

May 2026

HAVE A HEART AUTUMN PĀNUI



Nau mai haere mai, kia ora and welcome to Have a Heart Charitable Trust's Autumn Pānui (Newsletter).

As the seasons shift and we move into the cooler months, we take a moment to reflect on the warmth of community, connection, and compassion that continues to drive our mahi. At Have a Heart Charitable Trust, we remain committed to supporting individuals and whānau through meaningful initiatives, shared stories, and collective care.

In this edition, we're excited to share updates on our recent activities, highlight the impact of your ongoing support, and look ahead to what's coming next. Thank you for being part of our journey—your aroha makes all the difference.

Have a Heart Food Hub, Whare Kai Expands to Serve Community Better

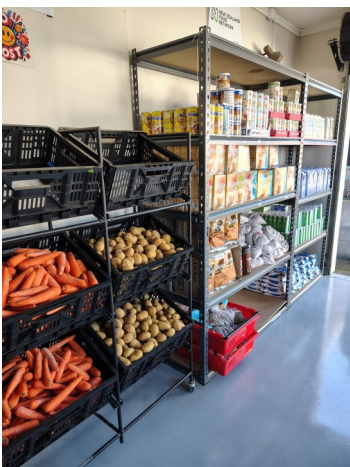
Exciting things are happening at the Whakatāne Have a Heart Food Hub! We're thrilled to share that we've recently expanded into an additional room, dedicated entirely to our no-cost items. This change means we now have *heaps* more space to increase our range of low-cost products, making it even easier for our community to access affordable essentials.

Our refreshed layout officially launched on **3rd March**, and we celebrated in style with a sausage sizzle and a discounted coffee cart—bringing people together to mark this positive step forward.

The Food Hub continues to offer a wide variety of products at low prices, including food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and other everyday essentials. This expansion allows us to better meet the needs of individuals and whānau, ensuring everyone can shop with dignity and choice.

We're open **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10am–2pm**, and we warmly welcome anyone in the community to come along and see the new space.

Come check it out—we'd love to see you there!



Have a Heart Expo & Family Festival Brings Community Together

On 21st March 2026, the Have a Heart Expo and Family Festival transformed into a vibrant celebration of connection, support, and community spirit. With an incredible turnout of approximately 2,800 attendees, the event highlighted the strength and unity of people coming together for a shared purpose.

The Expo featured 26 social organisations, each offering valuable resources, services, and opportunities for engagement. From health and wellbeing support to community initiatives and family services, attendees were able to explore a wide range of support networks all in one place.

Families enjoyed a lively festival atmosphere, with activities, entertainment, and opportunities to connect in a welcoming and inclusive environment. The event not only provided practical support but also fostered meaningful conversations and relationships among community members.

The strong attendance and enthusiastic participation reflect the growing need for accessible community spaces where people can learn, connect, and feel supported. The Have a Heart Expo continues to play an important role in bridging organisations and the community they serve.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all participating organisations, volunteers, and attendees who made the day such a success. Together, we are building a more connected and compassionate community.





Kawerau Food Hub Opens Its Doors

We're excited to share the opening of our newest community initiative — the **Kawerau Food Hub - Te Pātaka**, launched in collaboration with **Tūwharetoa Hauora**.

Located at **5 Bledisloe Street**, this new hub follows the same successful model as our Whakatāne site, offering accessible food support in a welcoming, community-led environment — just on a smaller scale.

The doors officially opened on **16 April 2026**, with around **50 people** coming along to show their support. It was a fantastic turnout and a strong reflection of the community spirit in Kawerau.

Here's what you need to know:

- ◆ **Open Wednesdays, 10am–2pm**
- ◆ **No referrals or bookings needed** — just come along
- ◆ The **Whare Kai is based in the garage** and run by dedicated local volunteers
- ◆ While the space is smaller than Whakatāne, you'll still find **all your favourite best-sellers**

This new hub is an important step in making good food more accessible to the Kawerau community, and we're grateful to everyone who helped bring it to life.

We look forward to seeing you there!



**Tūwharetoa
ki Kawerau
Hauora**

Supporting our Community Through Pataka Kai

At Have a Heart Food Hub, we are proud to support 18 Pātaka Kai throughout our community, helping ensure that food is accessible to those who need it most. These community food-sharing pantries play an important role in reducing food insecurity and encouraging people to support one another.

One of the Pātaka Kai initiatives we proudly support is **Koha ki Kawerau**. This dedicated non-profit organisation works tirelessly to assist underprivileged families in Kawerau by providing emergency food packs and practical support during times of need. Through the generosity of donors, volunteers, and community partners, Koha ki Kawerau continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of many local families.

