



2024 Impact Report



A milestone year

Celebrating impact, growth and community connection



Tēnā koutou katoa,

It is our pleasure to bring you the 2023-2024 Northland Community Foundation Impact Report.

In 2024, Northland Community Foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary, a significant milestone, and a great achievement. As we reflect on 20 years of change and growth, it's incredible to see how far we've come, and how many people have contributed to our growth over those years as donors, supporters, volunteers, and staff.

2023-24 has been a busy year for staff and trustees, with many changes and lots of hard mahi resulting in strong progress toward our goals. We begin 2025 with new faces around the board table and on the team of staff and volunteers, as well as a renewed focus on making meaningful connections with donors, community organisations and businesses across Te Tai Tokerau.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognise the significant contribution of Richard Alspach, who stepped down as a Trustee at our AGM in March 2025. Richard joined the board in 2016 and has been instrumental in increasing our profile, building connections, and growing funds for the Northern Wairoa region. We are delighted that Richard has agreed to continue his support by becoming an ambassador for the Foundation.

In October, we welcomed Carrolle Baddeley to the board, joining Moe Milne and JP Dignon as our newest trustees.

2024 was also a year of significant change for our staff. In March, Mae Lewis joined the team as Communications and Marketing Manager and Jessie Manney stepped into

a Distributions Manager role, and Jane Stearns joined the team in May, replacing Jane Scripps as Community Engagement Manager. We sincerely thank Jane Scripps for her contribution to the foundation and are very happy that she has agreed to stay involved in the Foundation as one of our new ambassadors.

With Jane and Richard joining existing ambassadors, Richie Guy, Gareth Foster, Dianne Pennington and Brent Eastwood, we are working towards our goal of having representatives based in every region of Te Tai Tokerau. We are truly grateful to all our ambassadors for giving their time to support the Foundation - we couldn't do it without you.

In September 2024, Northland Community Foundation reached two significant milestones as our invested funds reached \$2 million and the total amount delivered through grants passed \$7 million. These are great achievements, but it is only the beginning in terms of the potential for the Foundation. We are immensely grateful for the support of both our donors and Craigs Investment Partners in making this possible.

To our team, trustees, committee members, funders, supporters, donors and ambassadors, thank you for your continued support for Northland Community Foundation. Together, we have the power to create lasting change and make a difference in the lives of those around us – today, tomorrow, and for future generations.

Megan Wills (Chair) and Sophie Lane (Chief Executive)

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, he toa takitini

Success is not the work of an individual but from the strength of many.

Our team

Staff: Sophie Lane | Jane Stearns | Jessie Manney | Mandy Garriock | Mae Lewis

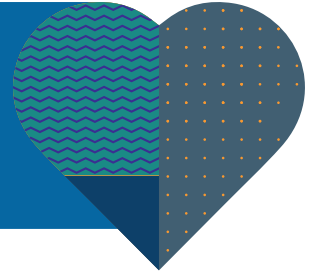
Trustees: Season-Mary Downs | Megan Wills | Nicola Hartwell | Pip Zammit | JP Dignon | Moe Milne | Carrolle Baddeley | Hal Harding

Ambassadors: Jane Scripps | Gareth Foster | Richie Guy | Brent Eastwood | Dianne Pennington | Richard Alspach



The year at a glance

Here's a glimpse of our collective achievements 2023/24



- \$52,330 Distributed from endowment funds to 15 organisations in the past year
- \$154,679 Distributed from pass-through funds to 48 organisations in the past year
- \$546,336 Granted from Health Fund PLUS to 42 projects in the past year



Celebrating 20 Years of Northland Community Foundation

In November, we proudly marked a significant milestone as Northland Community Foundation celebrated 20 years as a Foundation.

It was a special occasion that brought together donors, supporters and trustees to reflect on the journey so far and to look ahead at the potential of the Foundation.

We were honoured to welcome Arron Perriam, Chief Executive of Community Foundations of Aotearoa New Zealand, as our guest speaker.

