exceeding, like beating her sister's (progress)... probably about two weeks away from walking" explains her proud Mum.

"And then she caught a virus from kindy. Overnight her temperature spiked. She had a massive seizure while we were all sleeping. When I went in there about 7.30 in the morning, I thought she was dead!"

Adding to that Friday's nightmare, the Booth's emergency drive to hospital was frustrated by Wellington's snail paced, rush hour traffic. Indie was still having seizures when the doctors rushed her into incubation and then to the Intensive Care Unit. Because of Covid restrictions, Erin, (20 weeks pregnant at the time) was isolated from her partner, forced to cope alone with the horrific ordeal with her baby in ICU.

By the end of the weekend, Erin found herself and Indie flying from Wellington's ICU to Auckland's Starship hospital. Erin's parents had joined her, while her worried-sick partner, Eryn, looked after their second child at home. But Indie was still unconscious.

After an MRI scan, Erin and her mother were given the traumatic news that Indie was not going to make it. "Because she had so much swelling on her brain, it was going to kill her".

Erin and her mother contacted their family, requesting them to "hurry up, get on the plane, and come and say goodbye".

Over the next three days of not sleeping, the family planned Indie's funeral. On the Wednesday morning, it was expected that Indie would be moved to an isolated room (because of Covid restrictions), so the family could finally say goodbye, "and turn off the machines".

But these plans were interrupted by an unexpected call from a neurologist.

"We were told, 'we don't really know what's happened, but yesterday Indie was gone. She wasn't breathing on her own. And today, by some miracle, she's back and she's not going to die!'

The only explanation was that Indie was a fighter, she just proved them all wrong!"

Continues on Page 2...



Continued from Page 1...

She was removed from the breathing machine and two weeks later, the family flew back to Wellington hospital where she stayed for three months.

As Erin was pregnant and looking after their other child, Indie's Dad stayed in hospital with her most of the time. Because of the brain injury sustained from the seizures, Indie became irritable, "She'd just screamed the whole time" Eryn explained. "I had to cuddle her 24/7. Like three in the morning, I'd pick her up and walk her up and down the ward just to stop her from screaming. It was awful!"

Indie also suffers from dystonia, a movement disorder that causes the muscles to contract involuntarily.

The Booth family have been in Hamilton since May. Eryn, Indie's Dad, is Indie's fulltime carer, in a house full of her support equipment. He is responsible for organizing the many specialist appointments, the 18 forms of anti-seizure medicine she has each day, and he patiently works to tube feed her each meal. "It's just flipped my world upside down. My whole life is dedicated to her, the care just doesn't stop."

Adjusting to a new city has been a challenge. They appreciate the support of



their family, True Colours and the respite care of Rainbow Place who also provide a fortnightly morning tea where Eryn can connect with other parents in a similar position. "You meet these people and think, 'wow, we're not the only ones out there!'"

Although it's been tough, Eryn explains Indie has "always been my inspiration, knowing a kid can have a seizure for nine

hours and survive!"

If you were to ask, when other parents would have walked away, what is it that motivates them to keep caring for Indie? What keeps them going through all this trauma and suffering? Eryn's simple, yet heartfelt answer is - "I just love her so much".

G.J. Gardner getting behind Rainbow Place

For franchise owner Jeff de Leeuw and his Waikato team, supporting Rainbow Place is a no-brainer.

"We've been involved with Hospice Waikato and Rainbow Place for a number of years, and members of our team had the opportunity to help deliver the annual Rainbow Place Christmas Party before Covid hit. Seeing the challenges faced by the families who are supported by Rainbow Place was a real eye-opener and we decided we wanted to increase

our level of support". It was then that the concept of a Rainbow Place build was born, and after Covid-19 delayed the start of this project, G.J. Gardner Homes Hamilton/Waikato are teaming up with

their sub-contractors to build a three-bedroom home in the new Peacocks Road subdivision in early 2023.

The proceeds from the sale of the house will be donated to Rainbow Place and Hospice Waikato CEO, Craig Tamblyn, is absolutely delighted. "We have expanded our Rainbow Place service to include the delivery of in-home respite

care which has been an absolute life changer for some of our families.

This support from G.J. Gardner will enable our care to continue to be provided throughout 2023 and beyond. I know I speak on behalf of our Rainbow Place staff and our families when I say that these funds will make a significant difference. We simply can't thank Jeff and his team enough. We're looking forward to sharing the progress with this build and eventually congratulating the person or family whose house purchase will support such an amazing cause."





From the CEO's desk

With Christmas just around the corner, I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and all the very best for 2023. If you are travelling over the holiday break, please take care on our roads. If you are lucky enough to be planning a holiday near a beach or a lake, please be safe in the water. And most of all, please enjoy some downtime after what has been another unprecedented year here in New Zealand - I look forward to staying connected with you in 2023.