Together, we are helping to build stronger, more connected communities where no one has to face hardship alone.

A message from Koha ki Kawerau:

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share how Have a Heart donations have made a huge impact with supporting our community in Kawerau.

We gladly receive essentials from Have a Heart once a fortnight, this is an immense help to us.

Last year we supported 646 Food packages (valued roughly \$80 per pack) to our community, donations came from a range of organizations as Have a Heart to be put biggest supplier for Koha ki Kawerau to date.

We have been able to distribute packages that source a breakfast meal, lunch and a dinner meal—a much needed blessing to our underprivileged families.

We will keep distributing these essentials because we have the ongoing support from Have a Heart and other organization collectively.

We appreciate picking up every fortnight and always look forward to sending the packages out every week.

Thank you Chris and the team at Have a Heart for everything you do for your wider communities.

Kindest Regards

Rowena Andrews

Director of Koha ki Kawerau”





**our
community
store**







One-Year Re-Open Fashion Show *Celebration!*

Join us on **27 July at 12pm** as we celebrate another year of giving back, sustainability, and pure heart at Have A Heart – Our Community Store, 50 King Street, Kopeopeo, Whakatāne.

Enjoy a unique fashion show featuring pre-loved style with purpose.

Your \$10 ticket includes:

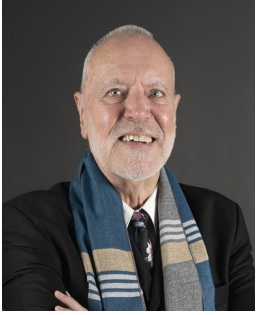
-  A light snack & drink
-  Clothing discounts for attendees
-  Two food hampers up for grabs
-  Bring a friend and get an extra entry into the lucky draw!

Tickets available in store or at the Have A Heart office, 8 Merritt Street.



For more information, email:
info@haveaheart.org.nz

Meet our Board Members:



Chris Barnard:

Chris Barnard founded the Have a Heart Charitable Trust out of a deep conviction that no person should feel forgotten, excluded, or left to struggle alone. As a minister, community leader, and lifelong advocate for vulnerable people, Chris has spent more than four decades serving at the grassroots level, bringing people together around compassion, dignity, and practical care. His vision for Have a Heart is not simply to give things away, but to build a community where people feel they belong, where their dignity is protected, and where they are invited to participate in creating solutions together. This vision

has shaped the development of the Have a Heart Food Hub, community pantries, family events, food rescue, and partnerships across the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Chris often says that the heart of Have a Heart is about “connecting people with people.” Through his leadership, the Trust continues to grow as a place of welcome, kindness, and hope — where everyone has something to give, and no one is excluded.



Peter Cameron:

I spent my working career on our sheep and beef farm near Morrinsville. We sold the farm in 2004, Marian and I moved to Ohope.

When Rev Chris Barnard suggested starting Have a Heart, the late Jack Christian and I were 2 of the foundation members.

For several years the Ohope Church organized the sausage sizzle at the Expo. This has become a large event with many groups and charities taking part.

The Trust has grown during the last 10 years and helps cater for many people in the area, with food. Since moving from the Waikato, I've enjoyed family, gardening, our friendship club, Church and an interest in all sport.



Marian Cameron:

I fully support the help and encouragement in our local community, having grown up in a minister household, where everybody who came to our door was made to feel welcome. We were there to help if we could. I feel this is the same about Have A Heart. Since the beginning when Chris shared his vision about it I continue to feel inspired and encouraged about all we have achieved during this time. There was no way we could have done what we have so far without the blessings from our loving

father God. Allowing ourselves to continue to grow despite the setbacks finding ways forward rather than spending time on regrets from the past. This is one of the things I particularly like about Have A Heart, becoming more loving and kind in our responses so that the people and our community want to know more about God.



Jurgens Wessels:

I was born in South Africa in the town Bethal on the Eastern Highfields. My family was famers in the area. I am happily married to Maria, and we have 3 adult boys. We are nearing 18 years in NZ, all the time in and around Whakatane.

I have been involved with the Have a Heart trust from the start as a founding member. To be part of the trust is for me: a call back to the fundamentals of being a Christian. No religion just Christianity by being the love of Jesus to others.

Exciting and challenging times are waiting for the trust in the future; but we have the Creator of the universe to guide us. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.



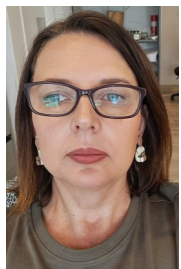
Philip Vermaak:

At the inception of the Trust I was very keen to be on the board to offer my skills as it's objectives met my desires to serve the community. It also matched my beliefs as a Christian.



