

# News from The Foundation

## Lauren's legacy of love

**In 2021, 37-year-old Lauren and her husband Antony were faced with the devastating reality that her aggressive cancer had returned and was incurable.**

Lauren was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma (a rare form of bone cancer) as New Zealand went into its first COVID-19 lockdown, meaning she spent many weeks in the care of Auckland City Hospital's nurses, receiving gruelling chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment while isolated from her family.

Despite Lauren, Antony and the Oncology team at Auckland City Hospital doing everything they could to keep her alive for their two children Evangeline (6) and Alfie (4), the "kind, selfless, beautiful daughter, sister, wife, mother and friend" passed away in January 2022.

**Antony says, "As a tribute to Lauren, we wanted to give back to Auckland City Hospital for all the wonderful and exceptional care we received."**



Antony set up a fundraiser in Lauren's honour, raising money to support nursing and midwifery students through our Rise scholarship programme. Supporters like Antony help aspiring nurses and midwives overcome any obstacles they face while studying, ensuring they can succeed in completing their degree and fulfil their dream to care for others.

*"Our fundraising target was \$30,000 to support 10 students through a year of training," says Antony. "Nurses are the heartbeat of our healthcare system. They care for so many people in their time of need; our eternal gratitude goes out to them. It's nice to think Lauren will help put a new pair of feet on each floor of the hospital."*

Antony's fundraising efforts included running the Auckland and Queenstown marathons, which saw him beat his target,

reaching \$35,367. His JustGiving fundraising page remains open, allowing others to support our future nurses and the countless patients they care for.

***"I hope some good will come from this and I would like each and every nurse to know they truly make a difference to those who need it most."***

***"The legacy that gets left, I suppose, is love."***



## We're all wellness winners



We are so proud of the Awhi Oranga | Employee Support Centre team at Auckland City Hospital for winning the HRNZ Awards 2023 Wellness Programme Award.

This nationwide Human Resources award recognises the wonderful work the team does for staff welfare and wellbeing in the hospital, supporting those who need an extra helping hand in tough times (see cyclone relief story).

But they couldn't do it without supporters like you donating to our Manaaki Fund, which keeps the Employee Support Centre thriving. Manaaki Fund donors should feel equally proud to be part of this award-winning initiative; the team literally couldn't do it without you!

We congratulate everyone on this well-deserved win. It's an honour to help our incredible hospital workers overcome challenges and continue doing their life's best work for patients.



## Donation gives relief to respiratory patients

**Auckland City Hospital's Respiratory Department is feeling the love, following the Hunter family's further donation for patients with respiratory problems.**

Having previously funded equipment to monitor patients' breathing, the family wanted to continue their support for the respiratory department. This latest \$30,000 gift will enable the purchase of three cough assist devices, which help patients with motor neurone disease (MND) and Duchenne muscular dystrophy who find it difficult to cough and are unable to clear lung secretions and recurrent infections.

Ian and Debra Hunter, owners of the Auckland-based education company Writer's Toolbox, say: *"We were happy to support the respiratory department again. The team does a remarkable job for people living with respiratory problems. Anything we can do as a community to make these conditions less painful and less frightening for patients and their families is a good thing."*

Auckland City Hospital Charge Nurse for Respiratory Service

Sinu Mohan says the cough assist devices will make a huge positive impact for patients. "These devices will help more patients manage their cough secretions at home, which may mean fewer trips to the hospital, increased comfort and better quality of life for people battling these debilitating illnesses," says Sinu.

Our Director Candy Schroder says, *"Matching a donor's wishes with a hospital department's needs is always so rewarding for everyone involved. Donors like the Hunter family make a tangible difference within their chosen ward, helping hospital staff and patients in a direct, meaningful way."*

## Coming together after cyclone chaos

Summer's extreme weather events caused major damage and loss for many Aucklanders, and with a team of around 14,000 at Auckland City Hospital and its associated sites, some of our healthcare workers were among those hit hard.

We wanted to support those most impacted, especially those already affected by financial hardship from COVID disruptions.

Our Manaaki Fund was set up to provide immediate relief to hospital workers doing it tough – assisting with necessities such as food, accommodation, petrol vouchers and mobile phone top-ups.

