

MERCY MATTERS

AUGUST 2024



“

***the care and love we experienced from
Mercy Hospice was profound and beautiful***

”

Thank you for giving families the gift of time together

Your generosity provides a range of care and support, enabling people and their whānau to spend time together when it matters most.

Highlights this month

Space to be with her

Mercy Hospice saved my life

Thank you for a perfect 10

Fundraising News and Updates

Leaving a Gift in your Will



**Mercy
Hospice**

Te Korowai Atawhai

Mercy Hospice Charities
Commission Number: CC31621

Your ongoing support is helping everyday Aucklanders navigate one of life's hardest stages: the loss of a loved one.

Space to be with her

"In 2021, my wife Sao (Trinh Thi Sao), was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and undertook extensive chemotherapy treatment followed by radiation therapy through Auckland hospital. As a result, the cancer was halted, giving us a little more time with Sao, but eventually it progressed and her life became more and more difficult.

At this time, we were re-introduced to Mercy Hospice, with whom we had had experience some 10 years previously, when they cared so beautifully for Sao's father in his last days.

We are grateful for the Community Palliative Care (CPC) nursing team at Mercy who visited her regularly at home and provided caring advice for us all. We knew they were only a phone call away. In the last few weeks, that service was critical to our time while Sao remained at home.

Although the last days were tough on Sao and our family, the care and love we experienced from Mercy Hospice was profound and beautiful.

They were like angels, quietly and sensitively making Sao comfortable, while giving us space to be with her, until she passed away peacefully on 15th August, with the sun shining into her room there.

This was a huge experience for all of us, especially my adult children. Mercy Hospice staff made them welcome and encouraged



them to stay the night with Mum once she had passed away.

We remain deeply grateful for the love and care shown by all Mercy Hospice staff. They made Sao's passing just a little easier to cope with and accept."

Thank you.

Christopher Hawley

Thank you, Christopher for allowing us to share your story.

Your support enabled

4,877

Community Nurse
Visits over 2022-2023*



Your support enabled

427

people on average to be
cared for over 2022-2023*



*Mercy Hospice Impact Report 2022/2023

Robin's Story

Mercy Hospice saved my life

On February 27, 2024 Robin Lesley-Clark thought he was going to Mercy Hospice to die. Instead, he credits Mercy Hospice for the wrap-around care and support he needed to fight for his life.

Having just finished a six-week stay after being diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumour behind his eye, Robin praised the volunteers at Mercy Hospice as "life-savers".

"I thought I was going there to die," he said "But in fact, Mercy Hospice saved my life. The level of care from their clinical teams and the awesome support provided by the volunteers and staff was unlike anything I had ever experienced."

Robin's diagnosis had left him in immense pain, leading him to believe he had very little

time left. Referred to Mercy Hospice for pain management, he was prepared for this to be the final chapter.

During his stay, he underwent rigorous treatment, including 34 sessions of radiation and daily chemotherapy. He described the support he received as not just medical but extremely personal. And it's Mercy's volunteers that Robin wants to thank for giving him the strength to live every moment.

"The volunteers made me feel like I was their only priority. They took me to my appointments, waited for me, asked if I wanted to go anywhere, and made sure I was comfortable. I was so sick, but they helped me fight. I felt spoiled and cared for in a way I had never experienced before. If I won Lotto this weekend, I



would give half of it to Mercy Hospice. That's how much they mean to me."

After completing his treatment at Mercy Hospice, Robin was able to see well from both eyes and he was steady on his feet with no pain. Staff gathered and sang, as is their tradition, a Waiata for him as he left his room. Although we might see Robin back at Mercy at some point in the future, he knows he will be warmly welcomed, and the cloak of Mercy will once more wrap around him.

In a conversation he had with one of our nurses, Robin said "The chemo got rid of my cancer, but Mercy saved my life."

Thank you, Robin for allowing us to share your story.

Thank you to the following Trusts and Foundations

who have supported Mercy Hospice through generous grants:

- Akarana Community Trust
- Ara Lodge No. 348 IC Charitable Trust
- Barbara Theresa Lipanovich and Robert Ned Covich Charitable Trust (managed by Perpetual Guardian)
- Barney & Patsy McCahill Charitable Trust
- Dragon Community Trust
- Four Winds Foundation
- James Russell Lewis Charitable Trust (managed by Perpetual Guardian)
- Margaret Neutze Memorial Fund
- North and South Trust
- Masfen Foundation
- Maurice Paykel Charitable Trust
- Milestone Foundation

This year's '10 - A Celebration of Tastes' supporters helped raise over \$530,000 to continue the care at Mercy Hospice!