John Boyd:

I am a member of Have a Heart Trust Board. I am married and have three sons. I own Greenfingers Nurseries supplying seedling plants to help folks grow their own food, my hobbies are gardening and music. I am currently organist for Ohope Presbyterian Church. I enjoy being a board member of have a Heart Trust and seeing the help it provides to grow our community.



Maria Wessels:

Maria serves as the Administrator and Event Coordinator for Have a Heart Charitable Trust, where she plays a key role in supporting the Trust's daily operations and organising community events that bring people together for meaningful causes. In addition to her staff role, Maria is also the Secretary of the Board. She is passionate about supporting the Trust's mission and helping create positive outcomes for the community.



Viv Anderson:

I have spent the past 25 years working for non-profit organisations in the area of finance and accounts.

I enjoy being part of a Have A Heart as it does work that is of real value to people in the community by meeting the needs of people right where they are, no fuss, no dramas.

I live in Kawerau and love the freedom of working from home. Most afternoons you will find me wandering by the river with my dog or happily getting dirty out in the garden.



Charlie Maru:

Born in Rotorua but soon moved to Whakatane. To me, I am from Whakatane.

With 26 years experience in the Security industry, based in Auckland, I have gained a lot of experience with not only business, but with working with people as well. I pride myself on teamwork, communication, and building great relationships with the people I work with.

I am grateful to be working at Have A Heart. I bring my experience to Have A Heart and am enjoying the challenges this role gives me.



Anne Overton:

Anne leads the Community Relations Team for Presbyterian Support Northern and has been involved in several community-led development initiatives, such as Communities Feeding Communities and Just Stories. Her role involves working closely with Presbyterian churches and the Presbyterian Church Schools in the Northern region of the North Island to inspire them to develop initiatives and advocate for food security and other social justice issues.

Beef Meat Meal Packs: A Story of Provision, Partnership, and Reimagined Neighbourliness Have a Heart Food Hub - Whare Kai

One of the most important and highly valued food items at the Have a Heart Food Hub is meat. For many families who are doing it tough, meat is not simply another grocery item; it is a source of nutrition, strength, dignity, and care. When families are struggling to put food on the table, a good meal that includes quality protein makes a meaningful difference.

Our beef mince meal packs have become one of the most welcomed and sought-after supports we provide. They offer families the ability to prepare a wholesome, nutritious meal at a very affordable price, while maintaining the dignity of choice and participation.

A Long Journey Toward Compliance and Permission

The ability to distribute meat through the Food Hub did not happen quickly or easily. It took more than two years of collaboration, negotiation, and careful discussion with the appropriate authorities to find a lawful and responsible way forward.

The challenge is that meat slaughtered and prepared through home-kill butcheries cannot be sold unless it is verified and certified by a meat inspector. For us in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, the closest available meat inspector is in Te Puke, which creates a significant barrier for local farmers and for community-based food distribution.

Because of these requirements, we have been very careful not to sell donated home-kill meat. Instead, we developed a model that allows us to provide a nutritious meal pack while remaining within the permissions and guidance available to us.

How the Meal Pack Model Works

Local farmers donate a beast, often one that has been injured and would otherwise become a loss on the farm. Toby from Pains Home Kill Butchery has generously agreed to work with us by processing the meat into 1kg or 500g packs of mince.

The Food Hub pays the processing cost, which is currently **\$5 per kilogram**.

Because we are not permitted to sell the meat itself, we prepare and sell a vegetable meal pack for **\$15**, consisting of:

- Potatoes
- Onions
- Carrots

A quarter slice of pumpkin

We then add **1kg of mince at no additional cost**.

This model allows us to cover the cost of processing the donated meat and purchasing the vegetables, while still ensuring that families receive a generous, nutritious meal pack at a price they can afford.

It also protects the dignity of those who come to the Food Hub. They are not simply receiving charity; they are participating, choosing, paying what they can, and taking home food, they can feel good about providing for their family.

The Vulnerability in the System

While this model has been deeply effective, it also carries a significant vulnerability: we have become dependent on injured beasts being donated.

There are seasons when farmers do not have animals available. During those times, our freezer runs dry. When this happens, we are forced to purchase mince elsewhere, often at a much higher price, making it difficult to pass on affordable food to our customers.

Two weeks ago, we reached one of those critical moments. We had completely run out of meat. Even worse, we could not find mince at a reasonable enough price to include in our meal packs. For families who rely on these packs, this was not a small issue. It meant the loss of one of the most nutritious and valued food supports we provide.