Craig Tamblyn
Chief Executive

Good in the Hood

We were absolutely delighted to have been chosen as the charity of choice for the 2022 Good in the Hood programme at these Z Stations - Z Pukete, Z Dinsdale, Z Eastside, Z Five Crossroads, Z K Drive, Z Te Awamutu, Z Matamata and Z Morrinsville. A huge thank you to all the Z staff who handed out the tokens and encouraged the public to vote, and to all those people who showed their support of Hospice Waikato by voting for us. An amazing total of \$9,236 was raised for our organisation. It's a great feeling to know that our community appreciates the care we are providing. Thanks Z Energy!



The Hospice Waikato Bucket List Banquet is back in 2023!

The venue is booked, the entertainment is confirmed, and the menu planning is well underway. "Flutter & Feast" is the theme of our 2023 Bucket List Banquet and it's taking place on Friday 26 May.

If you'd like to purchase a table for 10 guests at next year's event, please let Cherie know - cherie.mccleery@hospicewaikato.org.nz.

Our silent auctions are a key part of the evening and if you have an item that you'd like to donate to help make this night a success, please let Cherie know also.



Help us give a little Christmas cheer!

With Christmas inching closer, we've turned our thoughts to how we can provide additional and meaningful support to our Rainbow Place families.

In 2021, we asked our community to donate amounts of \$200 which provided each of our families with a hamper full of goodies that made their Christmas just a little bit more special.

We'd love your support to enable us to provide these gift baskets again this year.

If you are in a position to help, please email rosemary.poole@hospicewaikato.org.nz, or donate directly online.



E-receipts

Would you like to receive your receipt via email?
Please include your email address below and return this to us in the prepaid envelope provided.

Six ways you can support Hospice Waikato & Rainbow Place

- ☐ I would like to make a one-off donation.
- ☐ I wish to become a friend of hospice and make regular donations. Please send me more information.
- ☐ I wish to find out more information about leaving a gift in my will. Please send me a brochure by email.
- ☐ I wish to gift a full day of care to a patient (\$1,000). For more information, visit hospicewaikato.org.nz/giftofcare
- ☐ I wish to gift a half day of care to a patient (\$500). For more information, visit hospicewaikato.org.nz/giftofcare

\$

^ VALUE OF MY DONATION

- ☐ **Bank transfer.** See Hospice Waikato bank details, above.
- ☐ **Credit Card.** Please debit this amount to my credit card monthly.
- ☐ **Credit Card.** Debit this amount to my credit card as a 'one-off' payment.
- ☐ **Website.** Use the 'Donate Now' button on Hospice Waikato's website.

^ NAME OF CARDHOLDER

^ CARD NUMBER

/ ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

^ EXPIRY DATE

^ SIGNATURE

Please return this form in the provided prepaid envelope to:

Hospice Waikato, PO Box 325, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240

Or freecall 0800 HOSPICE or visit hospicewaikato.org.nz/donate

Donate via internet banking to Westpac 03-1555-0091553-00.

Please ensure you use your unique ID, name and DON04 as a reference so we can identify your donation.

The Privacy Act 2020 requires us to advise you that we keep supporters' names and contact details on file to help with fundraising. We undertake to keep the data safe. Please advise us if you do not want your personal information stored. If you would like to see your information and/or correct any mistakes, please contact us. Also, notify us if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.



Do we have your current contact details?

We'd like to check we have the right contact details for you, please include your email address and postal address in the space below.

^ EMAIL ADDRESS

^ POSTAL ADDRESS

We love sharing our story with you!

Did you know that you can receive our newsletter in one of two ways - either in your letter box or in your in-box. If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy, please add your email address above, and return this section in the enclosed envelope, and we'll update our records accordingly.



Farmers Christmas baubles & Trees of Remembrance

Farmers has supported hospices throughout New Zealand with this campaign for eight years and have raised just under \$6 million through the sale of Christmas tree baubles and donations made via the Trees of Remembrance. We are absolutely delighted that Farmers have committed their support again in 2022.

The 2022 bauble is a Shooting Star, symbolising our loved ones who have died, lighting up our skies with love and warmth. The stars are particularly poignant this year, as it is the first time Aotearoa has celebrated Matariki, a time when we remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones no longer with us.

This year, the campaign starts on the 17th of November and runs through until Christmas Eve. We have five Farmers stores throughout the Waikato where you can purchase a Christmas bauble for \$10. All the funds raised from baubles purchased from Farmers stores in the Waikato come to Hospice Waikato.

Donations for Hospice Waikato can also be made via the Trees of Remembrance which can be found at each of the Farmers Stores, and at the New World Supermarket in Rototuna, Hamilton.