Long-standing trustee Richard Alspach shared reflections on the Foundation's growth over the past two decades, and we also had the privilege of hearing from Paralympian and world record holder Cameron Leslie. As a recipient of early support through the Kauri Club Sport Fund, Cameron spoke powerfully about his experiences

growing up in Northland, overcoming setbacks, and achieving success on the world stage.

The evening was a celebration of connection, growth and the power of community. We are deeply grateful to everyone who attended, and to all those who have supported us over the years.



A Lasting Influence

Donor Story



Gareth Foster's Commitment to Northland's Next Generation

When Gareth Foster sees a group of school kids wandering home from school, he doesn't see scruffy haircuts and rowdy teens.

He sees talent, potential and future success stories. Gareth has seen firsthand how investing in youth can bring about new opportunities and help develop young talent – he has family members who benefited from investment in talent and went on to win Olympic medals! It is this vision that helped him to decide to leave a gift in his will to Northland Community Foundation.

A change in Gareth's life led him to update his will, and it was a conversation with his lawyer who asked "Have you thought about gifting money to an organization?" that got him thinking about leaving a gift in his will. Gareth initially thought of New Zealand-wide charities, but his lawyer suggested he consider giving locally.

"I thought it over, and thought 'it's the right thing to do' - I want to give back to the community that I've lived in my whole life".

When Gareth set about updating his will, he naturally made sure his family and friends were looked after first. After that, Gareth decided to leave the residue of his estate to benefit



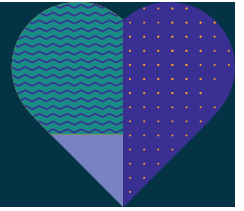
the causes that are closest to his heart – his love of singing, sports and education. The gift in his will will be invested with Northland Community Foundation, with the income (the interest earned each year) benefitting the causes of his choice forever. This means that Gareth's gift will live on forever, and will provide scholarships to up-and-coming young talent in his name.

What's Gareth's vision for the Northland of the future? He hopes to see strong Northland communities, where young people are inspired, engaged and have opportunities to develop their skills. Thanks to Gareth's generous gift, this vision will be a reality for talented Northland youth.



Impact Stories

Northland Community Foundation



In our 2024 annual funding round, grants were awarded to:

155 Whare Āwhina

Action Education Incorporated

Cornerstone Charitable Trust

Dress for Success

Kaikohe Christian School

Kaitia Peoples Centre-Nga Hoa

Āwhina Incorporated

Marsden Lions Charitable

Trust - Bream Bay: The Learning
Community

New Zealand Nutrition Foundation

Otamatea High School

Rainbow Youth Incorporated

Takou Reservation Trust

Te Pokapu Tiaki Taiao O Te Tai

Tokerau Trust

Te Roopu Whakamana Tangata
Charitable Trust

The Early Years Hub Trust

Volunteering Northland

Whakaora Kai Food Rescue

Northland Limited

Whananaki Marae Trust Board

Whangaruru RFC JMB

Swap a book

Bream Bay: The Learning Community is a group made up of members from across schools, early childhood centres, libraries, lions clubs and church groups from across Bream Bay.

The group promotes the value of education, and supports children to achieve their educational potential. The Learning Community recently put their heads together and came up with a novel idea to encourage reading and improve literacy skills for tamariki across Bream Bay – a book swap timed to coincide with book week. They had previously run a very successful book swap event during school holiday programs, but with increased travel costs, they decided to take the program direct to the schools. A quick chat with schools and early childhood centres in Bream Bay saw a lot of enthusiasm and support for the program.

Children were encouraged to bring a book from home for them to swap, and those who didn't have a book were given one on the day so that everyone could participate. A grant from the Northland Grassroots Fund helped to ensure that there were enough books for every child to go home with a new book to share with the siblings and whānau.

