

FRIENDSHIP

**Starship**
Foundation

Autumn 2018

GIVING IS THE BEST MEDICINE



“Thank you for saving
my baby’s life...”

P8



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Introducing our new CEO, Aisha Daji Punga.

A few short weeks ago we welcomed our outstanding new Chief Executive into the Starship Foundation family.

Aisha Daji Punga has more than 20 years’ FMCG and telecommunications experience in global commercial development, marketing strategy, new ventures and strategic planning.

But Aisha brings much more than business acumen and senior management experience to the Starship Foundation. She is a passionate advocate of children’s health and wellbeing, demonstrated by her volunteering her time over the last 12 years with the Life Education Trust, and more recently mentoring at the Akina Foundation and being involved with Ko Awatea and the South Auckland Health Equities campaign.

Aisha embodies all of the qualities we were looking for in our search for a new Chief Executive: leadership, vision, inspiration, and an enormous compassion for all New Zealand’s children.

I am looking forward to supporting Aisha through the ambitious programme of development that we have before us, significantly growing our funds for Starship. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Aisha into our wonderful Starship family.

Regards,

Martin Wiseman
Chair, Starship Foundation



Aisha with Directors of Starship Child Health, Dr Mike Shepherd and Dr John Beca.

A word from our new Chief Executive, Aisha...

Dear Friend,

I’m so glad to be able to say hello to you for the first time as the new Chief Executive of this wonderful Foundation. Starship is a true treasure for all New Zealanders, and for every one of our children.

What I have experienced in my first few weeks has been a real sense of family. A family within the hospital, the patients and families, the Foundation, donors and sponsors – all with a passion to help us better the lives of our Kiwi kids faster. Some of the key highlights have been meeting two inspirational kids, DJ and Jayden. Another highlight was sharing experiences with Heather, who has been supporting the Foundation, and nurse scholarships, for almost 10 years. And of course I can’t forget meeting and being inspired by the amazing work of our clinicians, nurses and all staff.

All of these wonderful experiences have provided me with great encouragement as I take on the mandate to improve the health outcomes for our children. The ambition is to give all Kiwi kids the best chance of tomorrow, today. Of the 40 richest countries, New Zealand is ranked 38 out of 40 for good health and well-being of children. This is why both Starship and the Foundation has a renewed sense of urgency.

Together with our trustees and Starship management, Dr John Beca, Dr Mike Shepherd, Sarah Little and Emma Maddren, we are

spearheading an effort of an accelerated impact for our Kiwi kids. Our aspiration is to raise \$20 million annually by 2023 towards high priority health and wellbeing areas.

We will continue with our investment in latest advances in medical technology, better facilities, best people, training and development. But in line with global best practice we are increasing our efforts to invest in research and innovation targeting an additional \$5 million per annum.

As one of our greatest supporters and champions, I know that you’ll be there with us, as we push ahead looking for new and innovative ways to break through. I am really looking forward to working with you and keeping you informed of our progress every step of the way.

With my warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aisha".

Aisha



Pictured: Aisha with Starship patient Jayden.

We love hearing from you. Please phone us on 0800 STARSHIP (0800 782 774) to make a donation.

To make a secure donation online, please visit www.starship.org.nz/donate

Could you run for *their* lives?

Run alongside everyone who believes Starship kids are worth fighting for!

Whether you are a first-timer or a seasoned-roadster, we would love you to join us at the 2018 ASB Auckland Marathon, and become a superhero for Starship kids.

Starship mum, Tracy Nicholls ran in last year's ASB Auckland Marathon and she's already signed up to run again this October. "It is not an understatement to say Starship saved both my babies' lives. And for this I will always be thankful!"

Running for Starship is Tracy's way of 'giving back', and she finds that running for Starship helps her on several levels.

"Pounding the pavement is a way to get away from the everyday stuff for a little while. It keeps me active. And it raises money for Starship," she says. "It's incredibly rewarding to be able to give back to an organisation that saved both of my children and continues to care for our daughter."

