



With You Committed to Caring

Because of you, Pete's still going

Pete's more mobile which is important to him.

When Pete found out his lungs were failing, everything changed. "I used to climb mountains," he says. "Now I get breathless just walking to the kitchen."

For someone who spent his life outdoors climbing, caving, and rescuing others, being stuck inside was tough. "My mates love it," he laughs. "I used to be a high-altitude climber. The higher I went, the easier I breathed. Now I can't even breathe, so they give me heaps of stick about it."

Pete didn't have to face this new chapter alone, thanks to your kindness.

"When I got sick, I ended up in hospital," he says. "Then Mary Potter came in and made everything easier. From mobility support and counselling to transport and companionship, they sorted everything, including a volunteer who now visits me three times a week."

"His name's Bernardo," Pete says. "He's from Colombia. We play board games, have a chat about life, and he even brought a Colombian board game that's about 500 years old."

Pete can't drive anymore and sometimes blacks out when his oxygen drops, so having company means safety and connection. "It's good company," he says.

Every week, Pete also joins the Hospice day programme. "It's awesome," he says. "I get out, meet people. Everyone's got a story." Lately, he's been helping make Christmas decorations. "It's good to have something to do. Doesn't matter if it's not perfect. It's having a go that counts."

Pete's illness doesn't define him. He's someone who's spent a lifetime moving, creating, and supporting others. And with Hospice beside him, those parts of himself haven't vanished. They've simply taken a different shape. Through the day programme and the people around him, Pete's been able to stay active in ways that feel meaningful. He makes things with his hands, connects with people who understand his journey, and finds moments of independence he thought he'd lost.

These aren't separate services. Together they form one circle of care built around the whole person. This care adapts to what matters most to Pete.

You can help provide the counselling, companionship, and day programmes that support people like Pete. As more people reach out for care this festive season, you can help ensure no one misses out on the support they need right now. Visit marypotter.org.nz/donate or phone **0800 627 976** to donate.



Tēnā koutou katoa,

Thank you for all you do for Mary Potter Hospice. Because of you, people and whānau across Wellington, Porirua and Kāpiti can get specialist hospice care, with aroha, when they need it most.

Every story you read here exists because of your kindness.

As our community grows, your support is vital to meet the rising need for care. Plans are taking shape to renew our Kāpiti Hospice base and strengthen services for the wider region. The generosity behind this project continues to inspire me, with *A Night Under The Stars Gala Dinner* raising more than \$50,000 recently. It keeps reminding me what we can achieve together.

You've also helped shape our 2024 to 2025 Impact Report. You'll find a preview of it on the back page. It's your story, showing the care and connection you make possible every day.

As you read this newsletter, I hope you see the real difference your support makes for people and whānau: Pete finding strength, Merrick being honoured in a concert of love, and patients and supporters bringing colour, creativity and music to others.

The end of life deserves care, attention and compassion. That's what your kindness makes possible. Thank you again for being part of this community.

I hope you have a good Christmas and some time to rest and be with the people who matter most.

Tony Paine, Chief Executive

You help the music play on

If you attended Paraparaumu College over the past 37 years, chances are you remember Mr Merrick Stein. You might have heard his music spilling into hallways.

In his classes, Merrick taught more than music. He instilled confidence when you doubted yourself, discipline when you needed direction, and courage when life felt heavy.

When he died in August, there was uncertainty whether an annual charity concert for Mary Potter Hospice would go ahead. Fellow teacher Natalie said, "The students were so keen to showcase what they had been working on. It mattered to them to put Merrick's work on stage."

So, in October, students, colleagues, and the community came together in a concert of love to honour him. They raised funds for Mary Potter Hospice and carried on his belief in giving back through music.

Merrick's wife of 47 years, Sue, and their family attended the concert, proud to see his legacy honoured in such a heartfelt way.

Sue reflected, "In the early days, Merrick wanted to establish an orchestra where students could showcase their ability and hard work. Then he saw that there were kids at school who had lost a mum or dad or other family, and that's why he always wanted to support the Hospice. Of course, we never knew he would go down that road."

"I'm grateful for what the Hospice gives, and it's up to us to give back to the Hospice. They are dealing with grief all the time and they do it really well."

Sue explained their shared faith was always part of Merrick's music too. "He would say, Thank you God for the gift of music."

That same faith and his music now ripple through every family cared for by Mary Potter Hospice.

If you wish to give back to Mary Potter Hospice through music or a passion of your own, call our friendly fundraising team on **0800 627 976** or visit **marypotter.org.nz/support-us**.



Thank you to the Paraparaumu College community, including teacher Matt Cowens who captured this photo.

