



ihc *Calf & Rural Scheme*
IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Photo credit Sheena Jensen

Autumn/Winter 2025 | *Calf & Rural Scheme makes a real difference in the lives of rural people with intellectual disabilities.*

Donor Impact Report

SibCamps - supporting the siblings of kids with intellectual disabilities

IHC doesn't just support people with intellectual disabilities, we also assist their families who support them too. So, I want to tell you about a new area of our work that you helped to fund – camps for the child siblings of people with intellectual disabilities.

Some 25 years ago, we used to run camps for these often forgotten kids. Due to a shortfall in donated funds, this programme had to be cancelled.

But throughout the years, I've heard from kids who attended these camps and are now adults. They have spoken about how, many years later, they still remember the impact these camps had on them. Children from rural areas, who often didn't know any other kids who had a sibling with a disability, found these camps very helpful. So last year, we trialled running a couple of SibCamps to see if this was still something these kids needed.

Being the sibling of a child with an intellectual disability can be really hard. Tui, who is nine-years old attended the first of these camps in the Manawatu. Tui's seven-year-old brother Kahu is severely autistic.



Tui

Jack, Tui's dad, says she misses out on family time. "Like going to the beach. Kahu only lasts about 20 minutes before he needs to leave. But Tui wants to swim, play in the sand, and build sandcastles. So often one of us will need to take Kahu home so the other can stay with Tui."

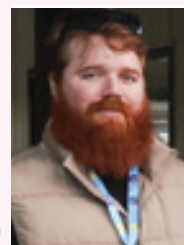


Kahu

Sibcamps are an opportunity for kids like Tui to have some time out. These camps are a mix of fun activities and time to discuss their feelings about having a sibling with a disability.

Michael, one of the facilitators says some of the issues the kids come up with are really deep. "One of the biggest things is how they actually feel about their sibling. Parents are often focusing on their disabled child and their siblings feel left out. These kids can have a lot of hurt feelings around that."

Michael attended the camps as a child. "I loved going to SibCamp, it was awesome. It was having a connection with the people around you, being from similar backgrounds, being able to relate a lot better to each other. It was fantastic for building lifelong friends. I still talk daily to some of them, 17 years later."



Thanks to your support, we are already planning the next three SibCamps around the country giving these kids the support they need. ***You helped build lasting strengths and resilience into the lives and futures of these families – such an important impact.***

Pledge now for the coming season

Every year, kind people like you, help raise over \$1m to support people with intellectual disabilities and their families living in rural communities throughout New Zealand. You can donate a calf/calves, sheep or lambs, or a virtual calf - a donation of \$300 as a one off gift or \$25 each month.

Pledge by 1 June and you'll automatically be entered in a prize draw to win one of two mystery weekends away.



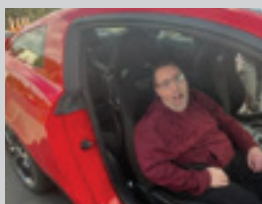
Scan the QR code or go to bit.ly/4I5LgNH to watch a short video where Elliott and Sullivan talk about how much they love SibCamp



You help people do the things they love!

Ben's dream come true, thanks to you

IHC's Volunteer Friendship Programme matches people with intellectual disabilities with a volunteer who shares their interests to spend time together.



"I have never been asked to a wedding before and when I was asked to go, I couldn't believe it. I was overwhelmed and felt very special. I felt even more special when I got to sit in the Mustang. I couldn't stop smiling."

Ben and his friend Jackson, have been part of the Friendship Programme for four-years. When Jackson was getting married recently, he invited Ben to the wedding, like friends do. He knew one of Ben's dreams was to have a ride in a red Mustang. As the bride's father owned a red Mustang, it was used as one of the wedding cars, and Ben had his dream come true as he got to go in the car at the wedding.

Your support of the Calf & Rural scheme help make people like Ben feel special. Because of your support, Ben has a good friend in Jackson, who he gets out and about with in his community, and who occasionally helps him achieve a dream. **Thank you!**

Jeff can now go to the beach



Your Calf and Rural Scheme support helped people get out and about doing the things they love.

Jeff loves the beach and swimming, but due to his difficult for him as he is unable to walk. Accessing the beach has always been difficult for him.

Thanks to your support, there are now three beach wheelchairs and a rollator (walking frame suitable for beach use) in the Whangarei region so people can safely access the sand and sea.

Once in the sea, he can get himself in and out of the chair to enjoy the water. **"It's bloody marvellous!"** Jeff says.

Thank you for helping Jeff, and others like him, enjoy the simple things in life, like a swim at the beach.

A message from IHC's new CEO, Andrew Crisp



Kia ora koutou,

I wanted to introduce myself to you and thank you for your incredible support for people with intellectual disabilities through IHC's Calf & Rural Scheme.

I was appointed to the role of IHC Chief Executive and began early in 2025. I am so grateful for the opportunity to lead an organisation dedicated to supporting people with intellectual disabilities and their families, to lead satisfying and fulfilling lives in the community.

In the weeks since I joined IHC, I have been out and about seeing the difference we make every day through the work of our staff and the impact of your donations. I've been humbled by the generous welcome I've received across the motu. I am in awe of the pride our staff have in their work and the real difference IHC and its supporters make every day in the lives of some of New Zealand's most vulnerable people.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind support of IHC. As part of the Calf & Rural Scheme you make a real difference in people's lives. I know IHC couldn't do the work we do, without you. Thank you!