Each year kind-hearted Kiwis like Tracy participate in or organise unique fundraising events, big and small, in their communities to help Starship families.

If you'd like to hear more about joining Team Starship in the 2018 Auckland Marathon, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Community Fundraising Executive, Charlotte Bennett on 09 307 8949.



Tracy with her family.

"Our little warrior."

On the morning of August 1st 2015 I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Olive Marama. I had a healthy pregnancy, a natural labour and everything seemed perfect. But five hours after Olive was born she had a seizure. And she continued to seize every few hours.

Because of her abnormal brain activity we were told she would almost certainly be profoundly disabled, and quite likely not survive beyond two years-old. We were devastated, but we accepted this worst case scenario, knowing we would love our girl however she was. We made the choice to fully believe in her ability to heal and thrive.

After long months of testing and investigation, Olive's doctors discovered the root of her epilepsy - a rare and relatively unknown genetic mutation of the KCNQ2 gene. It has been a rollercoaster of medications and hospital visits since, but as of this January, at two and a half, Olive is off medication and seizure free for the first time since she was one day old.

Her development is now 100% on par with her peers. At our last appointment, her neurologist used the word "miracle" several times.



Chelsie and the team who ran for Olive at Round the Bays this year.



Olive thriving at home.



Without the world class care and facilities at Starship, our story would have likely unfolded with a much less happy outcome. We will be forever grateful to Starship in the most profound way.

Olive's mum, Chelsie.

That's why Chelsie and her family joined the Starship Round the Bays team this year. And why they give a regular monthly donation to Starship by direct credit. To help those families still in the trenches, so that Starship can continue to change their lives by offering the same top level of care Olive received.

Join Chelsie and become a regular giver today. Get in touch with Jodie Queenin if you'd like to hear more at jodieq@adhb.govt.nz



Starship Champions!

MEET SOME AMAZING STARSHIP STAFF WHO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR SICK AND INJURED CHILDREN...

Our Five Star Partner Barfoot & Thompson has been absolutely incredible over the last 15 years. Not just because they've raised \$2.5 million for Starship, but also because they're always looking for new and innovative ways to acknowledge the amazing Starship staff for their hard work.

That's why they decided to find a Starship Champion to send on a trip to the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in April this year. They asked the public, patients, families and Starship Hospital staff to nominate the Starship employees who they believed had gone the extra mile for sick and injured children and their families.

Nominations were made via voting boxes around Starship Hospital and through Facebook, and by the end of the week-long voting period, we had 153 individual nominations for our judges to consider.

The judging panel was made up of Olympians Dylan Schmidt (trampoline), Julia Edward (rowing) and Tracey Lambrechts (weight lifting), as well as Barfoot & Thompson Managing Director, Peter Thompson; Starship Hospital General Manager, Emma Maddren; and Starship Foundation former CEO, Brad Clark.

As Peter Thompson said: "There are so many amazing doctors, nurses, health workers, anaesthetists, play specialists and others at Starship. As far as we're concerned, they are all worthy of the title Starship Champion. So narrowing it down to a top five and

then choosing one winner was a very difficult task indeed."

We received some truly heart-warming feedback and personal stories about the wonderful work of the 153 people nominated. We'd love to share it all with you, but unfortunately we only have room for our top five, who you can read about below and overleaf. Congratulations to them all! And thank you Barfoot & Thompson!

Our grand prize winner!

JULIE SMITH: STAFF NURSE, EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

'A true living angel', 'the real deal', 'amazing with children', 'incomparable'. These are just a few of the ways the people who nominated Julie described her. Julie has worked in our Emergency Department for 20 years, and helped countless families through some of the toughest moments of their lives when they are at their most vulnerable. After spending time with Julie you are left in no doubt about how cared for and safe she makes families feel.



Julie at the Commonwealth Games



And our runners up are...



