

Leave a
legacy of hope
for children with cancer



Child
cancer
FOUNDATION



Finding out your child has cancer turns your life upside down

It happens to more than three Kiwi families every week. None of them ever thought it would happen to their child.

Cancer doesn't care about these children or their families. Child Cancer Foundation does. We support them every step of the way, whatever the outcome, for however long it takes.

We focus on the family, not the cancer. No two families' experiences are the same, and neither is the support they need.

One thing is always the same: we support every family so they can concentrate on the most important thing of all, loving and caring for their sick child.

We can't do this alone. The generosity of our fellow Kiwis ensures we can help these families when they need it most. We all do this, together.



Planning your estate is a hugely important task; it defines the legacy you leave for the future.

Making a gift in your will to support the work of Child Cancer Foundation leaves the legacy of a future in which all Kiwi children with cancer and their families receive life-changing support when they need it most.

Every year, more than a third of the funds we need to support families is donated by people who make a gift in their wills. That is why making a gift in your will is so important. Without people like you we can't provide the support these children and families need.

Support children and whānau whose lives have been turned upside down by childhood cancer by leaving a gift in your will





Isabella's Story

Isabella was just two days old when she was diagnosed with cancer. On the third day of her life, a Hickman line was inserted to deliver her first dose of chemotherapy.

Four rounds of intense treatment and one bone marrow transplant followed, and the outlook was positive. Eight months after she was born, her mum Cindy was so pleased to be able to take her baby girl home.

But that joy was short-lived. Within months, the little girl had relapsed, returning to hospital to begin more rounds of chemotherapy and another bone marrow transplant. This time Isabella's body wasn't responding and she suffered multiple organ failure.

It was an incredibly tough time for her family, and one that is still fresh in their minds when they look at photos of Isabella at one year old, sitting with her cake and balloon, a feeding tube in her nose and patchy hair as a result of the treatment. Those photos are a heart-wrenching reminder of a time when everything seemed to be failing.

But then Isabella turned a corner. After receiving an experimental treatment, her body began to fight back. Isabella was soon able to go home.



That was back in 2016. Fast-forward to today and Isabella is a delightful, caring and energetic young girl who makes her mum Cindy proud every day. "Her development is very delayed due to long hospital stays as a baby and going through full-body radiation therapy and chemotherapy so young," says Cindy, "she's doing really well."

Throughout ups and downs of her treatment, Child Cancer Foundation was there for Isabella and her family, providing essential emotional and financial support to Cindy and Isabella's brother Mannix at a time when they needed it most. An important support network for Cindy has been her local Child Cancer Foundation Whānau Connect Group, where she has made life-long friends with other families going through childhood cancer.

The challenges they've been through have certainly put things in perspective for Cindy, who says, "As long as Isabella is cancer free, I'm happy!"

Child Cancer Foundation will continue to be there for Isabella and her family for as long as they need support.

We are there, every step of the way

Living with childhood cancer can be overwhelming. While medical staff do an incredible job treating the child, families often need emotional and practical support beyond what doctors and nurses are able to give.

That's why we ensure that each newly diagnosed family has a dedicated Family Support Coordinator, who is there to provide them with the specific help they need, every step of the way.

A Family Support Coordinator talks with the family to learn about their situation, so they can understand what's going well and, more importantly, what isn't. With this knowledge, they can provide unique support to help the family focus on caring for their sick child and for each other.

"Our Family Support Coordinator is honestly an angel. She has been the one constant in our lives since Mya's diagnosis, and feels almost like another member of the family. She really understands exactly what we're going through, and is always there for us at all the right times."

- Teresa Butler, whose daughter Mya was diagnosed with cancer just a few days after her fifth birthday.

Families say that being there for them is the most important thing a Family Support Coordinator does. They walk the path of childhood cancer with the family, helping to lighten their load wherever they can. When things seem impossible, their support can make all the difference.

Family Support Coordinators help whānau find many of their own solutions to the challenges they face. This means it's the family, not the disease, who's in control and they can live their best lives in the face of childhood cancer.



Jaxon Lee, diagnosed at birth, with his Family Support Coordinator Linda. Photo by Adrian Malloch.



"At the start, a cancer diagnosis throws a family's world upside down. Families are very resilient and they don't realise they've got the inner strength, so when we're talking with them they begin to see that they've got the strength to do this and that we're just there to help."

- Rayleen Duthie, Family Support Coordinator in the Auckland region.

