



True Colours Children's Health Trust Annual Report 2025



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Our people

Board of Trustees

Chairperson | Leean Bedwell
Treasurer | Sandra Braithwaite / Laura Gray
Secretary | Sarah Rawcliffe
Parent Representative | Paul Grant
Trustee | Dr Fraser Maxwell
Trustee | Dr Suniti Bisht
Trustee | Cynthia Ward

Patrons

Neil Finn | Tim Finn

Staff

CEO | Cynthia Ward / Heidi Gleeson
Psychotherapist | Stephen Parkinson
Nurse Practitioner | Renee Streatfield
Family Therapist / Social Worker | Rosalind Arnott
Family Support / Nurse | Helen Funnell
Counsellor | Indigo Simblett
Counsellor | Renee Ward
Counsellor | Ziski Poschl
Counsellor | Karpagam Sarangan



Our partners

House

Annah Stretton

Cars

Inghams

Supported by Elektron, VCE, Surf Prep & Schick

After Hours Healthcare

Emergency Consult

Exterior House cleaning

Grime Off

Accounting services

Cleland Hancox

Legal services

Harkness Henry

Community partners

Dynes

Lugtons

Urban Homes

Kaumatua

Wayne Panapa



Our Vision, Mission & Values

Our VISION

That all children with a serious health condition and their families have access to support

Our MISSION

Supporting Waikato families impacted by their child's health condition through counselling, nursing care & advice, education, collaboration and advocacy

Our VALUES

Resilience

Support

Education

Respect

Collaboration

Communication

Accountability

Chairperson's Report

It is my pleasure to present the Chairperson's Report for True Colours Children's Health Trust for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The 2025 year has been one of continued demands, increasing complexity in service delivery, and significant transition within our leadership.

Throughout the year, the Trust has remained steadfast in its mission of supporting Waikato families impacted by their child's serious health condition, ensuring that support is accessible and responsive when it is needed most.

During the year, the Trust supported approximately 447 children and families at any one time.

The continued development of the Nurse Led Clinic remains an important addition to our service. Established in 2024, our Nurse Practitioner, Renee Streatfield, manages supporting assessments, coordination of care, clinical oversight and the added service of prescribing medication. The children and families supported are very appreciative of the additional support.

The Trust also continued to build strong relationships across the health and community sectors, working collaboratively with other providers and presenting to a range of organisations, students and professionals. These activities contribute to greater awareness of the needs of families and strengthen referral pathways into the service.

A significant development during the year was the transition in leadership from Cynthia Ward to Heidi Gleeson as Chief Executive Officer. Cynthia's contribution as founding CEO has been instrumental to the success and growth of True Colours over many years, and the Board acknowledges her service with sincere gratitude. The Board are pleased that Cynthia remains involved at a governance and clinical level. Heidi has transitioned into the CEO role with professionalism and dedication, and the Board looks forward to continuing to support her leadership.

Throughout the year, the Board has progressed key strategic priorities, including financial resilience. The Trust was also presented with the opportunity to purchase our premises at 16 Joffre Street and are working with key stakeholders to raise the funds required. Financial resilience continues to be a key focus. The Trust operates without direct government funding and relies on the generosity of donors, grant providers and fundraising initiatives. The 2025 Long Lunch event was a significant success, generating strong community support and substantial funds to ensure the sustainability of our service.

On behalf of the Board, I acknowledge the exceptional commitment of the CEO and team, whose passion and professionalism underpin the quality of care provided to families.

I also extend sincere thanks to the Friends of True Colours, our volunteers, sponsors and donors, whose contribution is vital to the ongoing delivery of our services.

Finally, I thank my fellow Trustees for their continued dedication, expertise and stewardship throughout the year. Your commitment ensures that the Trust remains well governed and strategically focused.

As we look ahead, the Trust remains committed to strengthening service delivery, maintaining accessibility, and ensuring long-term sustainability, so that we can continue to support children and families across the Waikato region.

Leean Bedwell
Chairperson



CEO's Report

To our supporters, partners and community. 2025 was a year of meaningful change and shared achievement for our team. And a year of transition, as we moved into new leadership midway throughout. Through it all, the teams' commitment to supporting children impacted by a serious health condition and their whanau, along with families who had a premature birth, experienced late term baby loss or stillbirth, or the death of their baby or child from a serious health condition, remained unwavering.