GRACE HARRIS: DIABETES NURSE SPECIALIST

Grace has been helping children through the challenges of young life with diabetes for 29 years. On top of her day job she also volunteers for a wide range of camps and trips run by Diabetes Youth Auckland. She loves being part of the journey of families with whom she works, often staying in touch with her young patients as they grow up, find jobs, get married and have children of their own.



CHANEL PRESTIDGE: PAEDIATRIC CONSULTANT, RENAL SERVICES

Chanel joined Starship Hospital in 2011 and specialises in looking after children who have serious kidney problems, particularly those whose kidneys are failing, and who need dialysis or a kidney transplant. Described as 'an absolute blessing' by



one of her transplant families, Chanel often works with children from birth through to adulthood, and loves being part of this 'amazing' journey.

BENAZ DIAS: WARD CLERK - CHILDREN'S HEART WARD 23B



Patients love her, and Starship staff say they would be lost without her. 'Mama Benaz' as she is known to all, has been the friendly, welcoming face of Ward 23B for the past 14 years. "Sometimes that one hug can make all the difference," she says. Benaz loves her job and says she goes home "happy-tired" every day.

WON-KON BONG: SOCIAL WORKER



Described as 'a social worker extraordinaire' by one family, Won-Kon loves his job working with families who have children with disabilities, or medically fragile conditions. He says the best part of his job is seeing children grow happier and families becoming more confident

as they work together. "To see a child with a smiley face is just awesome!" he says.

“Thank you so much for saving my baby’s life!” says mum, Nicola.

In February last year, 7-day-old Indiana was flown from Hamilton to Starship, close to death. Thanks to supporters like you, our doctors had the equipment they needed to save his life. Today, he’s a happy little boy, and his mum Nicola wants to say thank you.

I want to start by saying that everyone at Starship is just amazing. It’s not until you need it that you realise just how amazing it is.

My baby wouldn’t be alive otherwise. He was so happy in the womb and then he came out into this crazy world and it was horrible. Seven days old and he nearly died.

The older Indiana gets, the more we appreciate what we nearly lost. When he was flown to Starship that day, we loved him so much, but we didn’t really ‘know’ him yet. But now, two years later, we do know him. And his little personality. So it’s even more traumatic to think that we could’ve lost him.

Without a doubt, Starship saved his life. Without the helicopter. Without his nurses and his surgeons. I know what would have happened. And without you too. Because it wasn’t until we needed Starship, that we realised just how big a part people like you

play in funding it. It was a real eye opener. And I want to tell you about Indiana, because of what you did for him.

He’s a really kind natured child. His favourite thing is quality time with the ones he loves. He loves music lessons and building with his daddy. He’s gentle and I think he’s going to be a good person. And in a way, I think he has a responsibility to be a good person. Because of the time, and the money and the effort and the love that went into saving his life. The helicopter, the pilot, the surgeons, the nurses, the medication, the equipment, the care he received, and the supporters like you who made it all possible.

He’s just one little baby – but you all stopped at nothing to give him the best care. And I can never thank you enough.

Thank you for saving my baby’s life.

Nicola Thompson.



Top left: Indiana recovering in PICU.

Middle right: Indiana is totally healthy now,” says Nicola. “And he’s a really fun and happy little dude.”

Bottom left: Starship mum, Nicola and little Indiana.



When we wrote to you about Indiana over the summer, you responded so generously! Together amazing Starship supporters like you raised an incredible \$250,330.

This has already enabled us to buy the two pieces of lifesaving equipment we told you about: a Stortz flexible intubation Video Endoscope; and a Fisher & Paykel Airvo 2 Humidifier. As well as help to fund postgraduate study for PICU nurses.

Thank you so much for helping us to save more lives and help more little ones like Indiana!

Making new treatments possible.