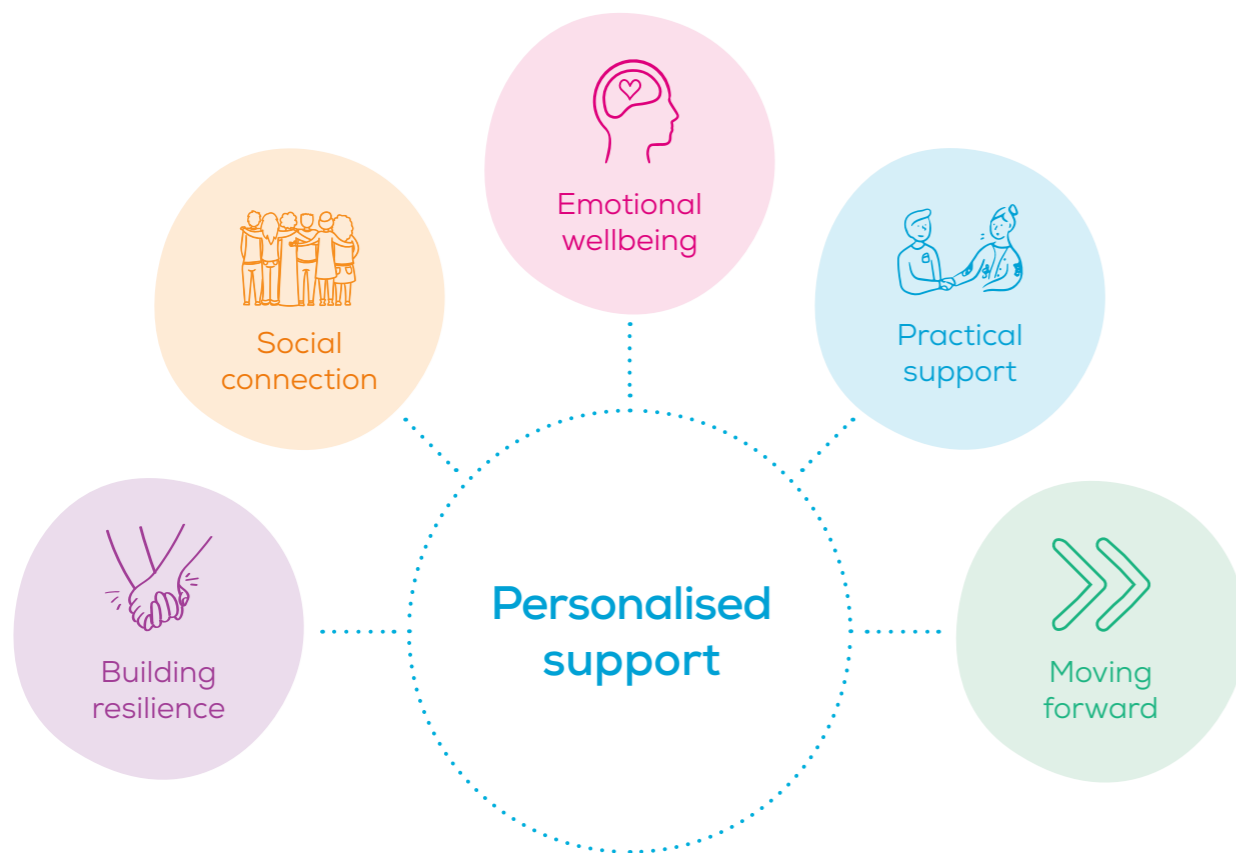


"Family Support Coordinators are truly special human beings. They hear stories like ours and many others' first hand, they share our joys and our sorrows, they feel our pain, they watch our children suffer and sometimes leave this world. They comfort us and provide joy wherever they can."

- Jennie Wright, whose son Caleb was diagnosed with cancer at age nine.



Mya Kata, diagnosed age five, with her parents Teresa and Steve and sister Maddison. Photo by Adrian Malloch.



We provide personalised support to families in five main areas

No two families' experiences are the same, and neither is the support they need. That's why we are there for each whānau in the areas that will help them most.



Emotional wellbeing

Providing day-to-day emotional support for whānau

Childhood cancer brings many powerful emotions which each family experiences differently. To help them adjust to the unexpected changes in their lives and stay strong for each other, each family has a dedicated Family Support Coordinator. They work closely with whānau to identify where they are coping well and where they need extra support. This connection means whānau are given the specific help they need, as they need it. We provide a holistic model of support, recognising that spiritual and physical wellbeing are important influences on emotional strength.

A unique part of our emotional support is the Beads of Courage® programme, which honours a child's strength and resilience. Each bead is given to a child as a physical representation of the courage they have shown during a treatment, milestone or experience, and can help acknowledge anxiety about procedures. Siblings of children with cancer can participate in the Beads of Courage® Sibling Programme, which provides recognition of their own emotional journey.



Social connection

Supporting healthy relationships

Connection between families living with childhood cancer is important, as they can often feel isolated from people who aren't able to understand what they are going through. Our support programmes and Whānau Connect Group activities give whānau opportunities for social connection with others going through a similar experience.

