



With You Committed to Caring

Social worker Nomi helps to explain everything to Kevin.

How you put a smile on Kevin's face

"Who the bloody hell is Mary Potter?"

That's what Kevin thought when his oncologist told him hospice would be in touch. "They said Mary Potter will be in contact."

At the time, there was plenty going on. Kevin says, "I thought, well, it's Mary Potter-somebody that comes in and waves a stick over me".

A few days later, a nurse and social worker from Mary Potter Hospice came to see him. "They were probably there a good couple of hours. They explained everything ... it was a bit of weight lifted off my shoulders."

Over the years, Kevin worked in management, travelled for work, ran a café, and spent much of his life around others. "I've always been a sort of people's person."

These days, it's family who keep a close eye on him. "My son and his partner ... And I have a daughter in Melbourne. I'd hate to pay her phone bill."

"Anything I need, anything that I don't know that I need, they just do it."

Kevin is 'stubbornly' house-proud. But lately, he's been too exhausted to keep everything tidy. "Me being me, that impacts a bit".

'Just talking' with his nurse helps him. "She sort of nipped in the back door and convinced me that people don't come to see whether I've changed the toilet paper or swept the floor".

Later, Kevin attended the hospice day programme. "I was worried when I first started coming." He thought it might be a room full of people talking about illness.

"Absolutely nothing like I thought it could be." Kevin enjoys sitting next to someone he says has "a wicked sense of humour".

There were a few weeks recently when Kevin didn't have the energy to attend. Then the phone rang. It was his dedicated hospice volunteer driver. "Kevin, it's Gay here. Are you sure you're all right? Is there anything I can do?"

"The spirits lift", says Kevin.

These days, Kevin still laughs when he thinks back to that first question, 'Who the bloody hell is Mary Potter?'. He had no idea what to expect.

When he thinks about others who may find themselves in his position one day, he says simply: "If somebody else gets the same care I do, that'll put a smile on my face."

Find more details on how to support this care overleaf.



Kia ora koutou,

One of the realities of hospice care is that we can never take the future for granted.

The need for palliative care continues to grow. People are living longer, often with increasingly

complex health needs, and hospices across New Zealand are working hard to ensure they can continue to meet that demand.

At Mary Potter Hospice, we know that preparing for the future means more than responding to the challenges in front of us. It means thinking carefully about the people who will need our care in the years and decades ahead, and what we need to do now to ensure we can be there for them.

At the same time, I am continually reminded that hospice care has always been built by communities. It exists because people give their time, their expertise, their generosity and their support. It exists because

people understand the importance of ensuring that nobody faces the end of life alone.

As I spend time with patients, whānau, volunteers, staff and supporters, I am struck again by what is possible when people come together around a shared purpose. It gives me confidence that while the challenges we face are real, so too is our community's commitment to ensuring compassionate hospice care remains available for future generations.

Thank you for all you continue to make possible.

Ngā mihi nui,

Tony Paine, Chief Executive

The care you never forget

Every year since her mum Annette died, Grace has marked the anniversary in a different way.

Annette received care from Mary Potter Hospice before she died from cancer in 2016.

As the tenth anniversary approached, Grace wanted to make sure other families received the same support her family had experienced.

"It feels like the least I could do," she says.

So she decided to raise money for Mary Potter Hospice. And the idea she landed on was a 100-kilometre run around Wellington.

Until recently, Grace had never been a distance runner. After a serious ankle injury, all she had wanted was to be able to run again.

When asked what her mum would have thought of the idea, Grace laughs.

"She would've thought I was stupid." But she quickly adds: "She would've put herself in discomfort for others. It just happened that running was my way to do that."

On the 3rd of March, she set off at 1am.

Rain, wind and cold temperatures followed her for most of the day. The weather forced changes to her route, but she kept moving.

Friends drove around the city meeting her at different points along the way. When her clothes became soaked through, they arrived with dry layers and extra thermals. At one point, they were taking off their own warm clothes and handing them over.

"I spent more of the day thinking about them than anything," she says.

