

# MERCY MATTERS

OCTOBER 2025

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***“I don't think he could  
have got better care.”***



**Mercy  
Hospice**

Te Korowai Atawhai

# The Sweetness of Giving

***Martha Lenden-Hitchcock was just 12 years old when her father Karl was cared for by Mercy Hospice. Now 17, she writes about how losing her dad created an enduring connection with Mercy.***

“I was quite young when Dad was first under Mercy Hospice care in 2021, so I don’t have many memories of the at-home care. But having the community nurses visit or just be a phone call away was a great support for my dad, Karl, and my mum, Niccola. They would quietly pop in and always took time to check how my sisters and I were doing.

Eventually, Dad needed to be looked after at Mercy Hospice’s Inpatient Unit. Although that was scary, everyone was so kind. I don’t think he could have got better care. I am very grateful he was able to stay there when he became too sick to stay at home.

The nurses and volunteers weren’t just there to care for Dad; they were also there to care for our family. Mercy Hospice is where we met so many lovely people who became good friends. We were given so much love from volunteer Barb and nurse Cath, and we’re still connected today. The work and support Mercy staff give families is so important and has a massive impact during a situation that really affects you.

Mercy Hospice became very special to me because of the support we received. So, when I became involved in a school project that gave me the opportunity to give back, I knew who I wanted to support in return.

In Year 12, students are introduced to The Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme. It teaches young people entrepreneurship skills, provides opportunities, offers mentoring from local entrepreneurs, and fosters peer networking. Two friends and I wanted to take part, so we spent many hours working on how to form a business.

We researched gaps in the New Zealand market and international trends, and saw cookie dough was big in the U.S. After product testing, we wanted to include flavours from around the world. Global Indulgence was born: an edible cookie dough that could be eaten raw or baked into fresh cookies.



It was a lot of work but taught us many lessons in what small businesses go through.

We equally shared the profits, and when our business parted ways, I knew my share would be going to support Mercy Hospice. Mercy is such an important charity for me as I know how much support and care they give to families who are struggling through a terrible time. I know that no matter how small a donation, it goes to such a good cause that takes care of hundreds in the local community.

Alongside this project, I was also completing my Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and for my service I was baking for the Mercy Hospice nurses and Manaaki Day programme.

***“I am very grateful for the opportunity to give back to Mercy through donating, and supporting nurses, patients and families attending Manaaki with fresh baking.”***

# Running to Remember

## Ashleigh's story

In February 2024, Ashleigh Garner's best mate, Jason Husband, was diagnosed with bowel cancer that had spread to his liver. He passed away at Mercy Hospice six months later, aged 33.

Jason (Jase) was holidaying with wife Emma in Queenstown in August when he experienced severe pain. After returning to Auckland, Jase was referred to Mercy Hospice, where he spent his final two weeks.

Ashleigh and Jase's community visited Mercy Hospice often, making the most of their time together.

***"The amazing care that Jase and Emma received really inspired me."***

After Jase's death, Ashleigh revisited her half marathon registration and saw that Mercy Hospice was a charity option. Her run now had new purpose: fundraising for Mercy. ***"It all just felt really fitting."***

Jase was an ***"epic runner,"*** Ashleigh says. They ran together when they lived in London, though she jokes he was ***"always too fast"*** for her. Despite recently having her second daughter, Ashleigh's bond with Jase motivated her training, ***"especially after everything I saw him go through."***

***"Nothing compares to what he would have had to endure during his six months of treatment."***

Ashleigh aimed to raise \$1,000 for Mercy Hospice and was overwhelmed by people's support. In total, she raised \$3,000 in Jase's memory.

As Ashleigh crossed the finish line, she wore a bracelet carrying Jase and Emma's mantra: 'Ichi-go, ichi-e', a Japanese idiom that reminds us to cherish every moment.