Thank you for a perfect 10!

What an unforgettable, sparkling day filled with kindness from Mercy Hospice supporters!

420 guests turned out at Grand Millennium, Auckland on Sunday 16 June to make a stand about what really matters to them: Compassion. Kindness. Providing free palliative care for everyday Aucklanders. And wow, was this done in style, thanks to 10 chefs and restaurants providing mouth-watering food, Eurovintage for expertly paired NZ wines, our event partners and of course a small army of devoted and enthusiastic Mercy Hospice volunteers.

A warm thank you to all our key event sponsors and supporters for '10 - A Celebration of Tastes', without whom this result could simply not have been achieved.



'10' is Mercy's biggest annual fundraiser, raising significant funds each year for people living with life-limiting illnesses and their families. Thank you to each and every one of you for your time and enthusiastic support, making this year's event another to remember.

To Hart Reynolds, our guest speaker on the day, thank you. Your beautiful tribute to your mother, Dr Claire McLintock was deeply moving. And how amazing that so many guests put their hand up to pledge a staggering \$100,000 for Mercy's Inpatient Unit, our most expensive but much needed service! This amount will help cover the cost for the average stay of 10 patients this year.

If you would like to know more about attending future events, make sure to get in touch with the Mercy Hospice Fundraising team at 0800 888 474 or getinvolved@mh.org.nz.

THANK YOU TO THE '10 - A CELEBRATION OF TASTES' 2024 SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

DIAMOND

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PLATINUM

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bnz **PASCOES** THE JEWELLERS **GRAND MILLENNIUM** AUCKLAND

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BARULHO **CORNELIA** **DES HARRIS** **SIDART** **SAILS** RESTAURANT

AVIARY **GILT** **EMBER** **MADAME GEORGE** **ParisButter** ****



The joy of knowing others will benefit from your legacy

Including a gift to Mercy Hospice in your Will helps to ensure people in Auckland will continue to receive palliative care services free-of-charge for generations to come.

No matter the size, a gift in your Will improves 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, spiritual and cultural support,
- medical equipment and supplies, symptom-relieving medications.

This is a special way to continue your support of Mercy Hospice and make a lasting difference in your community.



Nix Grigg

I've always been interested in hospice care. My much-loved godmother died in hospice care in Wellington, so when I moved to Auckland in 2017, it seemed

only natural to volunteer at Te Korowai Atawhai Mercy Hospice. Volunteering turned into managing the patient service volunteers, and from there I developed a deep love for Mercy. I am in absolute awe of the care that the staff give to the patients, but I also see the constant struggle to raise enough funds to continue providing that care at no cost to our patients. Because I know just how important this service is, I knew that I needed to step up and do what I could. Yes the work I do is important, but I also want to be sure, long after I have departed this world, that Mercy Hospice will still be able to continue its amazing mahi. It feels a privilege to have left a gift to Mercy Hospice in my Will.

In 2009, my late wife, Carol was a patient at Mercy Hospice. What stood out for me about our experience was the personal touch, clear communication and all those warm fuzzies. I'm choosing to leave a gift to Mercy Hospice in my Will to express gratitude for the wonderful care that was given to Carol and me during such a difficult time. My hope is that my gift will make it possible for more people to experience the same level of care and support that we did.



Allan Taylor

I have included Mercy Hospice in my Will as it's a cause very dear to my heart. Having experienced the care provided to both my mother Vera and life-partner Jim, hospice was a life raft at a very stormy time. Mercy cared for Jim in the last two weeks of his life. I know he felt very cared for in that time. He had a wonderful sense of humour and appreciated that staff took their time to joke with him. It was the best place he could be. Even with friends and family around it was a lonely journey at times and Mercy was an important pillar in our support system. I'm happy that one day my legacy will help soften somebody else's journey.



Frances Lucca

Upcoming Events

To our passionate supporters, keen to continue the care at Mercy Hospice and make quality of life a right for all Aucklanders, thank you so much and we hope to see you at the next event!

Run in this year's Auckland Marathon

Find a new way to connect with loved ones who have passed by Running to Remember

On Sunday 3 November, thousands of Aucklanders will run or walk the city in a glorious celebration of movement.

Walk the 5km, get a team together to stroll the Half Marathon or take on the ultimate challenge and run the full Barfoot and Thompson Auckland Marathon with 'Team Mercy'. However, you decide to take on the challenge, we'll be right here with you.