Bringing you more colour and joy this Christmas

Thanks to your support, the Porirua Day Programme team is shining bright this Christmas through the Wellington Airport Charity Christmas Tree Festival.

In the Day Programme room, laughter and the snip of scissors fill the air. Tables overflow with paper, ribbons and handmade flowers in every shade of the rainbow. Patients, volunteers and staff sit side by side, chatting and creating decorations together.

Co-ordinator Susi smiles as she looks around the busy room. "It will be a rainbow tree," she says proudly. "The physical challenge is that it's all handmade by us and has an environmental focus. We've been making flowers of each colour, each with a different vibe, using pipe cleaners, beads, paper, card, crafting materials, all sorts. I've been scouring the Hospice Shops and using donated items. It's going to be a colourful and joyful tree."

The project came to life thanks to support from the Mana Lions, who sponsored the tree and helped the team share their creativity with the wider community. When the decorating is done, the group will head to the airport to see their rainbow tree shining among a whole forest of festive displays that will light up the terminal.

Susi says the outing is always a highlight. "Each year we visit to look at the trees. The Airport generously provides valet parking, morning tea and even goodie bags. This year we'll be able to admire our efforts and bask in the glory of the tree we've adorned. It makes us feel part of the community, and we can bring joy to people."

Projects like this flourish through teamwork. Patients, volunteers, community partners and supporters like you each add brightness to Hospice life.



Jenny and Howard enjoying the Tree Festival beading

If you're flying this festive season, look out for the Mary Potter Hospice rainbow tree. You can vote for our joyful creation.

To keep that joy shining, visit **marypotter.org.nz/donate** or stop by our Hospice Shops for festive treasures.

You made our 20th year berry special!

From the first scoop to the last song, the day was filled with generosity, laughter, and community spirit. With help from our amazing donors, sponsors, volunteers, and festival-goers, thousands of strawberry sundaes were shared, raising vital funds to keep hospice services free of charge in your community. You helped make 20 years of care and connection *berry* special.



Wishes you can grant this Christmas

When you gift items from this list, you bring comfort, dignity, and care to people and whānau facing life's final chapter.

- **\$18** per month pays for a **Netflix subscription** for use in the Inpatient Unit
- **\$30** per month buys a **Spotify premium family account** for the Inpatient Unit patient iPads
- **\$44** for a handheld **portable misting fan** to help relieve patient breathlessness
- **\$50** funds a **supermarket voucher** for patients facing hard times
- **\$75** for **craft supplies** that would help 5 children express their grief
- **\$116** funds a large pack of specialty **Posca craft pens** for day unit art classes
- **\$200** pays for **books on bereavement care** to use for children and parents
- **\$450** covers the cost of a **nurse's car for a month**
- **\$635** covers the cost of **patient laundry** for the IPU for a week
- **\$984** allows a community nurse to have a **new mobile phone** to contact patients
- **\$1,154** covers the costs of patient **medical supplies** for a week in the Inpatient Unit
- **\$2,000** buys equipment for our **PA system** - a new speaker, mic stand and cables

- **\$2,500** buys **one month of medical supplies** for the Hospice @ Home team - items such as syringes, IV lines, saline, gloves, and sanitizer – and much more.
- **\$3,222** buys a **Syringe Driver** to safely and comfortably deliver pain medication for a patient living at home
- **\$3,829** provides a **Mangar Swift Inflatable Transfer Slide** to transfer and reposition patients safely
- **\$5,680** buys a professional **blanket warmer drawer** to comfort Inpatient Unit patients

If you can help, thank you!
Please contact Phillip Harris,
phillip.harris@marypotter.org.nz
or phone 021 210 7276.

Your 2024/25 impact, with our heartfelt thanks



850

Patients in MPH's services



7,756

Visits to patients and their whānau by hospice staff in places they call home



2,457

Bed nights provided in the IPU



10 days

Average patient stay in IPU

Visit marypotter.org.nz/about-us/newsletters to read your 2024/25 Impact Report in full.

Thank you to our generous supporters

Trusts and businesses

August 2025 to November 2025 \$10,000+

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What Would You Wear to WOW Charity Fashion Parade

Keeping in touch with you through our newsletter

Thank you for your wonderful support of Mary Potter Hospice!

Name

Address

Email

Phone

Please send me information about:

☐ leaving a gift to the Hospice in my Will

Please accept my gift of \$

Bank Transfer

The Mary Potter Hospice Foundation

01-0537-0020909-05

☐ Please debit my credit card

Expiry Date / Signature

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Please complete this coupon and enclose with your donation – Thank You!
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