Her efforts became part of a wider movement, ***'Move for Wep'*** (a nickname of Jase's) where friends around the world ran - or even rollerbladed - to support Jase during treatment. ***"When I'm out running, I'm always thinking of him."***

If you're considering fundraising, Ashleigh says: ***"Don't be afraid to put your hand up, any amount of fundraising effort helps and it feels good to give back... to such an amazing place."***



## Ella's story

For Ella Metson, 22, it was her nana, Lyndsay Lamont, who inspired her to run her first half marathon for Mercy Hospice in November 2024. Not because Lyndsay was a runner - quite the contrary.

Ella jokes, ***"She would've said, 'You're crazy for doing that!' But she would've been proud of me for doing something, sticking with it, getting it done - and for a good cause."***



Lyndsay spent the last three days of her life at Mercy Hospice in January 2024, only a short time after being diagnosed with cancer. She passed away aged 80.

For Ella and mum, Nicola Lamont (Lyndsay's daughter), Mercy Hospice was a place of comfort and peace. ***"I was so happy to have her here," said Nicola. "All she wanted at the end was serenity - and that's what she got there."***

Ella tried to get into running during Covid-19 lockdowns and "hated it." But when she found herself inspired to start running, she wanted it to have a purpose - so signed up to fundraise.

***"I didn't realise how much of the service wasn't funded. We had a lot of people in our circle with a connection to Mercy... so it was nice to raise money for such a good, essential service."***

In total, Ella raised \$2,000, in memory of her "cheeky, funny" nana. On race day, Ella was buoyed by the atmosphere and desire to give back. Seeing two people run past in Mercy Hospice t-shirts was motivation "to keep going."

Ella's "caught the running bug" and will run the Queenstown Half Marathon in November. Go Ella!

# 10 - A Celebration of Tastes

The kindness and generosity of Mercy Hospice supporters were on full display at this year's **10 - A Celebration of Tastes**, which helped raise more than \$500,000 to continue the care.

Close to 400 guests attended this year's **10** at the Grand Millennium Auckland on June 15th to show their support for a cause dear to their hearts: ensuring that Mercy Hospice can continue to provide compassionate, specialist palliative care to our community, **free of charge**.

And what an incredible day it was! Ten of Auckland's finest restaurants and chefs assembled mouthwatering gourmet dishes, expertly paired with New Zealand wines thanks to EuroVintage, while attendees bid on exclusive live and silent auction items.



We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our key event sponsors and supporters – **10** takes a tremendous amount of work, and **we could not do it without you**.

'10' is Mercy Hospice's flagship annual fundraiser, raising significant funds each year to support those with life-limiting illness and their loved ones. Thank you to everyone who attended as a guest, volunteered your time and support, or worked to help make this year's event truly one to remember.

To our guest speaker, Antony Murphy – thank you. Your tribute to your wife, Lauren, was so moving and truly resonated with many in attendance.

We were deeply touched that so many guests pledged a **total of \$90,000** for Mercy's Family Support Team – funds that will enable them to care for 180 patients and their families, with services including counselling, cultural support, occupational therapy, social work, and physiotherapy.

*We hope to see you at next year's 10!*

***If you'd like to know more about future fundraising events, get in touch with the Mercy Hospice fundraising team on 0800 888 474, or [getinvolved@mh.org.nz](mailto:getinvolved@mh.org.nz)***



# Fundraising & Retail News

## March Appeal

Antony Murphy's beautiful story about the care his late wife Lauren received from Mercy Hospice highlighted how profound the impact of wraparound care can be, both for a patient and their wider family. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who connected with Antony and Lauren's story, and donated to Mercy Hospice as a result. Together, you raised more than \$90,000.



## Fabric-a-brac

**Fabric-a-brac** was back in June and just as fun as ever! Fabric-a-brac market day events are held across the country each year in support of their local hospice. This year's Auckland event, at Bayfield School in Herne Bay, had a bake sale with delicious baking donated by our volunteers and raised more than \$3,000. A big thank you to Fabric-a-brac's Grace Samuelson for her support of Mercy!