Excited children from across Bream Bay who went home with a new book to read



Gladys Rowsell from The Learning Community told us, "The best outcome on the day wasn't just the children's excitement for the new books, but seeing the support that our senior students gave to our volunteers from Bream Bay Learning with help moving books, setting up the facility and encouraging the small children with their choice of books. These are our future leaders, and it was great to see them getting engaged in this community initiative."



The new TV at the Whangaruru Rugby Club showcasing tamariki achievements

Rugby stars on the big screen

We heard back from Whangaruru JMB just a few weeks after their grant was awarded saying they had purchased the TV they had applied for funding for, and were proudly displaying their tamariki achievements on the big screen during club days.

Club chairperson Agnes Pene said “our community has had a lot of trials. We started our JMB club to make a change in the community by providing tamariki and their whanau with a club where everyone has a place”. The club is run by volunteers who are role models for the tamariki, demonstrating resilience and promoting a

positive and healthy lifestyle. Because the club shares the sports hub with other codes, they found it hard to display all the tamariki achievements. After some brainstorming, they applied for funding for a TV which could display a slideshow, without taking up all the space at the shared complex.

Agnes said, “By having all our tamariki achievements displayed we are giving them and their whanau a strong sense self and a connection to the culture of our club. We are providing them with equitable opportunities to be a part of a club where their achievements are not only noticed but celebrated, where they know they have a place and are celebrated regardless of race, gender, or social status”. Lauren, the Rugby for Life coordinator added: “The kids have loved seeing themselves and often stand and point themselves out to their whanau. A huge thank you from our club!”

Cooking with confidence

In September and October 2024, 15 kuia and kaumātua came together in Kaitiāia to take part in the JUSTCOOK Healthy Ageing program.

The program, run by the New Zealand Nutrition Foundation and funded with support from Northland Community Foundation, is designed to build cooking skills, knowledge around healthy eating choices, and to

strengthen community connection.

During the program, the participants got to try out recipes that were both budget-friendly and easy to prepare, an important combination given the rising cost of groceries. Learning how to read food labels and spot hidden fats and sugars was also particularly eye-opening for the participants.



Visitors at the Anō Anō drop in centre improving their sewing skills

Sewing skills for anyone and everyone

Anō Anō, a drop in skills centre in Kaitia has had a bumper year with hundreds of visitors passing through their doors and leaving with a smile on their face.

The centre, run by Te Pokapu Tiaki Taiao O Te Tai Tokerau Trust (Far North Environment Centre) aims to provide a safe environment where people can learn new skills and connect with others while reducing their impact on the environment. Anō Anō runs both structured workshops and informal drop-in sessions.

Funding from the Northland Community Foundation has helped Anō Anō to continue providing valuable services to the community. While the structured workshops remain popular, the drop in sessions have been very valuable. Many drop in participants arrive with a specific repair project in mind, but lacking the skills or equipment to carry out the repairs. With guidance from the staff, visitors leave with newfound skills and a sense of accomplishment. One lady was able to repair a pair of shoes which needed a few stitches to reattach a buckle, and one young man was able to repair a puffer vest which had a hole and had lost some filling. These drop in session empower people to repair, reuse, and extend the life of their belongings, reducing waste and helping people financially.

Participants have learned how to make and repair everything from clothing to curtains, cushions, and furniture covers. During the process, participants gain confidence and a sense of pride in their work, while also practicing traditional skills such as weaving, knitting, sewing, and toy making.

Anō Anō is a space for community connection, with many people visiting the centre with whānau, or returning with a friend after a positive experience.

At the end of the program, participants just received their own copy of the 'Just Cook' cookbook, with one participant describing it as her "new bible". Another participant said that learning to bake bread like her mother used to was a personal highlight, and one that she has now started sharing with her own whānau.

Beyond the food and practical skills, participants talked about the value of coming together: sharing kai, knowledge, and friendship. The supportive environment in the workshops encouraged everyone to get involved, and the simple yet nourishing meals helped build confidence in the kitchen and healthier choices.

Participants in the Just Cook cooking classes learnt about cooking well on a budget.



