



Blind Foundation

Year in Review

2018



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Making a difference for people with sight loss

The Blind Foundation exists to support people who are blind or have low vision to do the things they want to do, and enable them to fully participate in society. With your support, we are making a substantial difference for individuals and communities throughout New Zealand.

As New Zealand's population ages so is the incidence of sight loss increasing. For this reason, one of our main focuses this year has been reaching more people who would benefit from our support – and to make it easier for people to connect with us.

We are pleased to report that our focus on making it easier for people to connect with us has been working. The number of people reaching out to the Blind Foundation rose from three per day, to seven per day, and it's pleasing to have been there to help with practical and emotional support.

In the pages following, you will read about new technology, shifting attitudes and removing barriers that get in the

way of people who are blind or have low vision doing what they want. You will also find stories about people with sight loss, empowered to do the things they want to in life.

We remain committed to our four strategic priorities: Independent Living; Access for all; Reaching more people and Building a foundation for the future.

With your support, we are changing the game to create a more accessible New Zealand that gives people with sight loss the freedom and independence that is their right.

Thank you to all the Blind Foundation volunteers, supporters and staff who have been part of making a major difference this year for New Zealanders who are blind or have low vision.

Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi.



Sandra Budd
Chief Executive



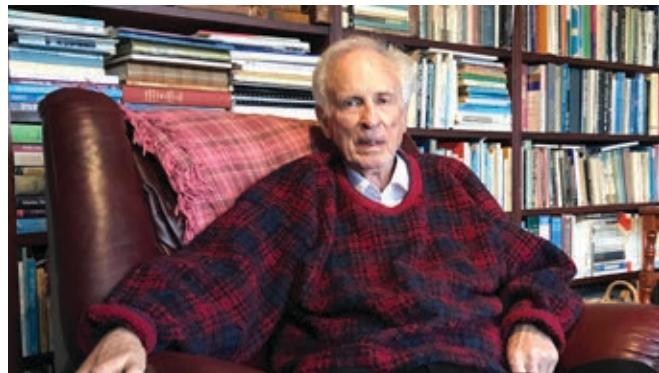
Rick Hoskin
Board Chair

Who we help together

From young ones born with sight difficulties, right through to our oldest generation whose sight has deteriorated with time, every day we help Kiwis who are blind or have low vision find the best ways to do the things they want in life.

People with low vision have limited useful sight, even with their best pair of glasses.

All across New Zealand, from Cape Reinga to Bluff, you help us visit people in their homes to find solutions together. From making cups of tea and doing the washing, reading the news and using a smart phone, to taking the bus to work or study, or connecting in with like-minded others in the community – no goal is too big or too small.



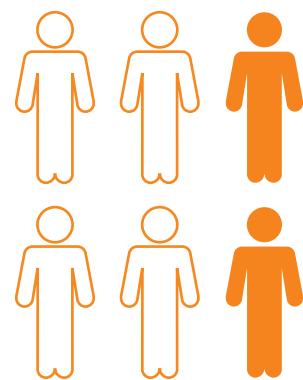
"The tuition I have had has been very caring and I don't know what more I could have asked for." - John (79)



"Using my white cane I strolled to the shops. I'd never had the confidence, since I lost more vision, but I did it... and I'll do it tomorrow too. I felt great." - Jo (90)

One third of the people the Blind Foundation help have Macular disease.

The four most common eye diseases causing blindness and partial sight in New Zealand are age-related macular degeneration (AMD), diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and cataracts.



Over the past year, more people came to us for help. The numbers increased from 3 people every day to 7 people every day.