We received 241 new referrals into True Colours over the year, with the team supporting over 450 families on average at any time. While the referral number itself is slightly down on the year before, it seems we are seeing families with more complex needs - families are coping with devastating and sometimes rare diagnoses, compounded by ongoing challenging economic times. Our team work tirelessly to ensure that every child and family receives compassionate, high-quality support for as long as it's needed.

At the end of June, we experienced a significant moment in True Colours journey, with a change in CEO. We acknowledge with gratitude and huge respect, the contributions of Cynthia Ward, who founded True Colours in 2004 and steered its path for 21 years. Her work has positioned the Trust for continued success, and the transition was carried out with care, transparency and a focus on stability. I am proud to have stepped into the role, and to continue building on the strong foundation that Cynthia has laid.

What remained constant through this transition was the professionalism and support of the Team - their commitment and support ensured continuity of service and allowed us to maintain momentum during such a significant period. Thank you all, I appreciate each of you very much. And thank you to the Board for your support, it means a lot that you trust me to take on this role.

The heart of True Colours is our people. This year, as always, they demonstrated resilience, adaptability and a deep commitment to the children and families we serve. We continue to invest in staff development, recognising that a strong team is essential to delivering meaningful impact.

We supported Renee Streatfield in achieving her Nurse Practitioner qualification, and the wider team in their constant pursuit of professional development, ensuring they remain at the leading edge of care for children and families. Everything we strive to achieve is for the benefit of the families we walk alongside.

Our work is only possible because of the generosity of our donors, partners, funders, supporters and volunteers. We appreciate the contribution of long-standing partners who continue to champion True Colours, along with new supporters who understand our vision enough to back us. Together, we are supporting children and families across the region to stand strong at the toughest of times.

As we head into 2026, we look forward to progressing the purchase of True Colours House and cementing a stable base for years to come.

Thank you all for your trust, hard work, generosity and belief in the work we do.

Heidi Gleeson
CEO



Community & Fundraising

Support comes to True Colours in many forms – funding grants, donations, sponsorships, fundraising initiatives, in-kind services and volunteer hours. Every act of support helps us continue to deliver our service, and also enables us to share our expertise with other community organisations through presentations and professional development. We thank everyone who chose to support True Colours in 2025.

Our community partnerships go beyond just financial and operational support however. They also help raise awareness, build trust and extend our reach. We are grateful for our continued relationships with Annah Stretton, Inghams, Dynes Transport, Cleland Hancox, Harkness Henry, Lugtons, Elektron, Grime Off, Emergency Consult, Urban Homes and Northern Districts Cricket. Their support helps amplify our impact across the community.

The Friends of True Colours play a supportive role in helping deliver the Kerr & Ladbrook True Colours Long Lunch 2025, which in raised just over \$205,000 - an incredible result! We are also grateful to the sponsors who make the event possible, including Kerr & Ladbrook, The Atrium at Wintec, Sincerity Laundry, Good George, Lugtons, Inghams, 88MPH, Prolife Foods, Volare, Meyer Cheese, Westpac, Love Club Hire, The Event Girl and the Hillcrest High School students who volunteer as waiting staff. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and to the guests whose generosity helped us reach such an impressive total.

In a challenging financial climate, we deeply appreciate every individual, business and funder who chooses to support us. Your commitment to supporting True Colours ensures families can access our services free of charge, for as long as they need us.





2025 in Numbers

Revenue



\$312,236
Grants
32%

\$374,436
Donations
38%

\$310,557
Fundraising
30%

Referrals



193
New referrals
80%

48
Re-referrals
20%

Referral Type



129
Sick Child
54%

48
NICU
20%

41
Bereavement
17%

23
Peri-natal
9%

Geographical



105
Urban
44%

118
Rural
49%

18
Out of
Region
7%

Ethnicity



101
Pakeha
41%

37
Maori
24%

11
Ind/Asian
15%

6
PI
3%

43
Prefer not to
say
17%

Thanks to our Sponsors

TRUE COLOURS HOUSE

Annah Stretton

VEHICLES

Ingham[®]

Quality Brands
Quality Service



Elektron



EVENT



SERVICES

ESTD 1984
Cleland Hancox

BUSINESS ADVISERS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Harkness Henry

SPECIALIST LAWYERS

PARTNERSHIPS



Thanks to our Community Funders

Community Support is the cornerstone of our community trust.
Thank you to everyone who contributed in 2025.