Supporting Northland's Hospitals

Since 2006, Northland Community Foundation has supported Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora Te Tai Tokerau (formerly Northland DHB) to provide the optional extras that make a difference for patients, their whānau, and healthcare staff – enhancing hospital spaces, developing the workforce, and funding initiatives that improve the overall patient experience.

With donations totalling \$532,574 and grant distributions of \$546,336 in 2023-24, we are grateful for the support of our donors and the hospital staff to make a difference for the patients and visitors and Northland's hospitals.



Toys for the Surgical Admission Unit: The new paediatric waiting area where children can play while waiting for surgery

A generous legacy

In late 2024 we received the heart-warming news that a local Northlander decided to leave part of their estate to Health Fund PLUS. They decided to split their donation towards three different funds that were meaningful to them.

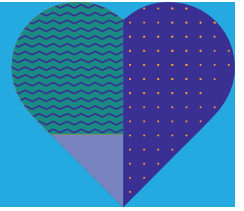
The first part of this generous donation went towards the Kaitaia Staff Social Club for the Kaitaia Hospital as a thank you for the high level of care they received. The second part will be used to purchase something for the Jim Carney Cancer Treatment Centre, and the third part of the donation will be used to buy equipment for the chemotherapy room in Kaitaia.

This generous gift leaves a positive impact on the Northland community and will benefit the lives of many who live in the region. We would like to express our thanks to the generosity of this donor who has left a lasting legacy in their community.



Impact Stories

Health Fund PLUS



Enabling parents to take a break

The Whangārei Hospital Talipes (also known as Club Foot) Clinic team has found a way to support parents of their young patients when their babies have an Achilles tendon release.

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon, Mr Lyndon Bradley, said because it can be upsetting for a parent to hear their child cry when they are not in control, it is better for the parents to be occupied somewhere away from the clinic.

They often suggest that parents head to the café for a break. However, because not all of them can afford to spend money in the café, the team applied to Health Fund PLUS to fund coffee vouchers.

Mr Bradley explained that on the day of the procedure, parents have an extended appointment, essentially taking the whole morning.

"Most of our families have to travel frequently, take time off work, find transport, etc, so any support we can gain to help them with this treatment journey will bring benefit," Lyndon says.

Recently, Anita Bradley, mum to baby Reign, received a coffee voucher while her daughter underwent the procedure. She shared: "I was very grateful for this system. I was able to have breakfast and a hot drink while the procedure was happening. It helped me feel distracted and gave me a break from the clinic area."



Anita Bradley with baby Reign and the team at the Talipes Clinic in Whangārei Hospital

Parkinson's Voice Support Group Moves into the Community

Speak Up is a voice exercise group run by the Speech-Language Therapy department at Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora Te Tai Tokerau.

"We initially held exercise groups at the hospital; however, due to parking, time of day, access to toilets, and location, it was difficult for individuals to attend the group," said Mal Wordell, Speech Language Therapist. "We successfully applied to Health Fund PLUS for support to change the location into the community and meet fortnightly instead of during busy traffic hours."

The Parkinson's Voice Support Group is for patients with Parkinson's who are having difficulty with their communication – voice, speech, or language- and their support people.

The group benefits individuals with a progressive disease to connect with others with similar communication struggles. It is a chance to offer group therapy, with voice exercises from communication specialists. Wordell initiated the Speak Up group and says the feedback from the participants is always positive.

"Patients find it worthwhile and really enjoy it," she says. "With Health Fund PLUS support, more people in Northland will be able to attend the therapy they so desperately need. Without it, they are at risk of being unable to communicate their basic wants and needs."

The Speak Up grant helped make the classes more accessible, by moving them closer to the community.



Community grant supports a smoother premature newborn journey

The Neonatal Unit (previously known as the Special Care Baby Unit) at Whangārei Hospital provides comprehensive care for unwell or premature babies born at greater than 32 weeks gestation in Te Tai Tokerau.