## Re-stitch/Re-love for Mercy

In May, we held our very first **Re-stitch/Re-love for Mercy** event at our St Heliers store – where quality, preloved clothes were reimagined into creative, one-of-a-kind pieces.

A group of hard-working volunteers helped bring new life to donated items which needed some TLC before they could be sold in For Mercy stores. Through their patching, sewing and styling magic, a range of upcycled, truly unique items could be sold to help raise funds for Mercy's compassionate palliative care.

If you're a dab hand at sewing and would like to get involved in future Re-stitch events, reach out to the team at the St Heliers store.



## Fill-a-bag

July saw Mercy Hospice's first-ever **Fill-a-bag** event. Held at the back of the Ellerslie Bargain Basement, people filled bags of preloved clothing donated to For Mercy stores. A \$10 entry fee covered the first bag. The day exceeded expectations – with queues of people waiting to come in. There was something for everyone, with men's, women's and children's clothing on offer, and hungry shoppers refuelled with a sausage sizzle manned by our kind volunteers.

The incredible event raised approximately \$1,700 for Mercy Hospice and helped save clothing from landfill. There will be more opportunities to Fill-a-bag soon!



### *The impact of a gift in your Will*

***Without the generosity of our community, Mercy Hospice would not be able to operate.***

At a time when our hospice service faces increasing challenges, including a gift in your Will to Mercy Hospice can help ensure that compassionate care continues free-of-charge for generations to come.

Making and updating a Will is one of the most meaningful things you can do for those you love. It's not just about assets – it's about making your wishes known and ensuring your values live on.

A powerful, simple, and impactful gesture is gifting just 1% of your estate to Mercy Hospice and leaving 99% for your loved ones.

No matter the size, a gift in your Will helps to improve the quality of life for our patients and their whānau through the provision of support, including:

- ***Doctors, nurses, and physical therapists***
- ***Counselling and bereavement support, cultural and spiritual support***
- ***Medical equipment and supplies, in the community and inpatient setting***

Please take time to have this important conversation with your whānau – and if you haven't already, make or update your Will. You can write your Will for free online and support Mercy Hospice at Gathered Here: [www.gatheredhere.com/nz/c/mercy-hospice](http://www.gatheredhere.com/nz/c/mercy-hospice)

***Your legacy of care and compassion will make a lasting difference in your community.***



### *Hospice services are at risk*

***All hospice care is provided free of charge, for all.***

Last year, it cost \$226 million to run the country's hospice services – but the Government provided just \$114 million. Hospices must raise the shortfall from community donations, fundraising, bequests, and other sources. At the same time, the number of New Zealanders needing hospice care is increasing annually. **By 2045, the need will have doubled.** But our funding is not rising at the same pace.

In March, a landmark report into the funding of New Zealand's hospices found that due to growing demand and rising costs, total expenditure across the publicly contracted hospices will exceed the total revenues from government and community sources in less than 12 months.

More than ever before, **we are reliant on the generosity and kindness of our community** to keep our doors open, and to ensure we can continue to serve you and your community for generations to come.

***Please consider making a donation to Mercy Hospice by using the donation form on the back of this newsletter, or by calling the fundraising team on 0800 888 474.***



# Upcoming Events



## Run to Remember in the Auckland Marathon

Take your marks – the **Auckland Marathon** is just around the corner!

Join thousands of people running or walking the 5km, 11km, half-marathon, or full 42km on **November 2**. Feel the buzzing atmosphere as you traverse the Harbour Bridge on foot, or the satisfaction of crossing the finish line in memory of a loved one.

Last year, our incredible runners raised more than \$30,000.

Sign up as a Mercy Hospice fundraiser, tell your friends, or donate to one of our generous runners by visiting: [aucklandmarathon2025.grassrootz.com/mercy-hospice](http://aucklandmarathon2025.grassrootz.com/mercy-hospice).