Physical activity has proven to be therapeutic in long term grief processes and is known to be a healthy and exciting way to connect with lost loved ones. Get the whanau together and dedicate your walking or running team to your lost loved ones as you don the Mercy colours and take to the streets.

Last year Team Mercy raised \$34,681 and this year we are aiming for \$40,000 – enough to provide the food for the patients in our Inpatient Unit for five months of the financial year!

Imagine the thrill of walking or jogging over the harbour bridge, feeling that connection with so many others, and the satisfaction of crossing that finishing line. Do it for yourself. Do it for the memory of loved ones lost. Do it for countless more Aucklanders.

Sign up as a Mercy Hospice fundraiser, tell your runner friends or donate to one of our fantastic runners

Simply visit mercyhospice.org.nz/marathon to join Team Mercy and help raise vital funds for Aucklanders with life-limiting illnesses and their families. For help or questions please get in touch at getinvolved@mh.org.nz

Join the Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge

If running is not your cup of tea but cycling is, we've got you covered! Try a different kind of challenge, cycling around the beautiful Lake Taupo. mercyhospice.org.nz/cycle

TENNIS FOR MERCY

Game, lunch and a glorious get-together

Join us for Mercy's annual friendly doubles tournament, TENNIS for MERCY on Friday 8 November.

Bring your backhand brilliance and spend a delightful morning of good-natured doubles, refreshments, and the excitement of the knockout stages. Then it's back to Mercy for an exquisite lunch in the courtyard, facilitated by our ever-loyal volunteers. A live and silent auction, a raffle and a bake sale offer sweet rewards and memories you'll treasure for years.

Serve with purpose, and help Aucklanders get the palliative care they deserve.

For more information and to secure your tickets, visit mercyhospice.org.nz/tennis



Thank you!

Thank you to all our Mercy Hospice sponsors & supporters including our volunteers. You're making all the difference.

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BETTER TOGETHER

 **CRAIGS**
INVESTMENT PARTNERS



Make all the difference

Whether it's a regular donation, a Gift in your Will, volunteering, fundraising, or supporting through your business, quality of life for adults living with life-limiting illness and their families can be improved when you turn compassion into action.

Did you know that **regular monthly gifts** are a lasting way to reassure whānau that their loved ones will receive the highest level of palliative care? This can be completed via direct debit, from your bank account, or through payroll giving. Please note, you may receive a call in the coming weeks from the team at Mercy about this incredibly valuable way of giving.

Complete the attached form to make your donation or give us a call on **0800 888 474** or email **hello@mh.org.nz** and we'll help you find a way to give back that works for you.



One of the ways that family and friends choose to remember their loved ones cared for at Mercy is with a beautiful commemorative tile in our Past, Present, and Future Courtyard. Filled with gorgeous ceramics by artist, Bob Steiner, the courtyard is open all year round. For more information, please contact the Fundraising team on **0800 888 474** or **hello@mh.org.nz**

2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Get involved with Mercy Hospice!

www.mercyhospice.org.nz/events or email getinvolved@mh.org.nz to find out more!

November 1	Remembrance Service He Wa Maumahara
November 3	<u>Auckland Marathon</u>
November 8	<u>Tennis for Mercy</u>
November 30	<u>Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge</u>
December 5	<u>Lights to Remember Switch-On</u>
December	Trees of Remembrance

You are receiving this newsletter because of your previous support of Mercy Hospice. If you don't want to receive it in the future or you would prefer to receive a digital version, please contact the Fundraising team on getinvolved@mh.org.nz to update your preferences.

Note

*We need you more
than ever.*

Get involved.

Yes! I want to help Mercy Hospice doctors, nurses, social workers, counsellors and more to provide top 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

MM - Aug 2024

☐ 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: BNZ: 02 0100 0815020 00
Particulars:
Code:
Reference: <SF ID>

I would like to receive my receipt by:
☐ Post
☐ Email (Please confirm email address below)

Update details

Please update or correct your details below. Thank you!

<Name & Address>

Preferred number:

<Preferred Phone number>

Preferred email address:

<Preferred email address>

Please return this form in the enclosed freepost envelope, or send to

Mercy Hospice, P O Box 47693, Ponsonby, Auckland 1101

If you have any questions, please call 0800 888 474 or email hello@mh.org.nz

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

Mercy Hospice Charities Commission Number: CC31621