Donations from the community, including \$9,394 from the Oxford Sports Trust, have funded two new heated mattresses for the Neonatal Unit, meaning parents like Natasha Murray experience a little smoother journey with a premature newborn.

Natasha smiles as she watches daughter Georgia Murray-May benefit from the warmth of the heated mattress within the bassinet. Georgia was born at 29 weeks, weighing 980 grams. She is now 35 weeks and weighs 2150 grams, becoming stronger every day.

Clinical Nurse Manager Jules Dewhurst says that the heated mattresses allows for a smooth transition from incubator to cot and also make it easier for Mum to access baby, compared to an incubator. She added, "As babies are unable to adjust to changes in temperature as well as adults do, they are especially vulnerable right after birth. Babies that are premature or born with low birth weight are even more vulnerable as they do not have much body fat. The heated mattresses help regulate their temperature. We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support from our community, who have generously contributed to our service."



Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

On behalf of the Northland Community Foundation, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our community, donors, trustees, volunteers, and supporters. Your generosity and commitment continue to drive our mission to inspire giving and enhance the well-being of Te Tai Tokerau, Northland.

To all of our donors, fund holders, local champions, and supporters: thank you for your belief in building a stronger community.

Premature and sick babies to benefit from new breastmilk bank at Whangārei Hospital

Donated pasteurised breastmilk will soon be available for premature and sick babies born in Northland thanks to a regional fundraising drive led by local Rotary and Lions clubs and supported by community.

A Human Milk Bank will be housed at Whangārei Hospital after Rotary Whangārei South and City clubs, Whangārei Lions, and community members, raised \$32,864.

Jenni Moore, President of Rotary Whangārei South says they fundraised for a year selling art bequeathed by Valerie Hunton and hosted a quiz night.

"People were happy to donate for such a great cause. Through the publicity generated Whangārei Lions got in touch to add their support of \$5000, and Whangārei City Rotary Club also gave us \$1000 which was amazing. Service Clubs working together can achieve incredible things. In total we have been able to donate \$25,734.63 towards this fantastic initiative."

Health New Zealand Te Tai Tokerau Director of Midwifery, Sue Bree, says they are incredibly grateful for the support as it means the hospital will be able to purchase the equipment needed to establish a Human Milk Bank.

"Breastmilk is the optimal food for babies and is particularly important for premature and critically ill babies, who have higher very specific nutritional and immunity needs. Parents may be unable to provide milk for their baby for a number of reasons including maternal illness, prescription medications or low milk production but the Human Milk Bank will help in these situations," Ms Bree says.

The Whangārei Hospital Human Milk Bank will accept and pasteurise screened donated breast milk from women who tend to produce more milk than their baby needs. The team will develop a system to transport donated breastmilk from the Human Milk Bank at Whangārei Hospital to other parts of Northland.

The Whangārei Hospital Neonatal Unit provides services including care for unwell or premature babies born in Te Tai Tokerau and greater than 32 weeks gestation. 2159 babies were born in Northland in 2023, 161 of those requiring neonatal care.

Our work as a Foundation is made possible by the steadfast support of numerous organizations and individuals. We extend our heartfelt thanks to:

- **Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora in Te Tai Tokerau:** For investing in operational funding, enabling us to manage charitable accounts and support health-related initiatives across the region.
- **The Tindall Foundation:** For working with us to distribute over \$90,000 annually to impactful causes and charities in Northland.
- **Toyota Northland:** For sponsoring a free hybrid lease vehicle, facilitating our outreach to donors and community groups, and promoting environmental sustainability.
- **Craigs Investment Partners:** For managing our funds at a special reduced rate, helping us maximize the impact of every dollar entrusted to us.
- **NZME:** For offering discounted advertising, enhancing our visibility and engagement within the community.
- **Community Foundations of Aotearoa New Zealand:** For supporting us and providing resources that help us to make a lasting difference in our local communities.



**Northland
Community
Foundation**

Together, we
are forging
brighter futures
through giving.

Get in touch

We invite you to connect with us to learn more, get involved, or start your own fund:

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