CLINICAL RESEARCH IS CRITICAL TO IMPROVING HEALTHCARE



Your support is now enabling Starship's highly skilled clinicians to tackle healthcare challenges by trialling new ways to diagnose and treat children.

In 2017 the Foundation began funding a wide variety of clinical research projects in response to a request from the leadership of Starship, who know that hospital-based research is key to improving the lives of seriously ill children now and in the future.

Over \$1.2 million of donations has been committed over the past 16 months into research and innovation initiatives that will accelerate the pace of change, bring new treatments, smarter ways of delivering them and also help retain Starship's brightest minds.

Fourteen months on and results from some of the first projects to be funded are starting to be revealed. And the benefits to our young patients are apparent.

Silvia Faingata'a's son Tu'amelie had a heart condition picked up as part of one of these Starship studies; a trial to test the feasibility of a new national screening programme for critical congenital heart disease using pulse oximetry. After the quick test alerted the medical team to his low oxygen level shortly after birth, Tu'amelie

was diagnosed with a transposition of the great arteries, in which the aorta and pulmonary artery are opposite to where they should be. This had not been picked up during Silvia's pregnancy. Six days later Tu'amelie had open heart surgery to repair a problem that could have killed him if left undiagnosed and untreated. Now almost 2, Tu'amelie is a happy, healthy and active little boy.

The study, set to finish in a few months' time, is led by Dr Tom Gentles, the director of Starship's national paediatric cardiac service. With 80 babies being born with critical heart defects in New Zealand each year, he estimates that nationwide pulse oximetry screening could result in earlier diagnosis of about 15 babies a year, giving them a better chance of survival. Silvia is grateful for the test that saved her son's life and is keen for the test to be available to others.

Thanks to your generosity, 13 other clinical research projects are currently underway, looking at issues such as the high incidence of teenage suicide and depression and the incidence of brain injury and neurodevelopmental delays in infants requiring life-saving heart surgery. Another early study is using the latest genomic technologies to diagnose and help treat inherited brain and muscle diseases.



Silvia Faingata'a with her son Tu'amelie.

Photo source: New Zealand Herald/newspix.co.nz



A pulse oximetry sensor like this was used to screen Tu'amelie.

A big thank you to ASB for ground-breaking innovation in CED.

THE NEWLY REFURBISHED CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ASSESSMENT AND WAITING AREA IS COMPLETE THANKS TO AN AMAZING \$1 MILLION COMMITTED BY ASB AND THEIR CUSTOMERS. THANK YOU!

You did it! Our Five Star Partner, ASB together with their wonderful customers have raised an amazing \$1 million to complete the refurbishment of our Children's Emergency Department assessment and waiting area.

More than 34,000 children come through Starship's Children's Emergency Department waiting room every year, but the original department was built in 2003 and was in need of a major makeover to improve patient flow and enhance the experience of children and their families.

Thanks to ASB's investment the refurbishment work started in January this year and was completed in April.

The updated area includes a technology 'first' for a New Zealand hospital, in the form of two interactive technology zones: the "Starship Animal Check-Ups" and the "Magic Forest". These interactive spaces help distract patients and prepare them for treatment, as well as helping to calm anxious parents and families. The idea came out of a shared vision between ASB and Starship Children's Emergency Department staff to build a new kind of waiting area for Kiwi kids.

The newly transformed area now helps the team at Starship Hospital to provide the best possible emergency healthcare for New Zealand children whilst also lifting children's spirits and enhancing the family experience during difficult times.

Thank you ASB. Thank you ASB customers. And thank you to everyone who has generously supported this wonderful development.



Scarlett, 3, first patient in the newly refurbished Children's ED.

One million *more* reasons to thank New World, and their customers too.



2014 WAS A LANDMARK YEAR WITH NEW WORLD JOINING OUR FIVE STAR PARTNER PROGRAMME. IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR THEY PASSED AN AMAZING MILESTONE, SURPASSING \$1 MILLION DOLLARS RAISED!