2017



2018



12,847

Total clients



5,710

Rehabilitation sessions delivered



796

Clients and their families received counselling services



379

Clients received employment support



1,308

Clients received technology support

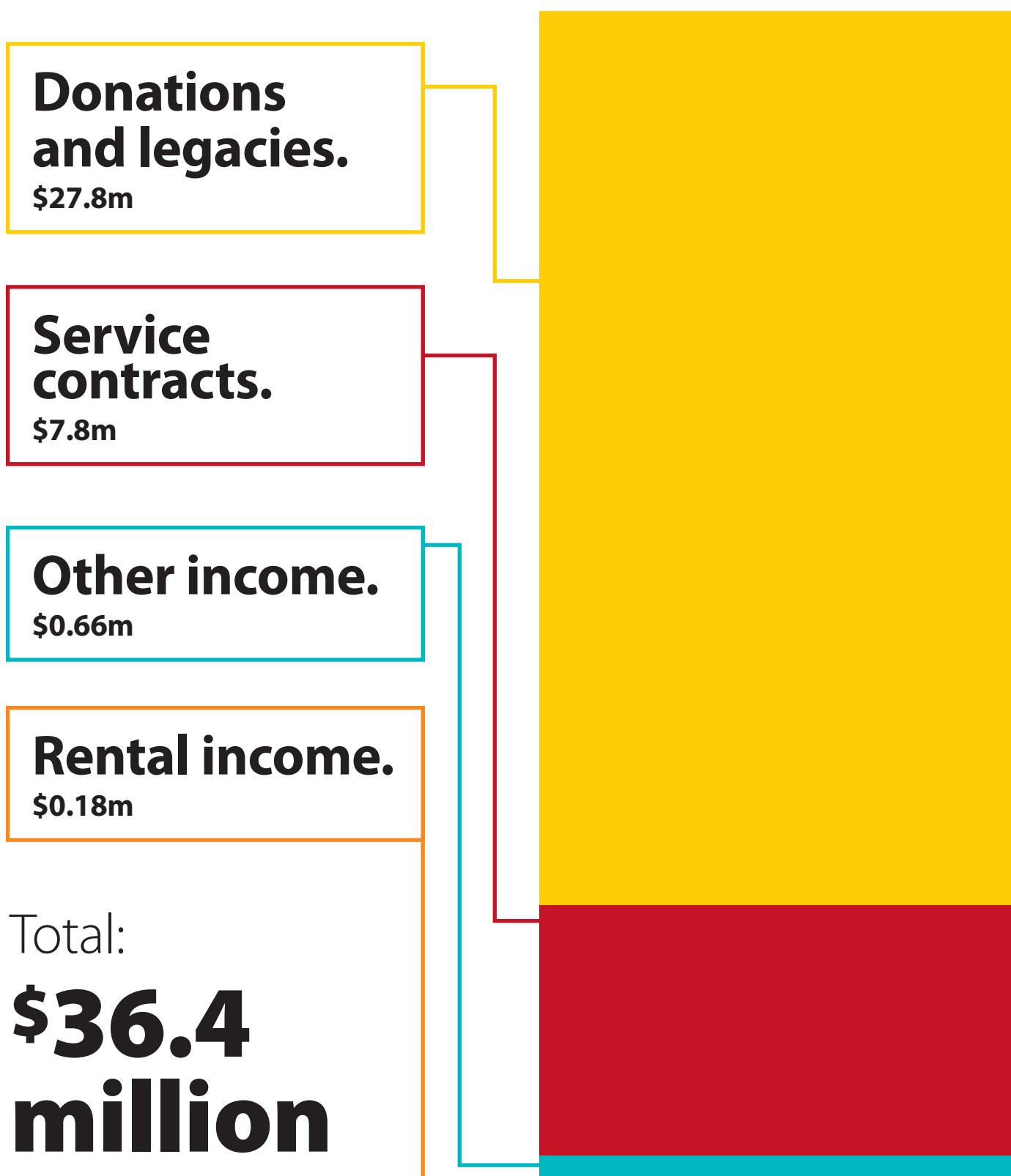


519,098

Talking books and magazines delivered to our library members across NZ.

How we raised our money

With the help of our generous supporters we raised \$36.4 million to support New Zealanders who are blind or have low vision.



How we spent our money

We spent \$30.9 million on services and support for New Zealanders who are blind or have low vision.

Supporting independent living.

Providing practical and emotional support for children, young people, adults and older people who are blind or have low vision so they can live the life they choose. **\$17.1m**

Building a foundation for the future.

We are investing in new ways of delivering services so we can better meet the changing needs of people who are blind or have low vision and the communities they live in. **\$6.2m**

Supporting access for all.

As well as providing accessible news, books and information through our library, we advocate for an inclusive New Zealand so people are able to fully participate in everyday life. **\$4.5m**

Reaching more people.

We raise awareness of blindness and sight loss to help the growing number of New Zealanders losing their sight. **\$2.4m**

Total:
\$30.9 million

Supporting consumer groups and community committees.