Grassroots Trust | Rodmor Charitable Trust | Trust Waikato
Lottery Grants Board | Trinity Lands Ltd | WEL Energy Trust
Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS)
Tidd Foundation | D V Bryant Trust | St Stephens Christmas Festival
Lion Foundation | Jumble Around | MusicHelps
Aotearoa Gaming Trust | Glenice & John Gallagher Trust
Mullane Trust | Bodmin Trust | Gallagher Charitable Trust
Waikato WDFW Karamu Trust | Community Waikato | Tinkers Trust |
A & M Parbhu Foundation | Waikato Sunrise Rotary



Thanks to our Community Supporters

Bob Bollen & Benz Industries | Elektron Ltd | Dynes Transport |
CareKids Ltd Chartwell | Cleland Hancox | Colors Hair Co |
Cynthia & David Ward | Jenny Lala | The Harris Family | Hannah
Maxwell | Claire & Paul Grant | Anne Reeve | D Clarke | Deborah
McConnell | Michelle Jordan-Tong | Michelle Peoples | Pam Bartels
| Sun Salute Yoga | Leean Bedwell | D M Young | Tony & Fiona
Reglinski | Karl Tutty | Katherine Walker | Leonie Pope | P J Kimble
| Christine & Peter Renner | Sophie & Dan Harris | Walton School |
Kevin & Gail Laurence | Sue Burgess | Good Bitches Baking |
Nates Toy Run | Beanies for Babies | Fiona Hermann | Mark Mullins
Jorja Renton & Family | Kelly & Hamish Rushbrooke | NES Boutique |
Annah Stretton Cambridge | Black Shepherd Apiaries | Findex |
Grey Street Pharmacy | Helen Yates | Hamilton St Andrews Lions
Club | Melva Ritchie | Te Awamutu Rod & Custom Club | The Law
Family | Wintec - School of Media Art | Rachel Woods |
Meg Wilshier | NZ Specialised Coatings

A special thank you to our Wings members that support us through regular MONTHLY donations

And a final shout out to the Friends of True Colours who help us raise funds: Pam Lugton | Maree Tolley | Vicki Pointon | Sarah Rawcliffe | Murray Williams | Tanya Breen | Shannon Ingham
And our volunteer gardener who helps us take care of True Colours House: Sue Burgess





Thanks to our Long Lunch Supporters

The Kerr & Ladbrook True Colours Long Lunch remains our major annual fundraiser. We had an amazing event in 2025 with such generous support from both business who sponsored us and donated items, and from those who attended.

Long Lunch Event Sponsors

Kerr & Ladbrook Catering | Wintec - The Atrium | Sincerity Laundry Group - Linen | Good George | Lugtons | Westpac | Gilmour Studios | CMYK | band 88mph | Ingham Driven | Point B | Annah Stretton | Prolife Foods | Volare | Meyer Cheese | Hillcrest High School | New World Te Rapa | Love Club Hire | Oil Changers Killarney Road | The Event Girl | Wither Hills | Peter Boreham Wine Sales |

Long Lunch Auction Sponsors

Sentinel Homes | Travel Managers | Goldsmiths Gallery | Lugtons | True Store | Annah Stretton | Split Enz | Hamilton Windscreens | Geoff & Linda Maber | Harkness Henry | Jim Beam Homegrown | Savor Group - Amano Restaurant | Northern Districts Cricket | Diane & Keith O'Sullivan | Greenlea Meats | Gothenburg | Hello World Rototuna & Hamilton CBD | Gull Morrinsville | Vicki Pointon & Graham Ray | Precious Metals | Fresh Choice Leamington | Mussel Barge Snapper Safari's | Pepper & Me | luggage.co.nz | Clint Christian artist | Maree & Grant Tolley | Takapoto Estate | NES | Inghams | Rotorua Redwoods Treewalk | Hayes Common | Safeguard Storage | Helen Yates | Trading Pieces | Milou Beauty | Little Loft | Fishing & Adventure | Peplers | Endota | Girls Get Off | Edwards & Co | Feathers & Co | Grey Street Kitchen | Shampoo 'n Things The Base | Frame Furniture | Brewaucracy | Eden Park | Little Lato | McDonalds Five Cross Roads | Zoe & Morgan | Spookers | Awhi Company | Tik Tak Design Co | Vicki Pointon | The Cocktail Cart | The Country Providore | Olives Kitchen

Raffle Sponsor

Sarah & Geoff Rawcliffe | Wither Hills



2025 Memories