Ngā manaakitanga,

Andrew Crisp

IHC Chief Executive

Photo competition Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the photo competition this year.

We'll be running the competition again later in the year, so make sure you take photos of your IHC calf this Spring.



Working on the Farm: 'Getting to know the newest herd member'
— Baelei Tippett



IHC Calf: 'Strong fella, enjoying the fresh grass in the sun'
— Kathryn Ryan



Farm Animals: 'Love at first sight for Creta with her pet lamb Laura'
— Millie Damsteeg

Thanks to you, Marlee learnt to run!



Marlee's family - Christina (with Manuka), Marlee, Steven, and Kaleo, her younger brother

In our Christmas Newsletter, I told you about a little girl called Marlee who had a life changing chance to attend a pop-up intensive therapy workshop in December. Because of your Calf & Rural Scheme support, IHC's Family/Whānau Fund was able to provide a grant to help cover the family's accommodation costs while in Rotorua where the workshop was held.

Marlee is five, and has a rare condition, Pitt-Hopkins Syndrome. Christina, Marlee's mum, told us about Marlee before attending the workshop. "She was in a wheelchair for most of the day. Her muscles are not getting the right nutrients so they can't build up and she tires easily. She couldn't feed herself. We literally had to do everything for her.



"They had all this really amazing technology so she could concentrate on her leg movements without weight bearing. It was also fun, and she enjoyed being bounced around in it.

Christina also told us about how she had heard this intensive therapy could be lifechanging, but she didn't want to get her hopes up too high. She said it would be great if Marlee could feed herself. She also hoped Marlee's walking could improve so she could get around more without having to use a wheelchair. "This was a huge goal for us."

I am so pleased to tell you just what a difference your support has made in this little girl, and her family's life.

"It was fantastic! It was really great," Christina told me. **"She's started running, she's never done that before,** and she is quite fast. She can walk up and down steps too now. The occupational therapy was amazing, we've never had that much time. She formed a really strong bond with the therapists which she could never do here as sessions are once every three months for about half an hour."

Christina says Marlee's eye contact has been amazing. **"She is making a lot more eye contact and she is learning a lot faster.** She is observing what is going on around her, instead of relying on me to put things in front of her. She is picking up so many things now like how to hold a pen, and other just little things."

When she went back to school, people who hadn't seen her since before we went to the workshop, like teachers and parents at school, were blown away by how much of a difference there was."

"At school, she is out of the wheelchair a lot more now. She can keep up with her class and can now walk down the path to the sports field. Before they would have to use the chair and half the time it wasn't really worth taking her as she couldn't do the same activity as the other kids. Now she is included more. She can show that she's interested and wants to join in. She has been going over to people and grabbing or tapping their hands if she wants attention or wants something. Before she couldn't do that and she would get very frustrated".



Christina came home with a programme of exercises she can do with Marlee.

And now, Marlee can feed herself!

"It has got a whole lot easier for us as a family as we don't have to feed her at the same time as we are eating. Cutlery is still a bit of a challenge, but she is great with finger food. We can put sized pieces in front of her and she grabs the food herself."

Thank you for enabling IHC to play an important part in funding Marlee's attendance at this therapy workshop.

You've changed her life! Thank you.



One of Christina's goals was for Marlee to be able to feed herself, and she can! "She doesn't want us to feed her anymore."

Give the gift of a meaningful life

For 75 years, with support from caring New Zealanders like you, IHC has been helping people with intellectual disabilities live rich and meaningful lives.

Through a gift in your Will, you will carry on IHC's long tradition of care for people with intellectual disabilities.

If you would like to continue to bring purpose, joy and choice to the lives of people with disabilities, please consider a gift to IHC in your Will. To find out more, please contact Chansina Chin on **0800 746 444** or email Chansina@ihc.org.nz.



Kapa Haka Festival

watch the performance from your region

Late last year, IHC's Te Anga Pāua o Aotearoa National Kapa Haka Festival was held, bringing kapa haka roopū from around the country to the centre stage in Wellington. The theme, 'Noku te ao – 75 years living culture', celebrated IHC's 75th anniversary of supporting New Zealanders with intellectual disabilities in the community.

Aside from the high level of performance from people we support, once on the stage the festival's kaupapa of empowerment, community and connection for people with intellectual disabilities was also on display.

To watch the performances, scan the QR code or go to bit.ly/4hREB70



Are you moving farms this year?

If you are shifting farms on Moving Day please let us know so we can update your address and be sure we can still contact you after 1 June. You can email us calf@ihc.org.nz or call **0800 442 800**.



Maximising your Calf & Rural Scheme support

Early born, well bred Friesian or Beef X, bulls and heifers usually do well at the sales

Calves over 100kg when sent to sale fetch better prices

Make sure your calf has an IHC ear tag and write 'IHC Calf' on the ASD Form so your information is sent to IHC.

Find us at Fieldays 11 – 14 June 2025

We'd love to meet you and say thanks if you are visiting Fieldays. We'll be in our usual spot (PA1B) in the Pavillion Foyer.

Become a Calf & Rural Scheme Canvasser (North Island only)

Thank you!

IHC is grateful to everyone who makes the Calf & Rural Scheme such a great success.

Thank you to all the wonderful farmers who donate, the reps at PGG Wrightson who help sell the animals, the freight companies who get the calves to sale at no or a reduces cost, and the canvassers who do a great job.

Principal Sponsor

PGG Wrightson



IHC National Fundraising Office PO Box 1757, Wellington 6140
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