We provide financial assistance to organisations that support, engage and advocate for the blind and low vision citizens of New Zealand. **\$0.7m**

Expenditure on services benefiting blind & low vision New Zealanders	\$30.9 million
Expenditure on fundraising	\$6.0 million (16%)
Expenditure on governance and other indirect costs	\$0.4 million
Total expenditure	\$37.3 million

Inspiring Independence

A big part of what we do every year, with your support, is help New Zealanders adjust to sight loss, retain their independence and achieve more than they ever thought possible. We do this by providing practical and emotional support including counselling, helping people learn new adaptive skills for day-to-day living like shopping, cooking, and getting around independently.

Here are just two of the many people we help every year.



Stevi & Halo's story

Thanks to you, the future's looking bright for 21 year old Stevi.

"Having Halo come into my life has been amazing. Without her, every aspect of my life would be so different..."

I was born with a rare eye condition that seriously affects my vision. Before Halo, things were hard. I couldn't go out on my own and I felt very isolated. That changed when Halo came into my life.

The first time I walked to town by myself I was so happy. I had just gone to meet my friend, such a simple thing, but something that I'd never been able to do by myself before. It felt really great, I was so emotional.

Without Halo, I don't know if I would have gone to university. I doubt I would have to be honest. Even though Halo can't do my assessments, just knowing that I have the independence to actually go out whenever I want, gives me the drive to achieve new things.

Having a guide dog makes me feel better about myself.



Stevi with her guide dog Halo.

I adore Halo and her cheeky personality. She works hard and is really compassionate, always tuned in to how I'm feeling and what's going on around us. Halo also loves carrots, which I find very cute."

What a bright future Stevi has ahead of her – with Halo by her side.

Every year, around 100 guide dog puppies are born at the Blind Foundation's breeding centre in Manurewa, Auckland. With support of our expert staff, teams of volunteers, and supporters like you, they train for two years to become guide dogs.

Tom's story

Tom isn't the type of man who asks for help lightly.

Born with only one good eye, he's approached life with a mix of Kiwi courage, humour and optimism. It got him through the war and safely home again to start a business and raise a family.

Tom will tell you it's been a good life. But when he suddenly lost the sight in his good eye and his vision turned into a haze, he sensed his "spark beginning to fade."

"As soon as I contacted the Blind Foundation for help they were brilliant. I've had people who are just absolutely dedicated. Honestly, they should get a medal. Really, they should!"

Blind Foundation specialist staff have been there for Tom right from the beginning.

"I have the confidence to face up to my changing world of darkness now that I have the dedication of an organisation that really cares. They have looked after me, visited me and supplied with me different types of equipment to use."

Being able to still get around with limited vision is particularly important for a social person like Tom. Because of your support we've been able to offer him advice and reassurance about continuing to safely use his mobility scooter. And we're at Tom's side at home too, giving him the tools and helping him adapt to his changing environment.

“

Without the Blind Foundation, life would be a pit of darkness. It would be my problem on my shoulders and that would be it. But now I have people who know all about blindness to share my problem with. There is no greater organisation.

”



Tom on his mobility scooter.

Changing the game with attitudes and access

With your support we are not only able to change the lives of individuals affected by sight loss, we are also wanting New Zealand to do better at taking eye health seriously, and we are advocating for accessible, inclusive communities.

We are committed to making the world a better place for people who are blind or have low vision. We believe people with sight loss should be able to navigate public transport, access the same information available to everyone else, and pursue the career of their dreams, without unnecessary barriers.

The good news is, now more than ever, the opportunities are here to make a real



NZ Bus staff, Blind Foundation trainers, clients and their new guide dogs.

difference by helping to remove barriers and educate New Zealand about how we can embrace an inclusive society, where everyone gets a fair go.

Some highlights from FY18 include:

Exploring the possibilities of voice-controlled smart speakers

Entirely voice operated, a smart speaker has no buttons to push or screens to navigate, making this mainstream technology of great interest to our community.

With support from Internet NZ, we developed the Blind Foundation 'skill' on Amazon Alexa in 2018. Billed as a world-first for a blindness organisation, the Blind Foundation skill gives users instant access to our treasured library of 18,000+ books and magazines.

Many people describe our library as a lifeline, and we are excited to be harnessing this emerging technology to provide another way for people to access the books and magazines they love, and to stay connected with the world around them.

Thank you to Milford Asset Management for their partnership with the Blind Foundation library, and the thousands of New Zealanders whose support enables us to continue to provide the much loved library service.

In 2019 we also opened a new 'accessible hub' in the Dunedin office, funded by the Dr Marjorie Barclay Trust. It demonstrates what smart technology is capable of doing around the home. Inside the room is a smart speaker, linked to other appliances such as blinds, fans and lights, controlled using voice commands.