Families may find themselves separated for long periods of time while their child receives treatment. We help families stay connected by offering opportunities for siblings and extended family to visit the sick child and parent in hospital. Whānau are also given the chance to enjoy a holiday together, either at one of our holiday homes in Taupō and Arrowtown or somewhere else in Aotearoa, so they can spend time with each other and create precious memories.



Building resilience

Helping whānau maintain control of their lives

Having a child with cancer can cause day-to-day challenges that families are unlikely to have experienced before. Our Family Support Coordinators work with each whānau to help them identify their strengths and capabilities so they know they have the tools to overcome any setbacks. Offering opportunities for respite, both for parents and the family as a whole, is an important part of this to ensure they are able to rest, re-energise and regain the strength to carry on.



Practical support

Lessening the financial impact of childhood cancer

Childhood cancer can put a lot of strain on a family's finances. At least one parent usually has to take time off work to care for their sick child, which can make providing for the rest of the family and meeting financial commitments difficult. Everyday expenses can quickly become a burden for some families, so we provide short-term financial support for unexpected costs. Family Support Coordinators work with whānau to help them adapt to their new situation and find ways to manage the financial impact of childhood cancer on their family.



Moving forward

Encouraging families to look to the future

For some families, the difficulties of childhood cancer don't end when the treatment ends. Life is never the same again and getting used to a new normal can be just as hard for a family as the treatment itself. Many children will have to deal with ongoing physical and emotional challenges and the rest of their whānau may also suffer long-term emotional challenges. We support whānau to identify and adjust to these changes, helping them cope in the present while also supporting them to continue moving forward.

The majority of children will live well after their cancer. However, we are dedicated to supporting the loved ones of those children who sadly don't survive, helping them find a way to go on living without them while cherishing their memory.



Including a gift in your will

Your will is one of the most important documents of your lifetime, because it means your personal wishes will be honoured.

Leaving a bequest in your will is a powerful and enduring way to ensure the values you cherish continue beyond your lifetime.

One of our supporters said, "I feel blessed for my life and I want to share some of my good fortune with others after I pass on."

We recommend you also share your plans with your family, so they know and understand your intentions.

I'm using a solicitor

It is best to consult with a solicitor, and you can save time and money by thinking about your trustees, beneficiaries and the way you want them to share your estate in advance.

My will just needs updating

A codicil (see the following example) may be a cost-effective way to include a bequest to a charity. Check with your solicitor to see if this is

appropriate for the updates you wish to make.

"I give free of all duties to Child Cancer Foundation of Level 6, 110 Symonds Street, Grafton, Auckland, 1010, CC#20434, [the sum of \$_____ or _____% of the net residue of my estate] free of all charges for the general purposes of said charity to use where most needed. I direct that the official receipt of the authorised officer of Child Cancer Foundation will be sufficient discharge to my executors."

I'm making my will myself

If your estate is not complicated, you may prefer to create your will yourself.

We recommend you seek professional advice during the process to ensure your will is valid. If you are kind enough to be including a gift to Child Cancer Foundation, make sure you include the correct wording and charity number #CC20434.

There are several online websites designed to help you create a DIY will. They provide options to consult with selected solicitors, as well as include multiple charities in your list of beneficiaries during the online process.

People who make a gift to Child Cancer Foundation in their will come from all walks of life and have many different reasons for supporting these children. They have one thing in common: their care for Kiwi children and whānau who are going through the toughest time in their lives.

Here are just some of the messages we have received from people who have chosen to make a gift in their wills:

☆ Maureen, Auckland

"My son had cancer, but I was young and did not have enough knowledge about what was happening. I wanted to do more for him but just thought the doctors knew best. I am sad Child Cancer Foundation was not there to help me all those years ago."

☆ Michael, Hamilton

"We don't know any child suffering with cancer and our friends do not have a child with cancer. But all of us need something to believe in, a cause to support. And we believe that Child Cancer Foundation and the services they provide for children with cancer as well as their families is a fine cause."

☆ Adam, Auckland

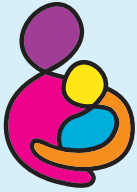
"I believe Child Cancer Foundation is a worthy cause, and no child should have to suffer with such a cruel, destructive disease. I want the children and families to know that I feel for them, they are in my thoughts and prayers and I know that one day they will find a cure for cancer."

☆ Ella, Napier

"I have chosen to support Child Cancer Foundation because I admire the courage and resilience of children as they go through their treatment. I'm amazed at how many beads some wear around their necks."



"Looking back, I honestly don't think we would have made it through it all as well as we did without the support from Child Cancer Foundation."
- Cathy Dale, whose son Joshua was diagnosed with cancer at age two.



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 [Child Cancer Foundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Child-Cancer-Foundation)

 [Child Cancer Foundation](https://www.youtube.com/Child-Cancer-Foundation)

*Nicole Pinto, diagnosed age seven.
Photo by Adrian Malloch.*