And if you're a New World customer, that means you helped them get there. Thank you so much for helping us in yet another amazing way.

Over the last four years New World and customers like you have funded so many awesome projects, like the Level 5 parent kitchens, new equipment for our Newborn Intensive Care Unit, the Little Star Garden for Starship families to enjoy, and New Zealand's first ever Multi-Disciplinary Feeding Clinic, which helps patients with eating difficulties, like little ones who

have become dependent on tube feeding and need support with being weaned off when the time is right.

These major projects and the many other little ways in which New World constantly supports our patients and our staff – like delivering fresh fruit every week to our parent kitchens – are the mark of an organisation that truly cares about New Zealand's children and their families.

Thank you New World, and thank you to everyone who shops with you.

You're invited.

Hi,
My name is Karen Blake. My role at the Starship Foundation sees me travelling all around New Zealand holding presentations and meeting our Guardian Angels and other wonderful supporters who care so much about the health and wellbeing of New Zealand's children.

If you would like to join me for a personal and meaningful insight into Starship, the children you are helping, and how your support is making such a difference in transforming the lives of our Starship children, please get in touch. You are always welcome to bring a friend along, the more the merrier. I would also be happy to speak at an organisation or a group you are part of.

Mostly these events are small, informal, really friendly get-togethers held at local community venues and are about how your support has an impact on the experiences children and their families are having at Starship.

It is a privilege to have your support so I do hope you can join me as I travel around New Zealand this year or next. I would love to meet you personally, to have a coffee or tea with you and share with you the magic of Starship.

If you would like to attend a Starship Supporter morning or afternoon tea please phone me on 027 376 4211.

I hope to see you soon.

Karen

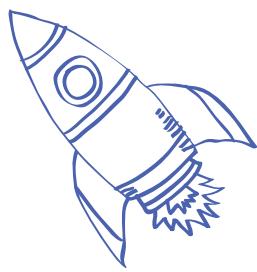


In early 2019, I look forward to visiting and meeting you in:

- February: Queenstown / Cromwell
- March: Ashburton / Timaru
- March: Invercargill / Gore
- April: Masterton / Wellington
- May: Far North
- May: Kapiti



Will you help Starship take on the huge challenges that lay ahead of us, by sending an extra gift today?



Yes! I want to help Kiwi kids who need Starship.

My donation details: Donation amount: \$

Cheque: Please find enclosed my cheque made payable to Starship Foundation

Credit Card: Please debit my card

Visa MasterCard Diners Amex

Card Number:

Name on card:

Signature:

Expiry date:

My contact details: please fill out your contact details so we can send you a receipt

Full name:

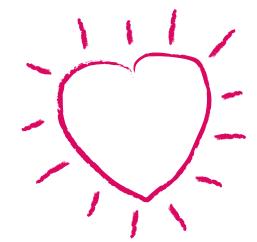
Address:

Email:

Phone:

Please fill in this form and send it with your donation to:
Starship Foundation,
PO Box 91939,
Victoria Street West,
Auckland 1142.

Or, you can donate over the phone on
0800 STARSHIP
(0800 782 774)



Donations of \$5 or more are tax deductible.
Registered Charity CC24272

It is with the support of people like you that the Starship Foundation can continue helping ill and injured children throughout New Zealand. We would like to keep in touch with you and keep you informed about this work. The Starship Foundation recognises the importance of your privacy and the need to safeguard your personal information. We are careful with all your details and will use them to contact you about issues we believe will be important to you. If you do not wish to receive further communications from the Starship Foundation please call on 0800 STARSHIP or tick this box and return this form to PO Box 9389, Newmarket, Auckland 1149. Unsubscribe.

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Foundation

Autumn 2018

GIVING IS THE BEST MEDICINE

*'A true
living
angel'*

*'Amazing
with
children'*



Starship Champions

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Julie Smith -
Starship CED nurse
and the Barfoot &
Thompson Starship
Champion.