

It's because of people like you, Hospice services can remain free of charge.

Reflecting on love and death

Jean Allan, who has recently joined the Hospice Waikato Marketing department, shares her story of love and death.

Death was not something I personally thought about until my mother was diagnosed with incurable stage four cholangiocarcinoma. I am still able to determine the exact minute, hour and day that forever changed my life- December 13th, 2011.

What started out like any other Tuesday, turned into a day that started a chain reaction of events that forever changed our lives. Three small words whispered by my mother 'I have cancer' and my shocked response of 'Who's got cancer?', were followed by silence and stillness with my mum's muttered reply of 'me'.

I was in shock and denial thinking that this must be some joke, no matter how black the humour would be. However, this fast became our new reality. The following days were a blur of pain, hope and utter devastation.

When my mother was first diagnosed, her prognosis was dire. It was challenging to accept the fact that she was incredibly sick with an impending departure date. She refused to be a victim to a disease that destroys the mind, body and soul. Acceptance is vital but does not equal a death sentence.

She never accepted her death sentence, nor did she give up emotionally or mentally, and to this day, her strength is truly inspirational. While she did go through several bouts of harsh chemotherapy, it had little to no effect on the tumours, but it did give her extended time for us to create wonderful living memories together.

My mum was my rock, best friend and parent all rolled into one. When I was born, she jokingly made the promise to give me twenty years, but unfortunately, she came up five years short.

Those first fifteen years were filled with memories and experiences that set me up for life. During her fifteen final months, she did

everything in her power for us to have memories together, 'to create living memories' as she put it, that were able to be compiled into a treasured life story, written up by a Hospice volunteer.

The morning she passed away is a memory that is seared into my mind and was one of the hardest things to witness. We all experience grief differently, there is no right or wrong way. It's an emptiness that won't ever disappear - while the hole will never heal, it will blend and become a part of my life to learn and grow from.

'That's why it's important to talk about how you're feeling, when the time is right, and the services and care we received from Hospice was a comforting presence, knowing that they had dedicated staff to help us through the journey before, during and after death.'

My mother's death has made me stronger, with the courage and strength she modelled during her battle with cancer to see out the years she promised. I honour my mother's memory and know that whatever happens, she's watching and proud, and now my being a part of Hospice Waikato brings a true sense of rightness.

Jean Allan, Hospice Waikato

Hospice is here to help

Nothing alters your life like finding out your loved one has a terminal illness, with only months to live.

At Hospice Waikato, we have qualified counsellors to support families/whānau who are affected and/or caring for a terminally ill family member.

Our counsellors are here to provide support and tools to help our patients and their families/whānau through their grief.

We need your help to continue to offer our end-of-life services free of charge. Can you help us? Please donate today.

Pictured left: Jean Allan.

Photo inset: Jean celebrating her 14th birthday with her Mum.



Bequests

Hospice Waikato is extremely grateful for the bequests received from the following Estates in the current financial year.

- Estate of Genevieve N Geraghty
- Estate of Billie Jean Davies
- Estate of Eleanor N Iles
- Estate of Margaret Mary Brinkworth
- Estate of Cyril Karl Potter
- Estate of Isabel June Fisk
- Estate of Norma Payne
- Estate of Nancie Jane Sunckell

Thank you

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who have generously supported Hospice Waikato. We couldn't do it without you.

- Hillcrest Indoor Bowling Club
- Noel and Dora Laurence
- GJ Gardner Homes Hamilton
- Coromandel Bizarre Charitable Trust
- Brian Perry Construction
- New Zealand Certified Builders
- Classic Builders
- Grant Spicer
- Waikato District Council
- Leisure Time Tours
- FMG Insurance

Gifts of care

We would like to recognise the following person who has kindly donated towards the cost of a day's care for our patients.

- Dawn Brittin has donated one day of care

If you would like to find out more about giving a Gift of Care please visit our website www.hospicewaikato.org.nz/giveadayofcare

Grants

A big thank you to the following Trusts who have generously supported Hospice Waikato in the last quarter.