Grace says she spent a long time carrying her grief on her own. Having her friends there throughout the day meant more than she expected.

By the time she finished, more than \$15,000 had been raised for Mary Potter Hospice.

When Grace talks about her fundraiser, she doesn't talk about the distance or the fundraising total. For her, it's the person she stepped into being and families who will need hospice in the future.

She says "knowing that other families don't have to worry about anything. Their loved one is cared for and safe and comfortable" is what matters most.

Inspired to fundraise for hospice too? Phone us on 04 381 0167.



Investing in hospice care for Kāpiti

Work is now underway on the upgrade of the Mary Potter Hospice Kāpiti Community Base, an important investment in the future of hospice care across the district.

For more than 30 years, the Kāpiti base has supported patients and whānau throughout the community. It is where outpatient appointments take place, where care is coordinated, and where staff and volunteers are supported to deliver hospice care across the district.

Today, around 200 people each year receive support through our Kāpiti services.

The upgraded base will provide refreshed spaces for outpatient appointments, community team hot desks, meetings and equipment storage. Most importantly, it will help our team continue delivering high-quality care to local families.

This project has only been possible because of the support of people like you.

Local residents, businesses, community groups, grant funders and major donors have come together to raise \$443,014.85 towards the refurbishment. At a time when many organisations are facing increasing costs and growing demand, that support is both significant and deeply appreciated.

Your generosity is helping ensure that hospice care remains available close to home for people across Kāpiti, now and in the years ahead.

We are also pleased to be partnering with Multibuild Ltd, a locally owned Kāpiti company, to deliver the project.

The refurbishment is expected to be completed in late August. In the meantime, our Kāpiti team will continue providing care from the Kāpiti Community Hub and in people's homes across the district.

Thank you for helping make this next chapter possible.

Stay up-to-date at marypotter.org.nz/news



What the latest hospice funding announcement means for Mary Potter Hospice

You may have seen recent news that Government funding for hospices has increased by around 10%, with an additional \$12 million being invested across the sector.

This is welcome news for hospice care in New Zealand. Many hospices have been under significant pressure for some time, and additional funding is needed.

Much of this new funding has been directed towards hospices serving large rural populations and those whose funding has historically been lower than average. As a result, Mary Potter Hospice has only received the standard funding increase of 2.66%, along with an additional allocation of \$4,000.

While the 2.66% increase will help offset some of the costs of delivering specialist hospice care, it does not change the reality that our funding is not keeping pace with rising demand and operating costs. We are pleased to see other hospices receiving much-needed support.

Funding across the sector has not always been evenly distributed, and this investment will make a meaningful difference for many communities.

For Mary Potter Hospice, community support remains as important as ever.

The generosity of our donors, volunteers, retail customers, grant funders and supporters continues to help bridge the gap between government funding and the true cost of providing specialist hospice care, free of charge, to patients and whānau across Wellington, Porirua and Kāpiti.

For more than 45 years, our community has stood alongside us to ensure local families receive compassionate care when they need it most.

You can help protect this care for future generations by leaving a gift in your Will for Mary Potter Hospice. Every bequest, big or small, ensures no one faces end-of-life alone. Email bequests@marypotter.org.nz

Your extraordinary support of Mary Potter Hospice

At a time when many people are feeling the impact of rising costs and financial pressure, the response to this year's Annual Appeal was remarkable.

More than 1,060 volunteers took to the streets across Wellington, Porirua and Kāpiti, and together our community raised more than \$120,000 for Mary Potter Hospice.

For many people, hospice care is personal. It is connected to the care a loved one received, a difficult time that was made easier, or the knowledge that support was there when it was needed most.

That connection was evident throughout this year's appeal. Every donation, conversation and hour volunteered reflected the value people place on hospice care and the role it plays in our community.

Thank you to everyone who supported this appeal.

Your generosity helps ensure that patients and whānau continue to receive compassionate, specialist care when they need it most.

Continue supporting hospice care. Explore the many ways you can help at marypotter.org.nz/support-us



Thank you to our generous supporters

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