"What thrilled me about Alexa [the smart speaker] was the speed of the response. The other thing was that I didn't have to push and find buttons. It was just the sheer simplicity and convenience of it all." - Trevor



Progressing access to information with the Marrakesh Treaty

Everyone deserves the right to access the same information and unfortunately, for those who are blind or have low vision, having access to information in a format they can read is a challenge worldwide. Once introduced, the Marrakesh Treaty will make a real difference to the wealth of information people who are blind or have low vision can access.

Access to information is a major barrier: It is estimated that less than 10% of published information generally available is also accessible to those with a print disability.

Over the year, the Blind Foundation and Blind Citizens NZ worked closely with the New Zealand government as it progressed towards ratifying the Marrakesh Treaty.

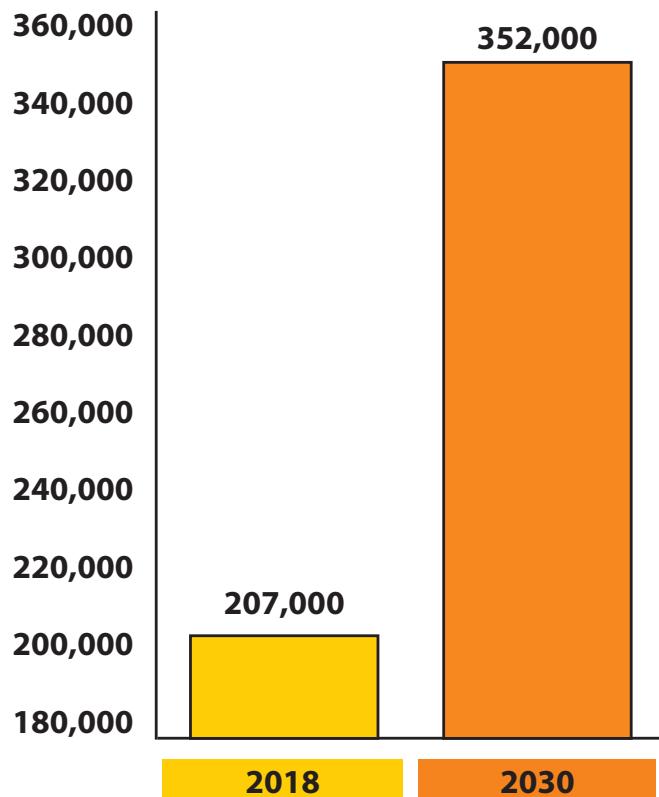
In the information age, unlocking access to information is another way to overcome the challenges people with blindness or low vision often face in education, employment and social inclusion.

The Marrakesh Treaty is an international treaty allowing copyright exceptions for accessible versions of books and other copyrighted works for people with a print disability, and this includes those who are blind or have low vision.

Supporting better access to eye care services in New Zealand

The number of Kiwis with sight loss is rising as our population ages. We also know that 75% of blindness and low vision in New Zealand is avoidable through treatment or prevention.

Being involved in the Eye Health Coalition is one of the ways we're influencing eye health being taken seriously. Made up of eye health professionals, service providers and consumer organisations, we began working collaboratively with parliamentarians and ministry officials to improve access to eye health services for all New Zealanders.



It is estimated the number of people with age-related macular degeneration, the leading cause of blindness in New Zealand, will rise from 207,000 today to 352,000 in 2030 (an increase of 70%).

Supporting businesses to open doors for blind and low vision people

A study across New Zealand, Canada and Australia found people with sight loss are significantly less likely to be employed full time compared to their sighted counterparts. In New Zealand, the full time employment rate of people who are blind or have low vision was 32%.