Trees of Remembrance campaign continues to break records

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that the 2019 Farmers Trees of Remembrance campaign, once again, has broken a record - raising a grand total of \$71,864.96 for Hospice Waikato! We were delighted to see the hundreds of heart-felt messages written on the special decorations and hung up on the trees throughout Farmers stores in the Waikato. Thank you to everyone who made a donation and took a moment to remember a loved one. The written messages have been collected from each of the Farmers stores, as well as



those from the tree at New World Rototuna, and will be cremated during a special ceremony to be held early this year. We would like to say a massive thank you to the wonderful staff at Farmers Chartwell, Hamilton CBD, Matamata, Te Rapa, and Thames, for their incredible enthusiasm and support throughout this campaign



NEW WORLD ROTOTUNA

In conjunction with the Farmers Trees of Remembrance campaign, New World Rototuna hosted a tree of their own which raised a total of \$4,814.90 for Hospice Waikato! Our grateful thanks to our volunteers and to everyone who gave so generously.

Rainbow Place Christmas Party with GJ Gardner Hamilton

Our Rainbow Place children, parents and caregivers enjoyed some fun Christmas cheer at the Hamilton Zoo recently. Our children had a surprise visit from Rainbow Bear and Santa who delighted our families

with kindly donated goodie bags.

A big thank you to the team at GJ Gardner Homes Hamilton for supporting our party and helping out on the day, and to Hamilton Zoo for hosting us.

G.J. Gardner. HOMES



Don't miss out on these exciting events!



Register now for the Run/Walk for Life

Sunday 22nd March, 8am Start, Hamilton Gardens

Get your trainers on and join us for our Run/Walk for Life in March. You choose the distance, either the 5km or 10km, run or walk. You'll be helping Hospice Waikato with every step. Register online today by visiting www.hospicewaikato.org.nz/event/runforlife



Fashion Over a Teacup

5th April 2020

Hospice Waikato's Fashion over a Teacup fundraiser is back by popular demand as part of Cambridge Autumn Festival. This year the event is being held at Te Awa Lifecare Village and has an exciting new look and feel. Tickets are available for purchase from Paper Plus Cambridge or on the Hospice Waikato website: www.hospicewaikato.org.nz/products



Shorts Day will shortly be here!

Join us for the month of June, to celebrate the shortest day of the year!

Wear your brightest, loudest pair of shorts in return for a gold coin donation to Rainbow Place. June has the shortest day of the year, and it's a great day to recognise that life is short and even shorter for our patients. Join the fun. Registrations are open: www.hospicewaikato.org.nz/shortsforhospice



Join us at the fabulous Hospice Waikato, Montana Food & Events Bucket List Banquet

Thursday 7th May 2020 at Claudelands Event Centre

Hospice Waikato and Montana Food & Events invite you to an evening of world-class acts, fine dining, and an auction that will leave you at the edge of your seats! Prepare to be dazzled by the décor, electrified by the entertainment, and captivated by the cuisine!

Purchase your tickets online: www.hospicewaikato.org.nz/bucket-list-banquet

Rainbow Place respite

Our respite care allows our Rainbow Place parents to get some much-needed rest, with the peace of mind that their child is well looked after during their stay, under the watchful eye of our nurses and healthcare assistants 24/7. Pictured below are some of our Rainbow Place children enjoying fun activities from music to creative dress-up.

Our grateful thanks to all donors who support this much needed respite service.



Give a gift that gives twice!

By purchasing merchandise, you are helping Hospice Waikato to provide quality end of life care to over 1400 Waikato people every year who are living with a terminal illness.

Visit our website: www.hospicewaikato.org.nz/products to view our range of merchandise.



E-receipts

Would you like to receive your receipt via email? Please include your email address below and leave this section attached to your donation.

Please help us to continue to provide our care to people who are dying.

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.

- ☐ I wish to find out more information about leaving a gift in my will. Please send me a brochure.
- ☐ I wish to become a Friend of Hospice. Please send me more information.
- ☐ I wish to gift a full day of care to a patient (\$1,000)
- ☐ I wish to give a half day of care to a patient (\$500)

\$

^ VALUE OF DONATION

- ☐ **Cheque.** Made payable to Hospice Waikato.
- ☐ **Bank transfer.** See Hospice Waikato bank details, left.
- ☐ **Automatic payment.** Please send me details.
- ☐ **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.

^ NAME OF CARDHOLDER

^ CARD NUMBER

/ ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

^ EXPIRY DATE

^ SIGNATURE

The Privacy Act of 1993 requires us to advise you that we keep contact information of supporters on file to help us with fundraising. If you do not wish us to keep your information, please advise us. If you wish to check the details that we have on your file, you are welcome to enquire. Please notify us if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.

Living Every Moment
hospice
waikato