



# Across the Spectrum



Photo by Sandy Miller on Unsplash

**Meri  
Kirihimete**



Wishing you and your  
whānau a safe and happy  
holiday – from all at  
Spectrum Foundation Group!

**Sean Stowers** CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
SPECTRUM FOUNDATION GROUP

## From the CE

DECEMBER 2022

The past year has been one of 'finding our feet', as we bedded in new ways of working following the reorientation of Spectrum Foundation towards its philanthropic priorities.

We're now beginning the process of developing our impact initiatives, which will be rolled out in 2023. The first two funding applications were approved earlier this month and include a joint venture to be delivered by Spectrum Care and the Student Volunteer Army called 'Gig Buddies', aimed at building relationships for disabled people experiencing loneliness. A collaboration with Parent to Parent is also underway, involving 'mana, voice and agency' workshops for whānau of disabled children. Our philanthropic activities will continue in earnest in the New Year with the employment of a fundraising team.

Another key focus for Spectrum Foundation has been improving our shared services to better support our subsidiaries Spectrum Care and Homes of Choice. This will remain a high priority in 2023.

The top priority within our services arm, Spectrum Care, has been 'keeping the lights on' in another COVID-impacted year. I'm immensely proud of how the team has gone about achieving this, while also opening new and much-needed services such as the Alasdair Clark Respite service in Wellington and the planned breaks site for the physically disabled in Hillsborough. Staffing, however, remains a significant challenge in a highly competitive labour market.

Within our property arm, Homes of Choice, our focus has been on 'housing people better', 'housing more people' and 'growth through partnerships and funding'. The New Year will see significant progress towards meeting these objectives.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to our staff, stakeholders and, most importantly, the people and whānau we support for your patience, support and partnership over the past year.

# Alasdair Clark Respite opens in Wellington!



Te Wai Kahukura Atawhai

We're excited to officially open the Alasdair Clark Respite in Titahi Bay, Porirua.

Thanks to a generous donation, creative thinking and commitment from Kirva Trust, we've been able to launch a new service to provide respite for disabled children in the Porirua community.

Kirva Trust is a philanthropic organisation set up by Kaye and Maurice Clark, a local couple whose son Alasdair was a familiar face at Spectrum Care's respite service before he passed away. The new respite centre, which is named after him, will provide local disabled children with a much-needed 'home away from home.'

Finding a suitable location proved to be a challenge, until a partnership with Wellington City Mission was suggested by Kirva, to make good use of an unused wing of Kemp Home and Hospital in Titahi Bay. Kirva Trust, Spectrum Care, Homes of Choice,

and Wellington City Mission worked with Project Manager Jamiee Warda and construction partners McKee Fehl to completely refurbish the building into a welcoming and comfortable space that will provide a safe space for children and young adults to stay, so that their whānau can recharge their batteries.

None of this would have been possible without collaboration. We'd like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Kirva Trust, Wellington City Mission, and the McKee Fehl teams for all of the hard mahi that's gone into completing this project.



**Every person with a disability deserves a life of choice, freedom and independence**

# Enabling more person-centred support with White Cloud Internships

Over the past 12 years, Spectrum Care has offered internships to international students from Denmark, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the USA.



The interns are enabling Spectrum Care to offer more person-centred support by being an additional staff resource and contributing ideas, support practices and reflections grounded in tertiary education in Europe.

In return, they receive academic support, individual supervision, discounted accommodation, professional workshops, social activities and, of course, the opportunity to experience all that Aotearoa New Zealand has to offer!

Angela Mackay, a service coordinator in our Aspirations Programme, says that the students help to improve support practice. "Having them work with us promotes healthy questioning about our practices," says Angela. "They bring innovative and creative mindsets, as well as lots of fun!"

Recently, Anna, a 27-year-old who lives on Auckland's North Shore, was able to spend more time engaging in her hobbies and trying new activities, thanks to the extra support from Helene, a 26-year-old intern from Denmark.

Having extra one-on-one time with a support worker meant that she was able to do more of the things she enjoys, like going to rugby matches, the cinema and the zoo.



Anna is passionate about photography, and loves being out in nature, so together they planned a trip to Rangitoto Island. To train, they went on daily walks around Milford and Takapuna.

"Support is about helping people to do more of the things they love," says Helene. "The staff are really open-minded. They're excited to have me there, and having an extra person means that there's more time to do one-on-one projects like this."

Anna says that having this support has helped her to become more independent, "I'm more confident. I do more walking and hiking now, and I want to do more of it in the future."

# Welcoming our new COO

In October of this year, we announced the appointment of Spectrum Care's new Chief Operating Officer, Marija Jelesic-Janic.

Marija was formerly the Senior Human Resource and Workforce Development Advisor at Te Whatu Ora.

Prior to this, Marija was a District Manager at Emerge Aotearoa, where she oversaw intensive mental health, disability and youth justice services in the community. She has also been Regional Manager, Residential Manager, Team Leader and Service Coordinator with the Recovery Foundation and Challenge Trust in mental health and addiction services.

It was Marija's strong operational background, her ability to keep people and their wellbeing at the centre of decision making, proven leadership skills, and ability to work within complex and fast-paced environments that made her the ideal appointment for this role.