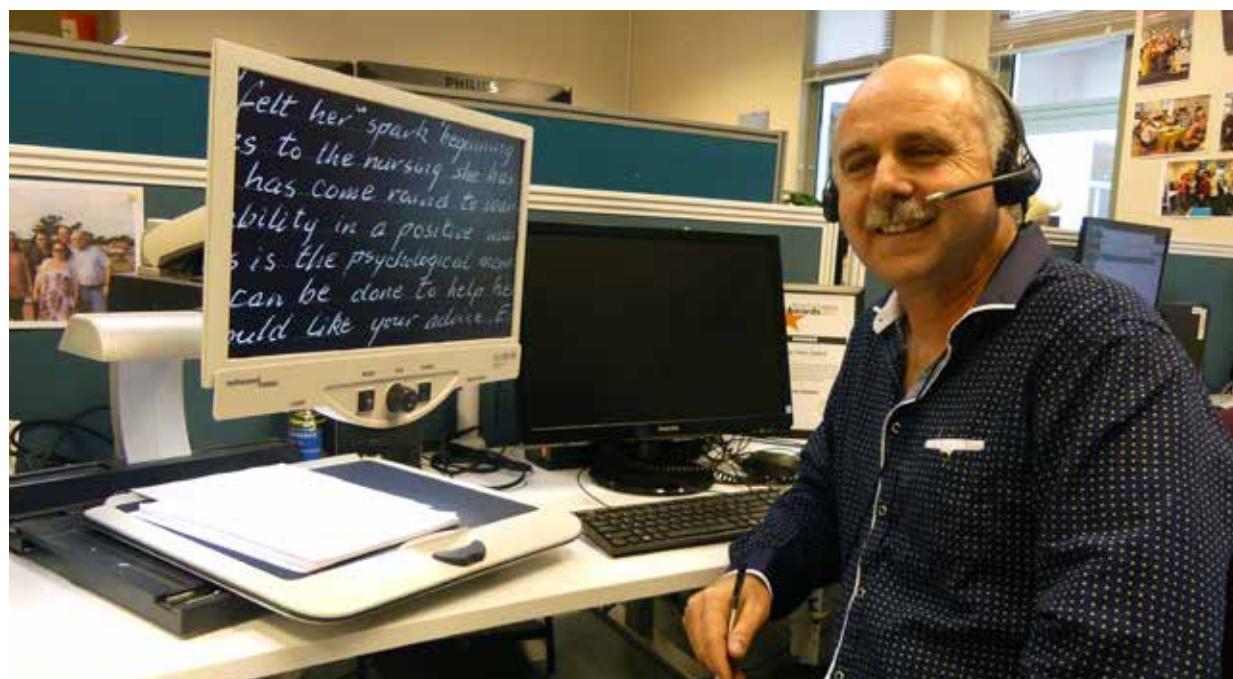
More often than not, the gap around employment of people with disabilities isn't the people themselves – it's how workplaces are setup to include them.

In recognising there is great appetite from New Zealand businesses to be inclusive of people with disabilities, we setup Access Advisors to help

them achieve this.

Access Advisors is just getting started, and has already made waves by showing the impact accessibility can bring to business.

This initiative would not have been possible without your support, and the enthusiasm of businesses to embrace accessibility.



Ivan Dodds takes calls at the Blind Foundation National Contact Centre

Removing access barriers from the top

Ask any Kiwi who is blind or has low vision, or indeed any person with a disability, to tell you a story of when they have faced barriers to doing the things they want to in life. More than likely, they will be able to tell you many.

After gaining commitment to introduce accessibility legislation or accessibility standards from five of the seven parliamentary parties in the 2017 election, the Access Alliance's Access Matters campaign shifted into an exciting phase of working closely with government and policy makers to put

accessibility at the heart of a more inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand. The Blind Foundation has played a leading role in driving this work forward, and in April hosted an event with the Access Alliance's community helping people to share their personal stories about access barriers. These formed a key part of the Access Matters campaign in the following months.

#MyAccessStory



"As a parent with low vision wanting to engage with my son's play and physical development, the playground equipment and park benches scattered through the space, with the exception of the bright red plastic slide, is all a natural wooden theme, leaving no colour contrast between the bark covering the floor of the playground and the play equipment. There is no colour contrast to assist me to map my path through the already busy space." - Dan's Access Story



Dan and his son Benji

Read or share access stories at accessalliance.org.nz

Getting involved with our communities

Bringing people together and helping one another is at the heart of what we do at the Blind Foundation. Whether it be kind-hearted volunteers supporting people in their community or participating in fundraising events, people who are blind or have low vision coming together over regular coffee groups (or something more adventurous), or anyone with an interest in advocating for a more inclusive New Zealand – there is plenty going on in communities.

The following pages provide a snapshot of some of the activities happening in our communities over the year.