**Generous co-funding from two supporters – the Little Kowhai Trust (administered by Perpetual Guardian) and**

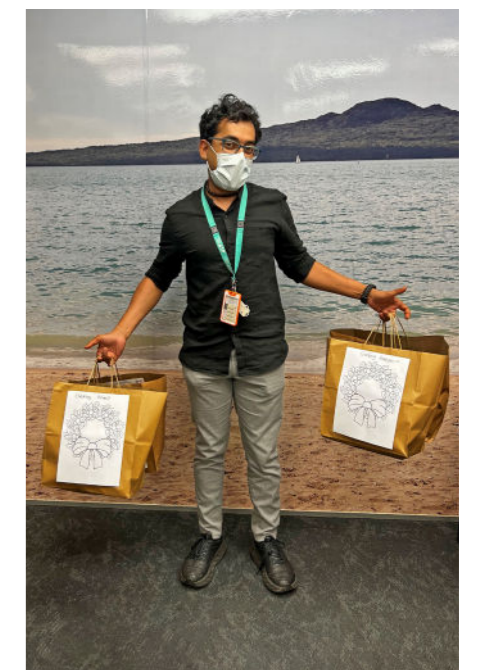


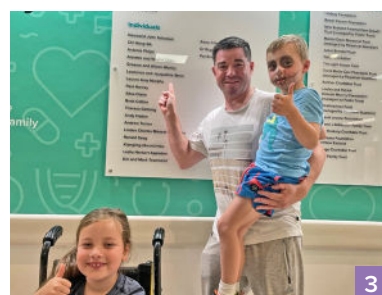
the Hugh Green Foundation – contributed \$20,000 to the Manaaki Fund. This significant gift is helping healthcare workers and their whānau recover and rebuild. Many of these dedicated people provide essential support as cleaners, orderlies or kitchen staff; and, without them, clinical teams could not provide the best care to their patients.

**Hospital staff also rallied around their affected colleagues, donating \$11,000 in immediate support during February alone, with some offering continued support via payroll giving.**

With a total of \$31,000 raised, it is heartening to see manaaki (generosity, hospitality and care) in action when times are hard. As we learnt during the pandemic, looking out for each other can make all the difference.

Thank you to everyone who stepped up and stood by our healthcare workers, helping them get back on their feet.





1. Dr Richard Frith, Deputy Chair and Founding Donor, Auckland Hospital Foundation
2. Georgina Mason, CEO, Bowel Cancer Foundation Trust
3. Antony Murphy with his children, Evangeline and Alfie

## Love is on the wall

### We are delighted to boldly honour our major donors in Auckland City Hospital's entrance.

Our donor recognition wall celebrates those who have given significantly to the hospital and we look forward to seeing the list grow. Acknowledging his late wife Lauren's inclusion, Antony Murphy (cover story) said, *"I am incredibly proud; it was a wonderful sight to see"*.

As well as individuals, the wall recognises our founding donors, trusts and foundations, and companies. Georgina Mason (CEO of the Bowel Cancer Foundation Trust, which funded bowel cancer research following a generous bequest) said it was awesome to be recognised in the hospital.

We appreciate every donation – large or small – and we hope *all* our supporters feel proud of the difference they are making in our hospital. **We are grateful to every one of you for your generosity.**



## Could you save a life?

### Our hospital teams save lives every day, but would you know what to do if faced with someone in sudden cardiac arrest?

Having an automated external defibrillator (AED) nearby can mean the difference between life and death, helping the heart get back to its natural rhythm. Know the location of your nearest AED and familiarise yourself with the steps that can help a person survive cardiac arrest – the chain of survival. You never know when you might need to save a life!

### The six links in the chain of survival are:

1. **Recognise the symptoms**  
Check for a response (e.g., ask "can you hear me?") and check for a pulse
2. **Dial 111 and ask for the ambulance**
3. **Start CPR if unresponsive**
4. **Attach defibrillator**  
Follow instructions on the AED
5. **Wait for the ambulance**  
Continue CPR
6. **Transfer to hospital by ambulance as soon as possible**

**More information about AEDs from Health Navigator is available on our website, [ahf.org.nz](http://ahf.org.nz).**

**Stay safe, everyone!**