Since joining the organisation, Marija has been getting to know the wider Spectrum Care, Homes of Choice and Spectrum Foundation teams and our key external stakeholders. She's also been working closely with the senior managers and the Clinical Team members to get up to speed with a variety of projects already underway, and has visited several of our sites in Auckland and Wellington to meet staff and the people we support.



"The past few months have been so interesting and informative," says Marija. "Spectrum Care has really dedicated staff who go above and beyond for the people we support."

"I'm excited about sharing our next organisational strategy and restarting some of the amazing projects that were delayed due to COVID-19."

"I look forward to being able to support the organisation to grow stronger and continue the great work that's being done to deliver positive outcomes for the people we support and their whānau."

# How our Pathway to Employment programme is helping people find meaningful mahi

Peter Relph, a participant in Spectrum Care's Pathway to Employment Programme, is well on his way to accomplishing his goals through his placement at Westhaven Marina.

The programme is run by our Community Facilitator team who, alongside our Aspirations Support Workers, help people to identify and develop key job skills, such as resume-writing, job-seeking, and interview skills, and support them in finding and securing employment.

When the team heard about an initiative to support young people with disabilities to engage in work experience at Westhaven Marina, they knew that Peter would be an excellent candidate.

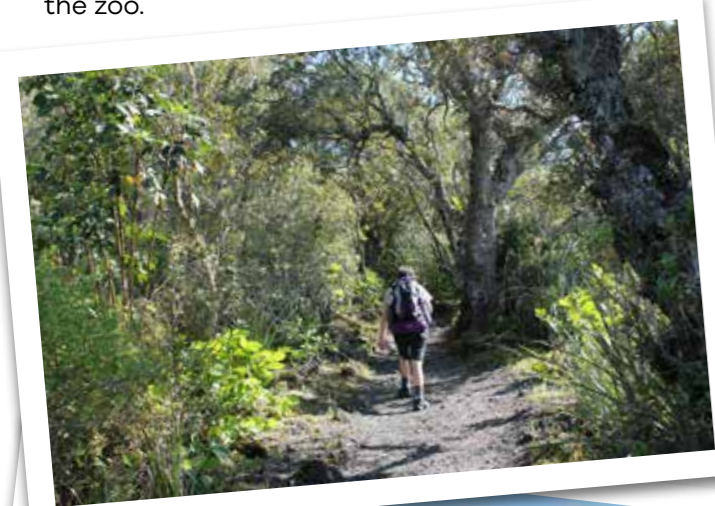
Although he was initially fearful around water, Peter was keen to give it a go, and when the Dockmaster allowed him to drive a boat himself, he was eager to learn more.

"Peter's never shied away from a challenge," says OJ, a Community Facilitator. "He's always enthusiastic and has such a great attitude."

Peter embraced the challenge wholeheartedly and, after a year of work experience at the marina, he was awarded the title of Assistant Dockmaster. He now holds a variety of duties, including maintaining operational vessels, assisting with mooring and berthing, and dock-walk reporting.

"Peter's become an integral part of our team here at Westhaven Marina," says former marina logistics team leader Jayson Maud. "We've witnessed his confidence grow each week and he takes pride in carrying out his duties."

Peter is extremely proud of his achievement and is continuing to work towards his goal of paid employment. His motto is 'My limit is beyond the sky!'



# Working together towards new possibilities for great lives!



In a world where disabled people have limited housing options, Homes of Choice is determined to make a difference. Every day, we walk alongside our customers and partners to create welcoming home environments, tailored to people's needs.

Homes of Choice recently acquired a new property in West Auckland, which has enabled its residents to have greater independence.

Spectrum Care has been working alongside the residents for several years. They were previously living in two separate properties and were keen to move in together, but finding a home that met all of their requirements was a challenge.

The women and their families were actively involved and, after viewing several properties, we were able to secure a home that ticked all the right boxes.

The home was in excellent condition and met the needs of each of the residents. It also had an additional staff room on site, and was in a safe neighbourhood that was close to amenities, giving the women more security and independence.

Only minor modifications were required to adjust the fire sprinkler system and, though there was very little time between settlement and the move-in date, our existing relationships with preferred contractors meant that we were able to fit it out in time.

As well as giving the residents more choice, this move has had a positive impact on the efficiency of business operations. Decreased rental and property management costs and optimal staffing levels have enabled greater independence for the tenants, as it means there are more staff available to support them out in the community.

After the site blessing at the end of November, the tenants couldn't wait to move in to their new home, "I can't stop smiling I am so happy!" says Catherine.

"I'm very happy to be able to move into a new home with my friends that I have chosen to live with," says Loreen.



# Our philanthropic aims

Our vision is an Aotearoa in which all disabled people have equal opportunity to realise their full potential. To achieve this vision and support those with the greatest need, we've identified five key philanthropic priorities which will deliver positive economic, social and emotional outcomes for disabled New Zealanders.

## Our five key philanthropic priorities

**1** Empowering access to health and wellbeing



The disadvantages faced every day by many thousands of disabled children, teenagers, young adults and older people throughout our country are real.

**2** Empowering access to housing



We know we must enhance the positive impact we're already making.

**3** Empowering access to education



With support, we can ensure equal opportunity for people with a disability of all ages to live life to the fullest.

**4** Empowering access to employment



Our promise is to leave no one behind.

**5** Empowering mana and self-determination



**SPECTRUM  
FOUNDATION**

Ahākoa ko wai te tangata, ahākoa nō hea

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