Ocean Stephens outside the Guide Dogs tent, with CEO Sandra Budd, her partner Craig and Guide Dog Jj, after completing the Auckland half marathon



A group of blind and low vision horse riders set out for a trek



After completing the Auckland Marathon, runners posed for a photo with one of our guide dogs



A community event raises funds for Blind Foundation Guide Dogs



A tandem bike team biking the Motukarara rail trail



Jessica Caine and her adorable baby Summer & family collecting for Blind Week



Invercargill support group on an outing for lunch in Riverton



Marathon runners supported team Guide Dogs at the Auckland Marathon



Our puppy mascot Marvel greets school kids



Walking group members check out an art installation at Christchurch Botanical Gardens



Cheerful volunteers at the Retina International World Congress



Lions Club members Doug and Ian with coordinator Gloria Scanlon collecting for Blind Week



Christchurch client Fiona Kennedy and her kokedama at an arts and crafts workshop



A group of people came together in Wellington for their local Access for All advocacy workshop



Every monday a group meet in Parnell, Auckland to go on a walk together and chat about life



Zombies chased our clients in a Run for your Feck'n Life event at Spookers Haunted Attraction Scream Park in Auckland



Children challenged themselves at the Blind Foundation 2018 Kids Camp

Thank you to our wonderful supporters

We are extremely grateful to all our generous supporters, whose kindness enables people who are blind or have low vision, to be self-reliant and to live the life they choose. Many amazing people made a lasting impact by remembering the Blind Foundation in their will. This is a unique gift that leaves a lasting legacy.

We thank each of you for sharing our vision of a life without limits.

2degrees

Acorn Foundation

Air New Zealand

Auckland Council

Bruce D Picot

Carlisle Jones

Carolyn Rogers

Christchurch Earthquake Recovery Trust (CERT)

Colin and Audrey Wapp

Community Trust of Southland

Cookie Time Ltd

Daphne Anderson

Dorothy M Cutts

Dunedin City Council

Eric and Beverley Wright

Estate of Lesley Alcock

Estate of Mr Alan Douglas Harvey

Estate of Pamela Benjamin

Estate of Phyllis Power

Four Winds Foundation Limited

Gary Lane

Goodman Fielder New Zealand Limited

Gordon Roberts Charitable Trust

Grumitt Sisters Charitable Trust

Helen Miller

Hilda Bottomley Charitable Trust

Hill's Pet Nutrition (NZ) Ltd

Hudson Gavin Martin

Hugh Anderson Charitable Trust

Hugh Green Foundation

Hyundai New Zealand	Mike and Ann Thompson
Internet NZ	Milford Asset Management
J A Macpherson Charitable Trust	Mr and Mrs Montgomery
J.B.W. McKenzie Charitable Trust	N H Taylor Charitable Trust
Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust	N R Thomson Charitable Trust
Jacqui Kelly, in memory of Marcel Oats	Nelson Pine Industries
JDS Roberts Charitable Trust	New World St Martins
John Beresford Swan Dudding Trust	Nikau Foundation
John Ilott Charitable Trust	Olive Walker
Jones Foundation	Pamela Maling Memorial Trust
L W Nelson Charitable Trust	Perpetual Guardian
Lake Memorial Trust	Peter and Glenda Booth, in memory of Gail Price
Lane Capital Group	Peter Jones and Wendy McFadyen
Le Va	Public Trust
Lindsay Foundation	Quality Hotel Parnell
Liz Marriott	QuickCircuit Limited
Lottery Grants Board	Rata Foundation
Marilyn Hoggard	Ray Watts Charitable Trust
Marlborough District Council	Reed Charitable Trust
Marsh Family Trust	Room-Simmonds Charitable Trust
Maureen Mayne	S M O'Connor
Maurice Paykel Charitable Trust	Taumarunui Opportunity Shop

Taupo District Council

Te Pou o Te Whakaaro Nui

Tennyson Charitable Trust

The Dr Marjorie Barclay Trust

The Fred Ruddenklau Charitable Trust

The Irvine Trust

The Kingdom Foundation

The Law Foundation New Zealand

**The Owen and John Whitfield No 1 Fund
Charitable Trust**

**The Owen and John Whitfield No 2 Fund
Charitable Trust**

The Southern Trust

The Trusts Community Foundation Inc

**The Victoria League For Commonwealth
Friendship Canterbury**

Thomas George Macarthy Trust

Timaru Construction Ltd

Trillian Trust Inc

Trust Waikato

Una and John Kennedy Trust

William Downie Stewart Charitable Trust

Win Skellerup Charitable Trust

Zena & Jack Peat Charitable Trust



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