## Tennis for Mercy

Get that backhand ready and join us for Mercy's annual tennis tournament on **November 14**. Spend a delightful day playing friendly doubles before enjoying lunch back in Mercy Hospice's courtyard. There will also be refreshments, a live and silent auction, a raffle, and Bronny's famous bake sale to offer sweet rewards for your hard work on the court.

Serve with purpose and help Aucklanders get the palliative care they deserve, while having a lot of fun!

Get your tickets here:  
[mercyhospice.org.nz/tennis-for-mercy/](http://mercyhospice.org.nz/tennis-for-mercy/)

## Trees of Remembrance community collections + gift wrapping

Mercy Hospice volunteers will be out collecting in central Auckland on **November 28-29** to help raise funds for our critical services. Collections are an important way to raise awareness of Mercy Hospice and palliative care services more broadly, and to connect with our communities.

### Dates and locations:

November 28 & 29: Westfield St Lukes 9am - 5pm

November 29: New World Remuera 9am - 5pm

We will also be gift-wrapping presents at Eastridge Shopping Centre on **December 13-14th**, and from the **19-24th**. A big thank you to Eastridge for their support!

If you would like to take part, email [getinvolved@mh.org.nz](mailto:getinvolved@mh.org.nz). Please show our volunteers your support if you see them!



## Lights to Remember

Be part of our special **Lights to Remember** switch-on, taking place on **December 4** at Mercy Hospice on College Hill, from 8pm.

Bring your friends and whānau and join us for a magical evening of remembrance. With a choir and coffee cart on-site, you'll be warmed by the beautiful atmosphere as the lights illuminate the gardens at Mercy Hospice, in memory of those we have loved and lost.

Take a moment to reflect, remember, and dedicate a light in the name of a loved one.

After the switch-on event, you can visit the stunning lit-up gardens of Te Korowai Atawhai Mercy Hospice every evening until **December 21**, between 8-10.30pm.

# Thank you to all our Mercy Hospice sponsors and supporters



## Thank you to the following Trusts and Foundations, who have supported Mercy Hospice through generous grants

- Ara Lodge No. 348 I.C. Charitable Trust
- Barbara Lipanovich and Robert Ned Covich Charitable Trust
- Barney & Patsy McCahill Charitable Trust
- BlueSky Community Trust
- Dragon Community Trust
- Four Winds Foundation
- Margaret Neutze Legacy Fund
- Maurice Paykel Charitable Trust
- Milestone Foundation
- North & South Trust
- Pub Charity Limited
- The Geoffrey & Nell Erne Adams Charitable Trust
- Trillian Trust

**Yes! I want to help Mercy Hospice doctors, nurses, social workers,  
counsellors, and more to provide quality care for Aucklanders.**

I would like to donate: \$

- ☐ I would like to make this a monthly gift. ☐ Please contact me about leaving a gift in my Will.

### Payment methods

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☐ Credit card - Please debit my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX Expiry date:  /

Card number:                 CVC:  (required)

Name on card:  Signature:

☐ Directly into Mercy Hospice Auckland's bank account: I would like to receive my receipt by:

BNZ: 02 0100 0815020 00 ☐ Post

Particulars:  ☐ Email (Please confirm email address below)

Code:

Reference: <SF ID>  <Email>

### Update details

Please update or correct your details below. Thank you!

Name and address:  Preferred phone number:

Preferred email address:

Please return this form in the enclosed freepost envelope or send to  
**Mercy Hospice, PO Box 47693, Ponsonby, Auckland 1144**

If you have any questions, please call **0800 888 474**  
or email [hello@mh.org.nz](mailto:hello@mh.org.nz)

Mercy Hospice Charities Commission Number: **CC31621**

**Thank you for your  
generosity and continued  
support of Mercy Hospice.**