A Timely Community Response

Faced with this situation, we knew we had to make a plan.

I began speaking with farmers, asking whether there might be a beast available for us to purchase and have processed. I was unsure where to begin, but then I felt prompted to speak with my faithful friend, **Dave Wardlaw**, who has supported numerous Have a Heart projects over the years.

Almost casually, I asked him, “By the way, Dave, you don’t happen to have any cows for sale?”

He did not. But I asked if he would speak to some of his farming connections on our behalf.

At first, Dave was hesitant. He felt there probably would not be much available at this time of year.

Nevertheless, he agreed to check with some of his farming friends.

The very next day, Dave phoned me with wonderful news. He had negotiated two beasts through his son-in-law **Stefan** and his daughter **Rachel**.

It came at exactly the right time.

Dave and I both exclaimed together, “**God is great.**”

More Than Meat: A Sign of Community Provision

This story is about more than beef mince.

It is about the kind of community we are trying to build.

At Have a Heart, we believe that the community has the capacity to serve and support the community. We believe that when people become aware of genuine need, many are willing to respond with generosity, practical help, and open-hearted neighbourliness.

Dave’s willingness to ask, and Stefan and Rachel’s willingness to provide, became a powerful example of this.

Their generosity did not simply fill a freezer. It strengthened families. It restored meal packs. It encouraged our volunteers. It reminded us again that this work is not carried by one person or one organisation alone.

It is carried by relationships.

It is carried by trust.

It is carried by the shared belief that those who are flourishing can stand alongside those who are struggling, not with pity, but with practical love.

Reimagining Neighbourliness

This is at the heart of the Have a Heart vision: to reimagine neighbourliness.

Neighbourliness is not only about living next to one another. It is about recognising one another’s needs and responding where we can. It is about farmers, butchers, volunteers, donors, families, and community members all playing their part.

The beef mince meal packs are a simple but powerful example of this vision in action.

A farmer donates or makes a beast available.

A butcher processes the meat.

The Food Hub prepares the vegetables.

Volunteers pack and distribute the meals.

Families take home food with dignity.

The community is strengthened.

This is not charity in its weakest sense. This is community participation. This is practical compassion. This is dignity preserved through partnership.

The Need Going Forward

The recent shortage has reminded us that we need to strengthen and stabilise this part of our Food Hub operation.

While donated injured beasts have been a great blessing, we cannot depend on them alone. To keep providing affordable meat meal packs, we need to develop a more reliable supply pathway.

This may include:

- Building stronger relationships with local farmers
- Creating a dedicated meat-processing fund
- Seeking sponsors for the purchase of beasts when donations are not available
- Developing a reserve supply so the freezer does not run dry
- Continuing to work with trusted butchers and suppliers

Inviting the wider community to participate in this practical food-security solution

The need is real. The demand is strong. The impact is immediate.

When meat is available, families eat better. They stretch their budgets further. They feel supported. They feel seen.

Conclusion

The provision of two beasts through Dave, Stefan, and Rachel came at a critical moment. It was timely, generous, and deeply encouraging.

For Have a Heart, this story captures the essence of what we are trying to do: to bring people together around practical needs, to protect dignity, to strengthen families, and to create a community where no one is excluded.

We are grateful for every farmer, every butcher, every volunteer, every donor, and every supporter who helps make this possible.

Together, we are not simply distributing food.

We are nourishing families.

We are restoring dignity.

We are strengthening community.

We are reimagining neighbourliness.



The Heart of Have a Heart: Celebrating Our Volunteers

At Have a Heart Charitable Trust, everything we do is powered by people who care. Behind every programme, every conversation, and every moment of support is a volunteer choosing to show up for someone else. In this Pānui, we want to shine a light on the incredible individuals who make our work possible.

Volunteering is often described as “giving back,” but for many of our volunteers, it’s also about connection, purpose, and community. Whether it’s offering a listening ear, helping organise events, supporting outreach, or working behind the scenes, our volunteers bring compassion and energy into every space they enter.

What makes our volunteer community so special is its diversity. People from all walks of life come together with a shared goal: to make a meaningful difference. Some can offer a few hours a week, others step in when needed, and many have been with us for years—growing alongside the Trust and helping shape its journey.

This quarter, we’ve seen volunteers go above and beyond. From stepping up during busy periods to supporting new initiatives, their dedication has ensured that we continue to reach those who need us most. Their kindness doesn’t just impact the people we serve—it strengthens the entire community around us.

We also recognise that volunteering is a two-way relationship. We are committed to supporting our volunteers, providing opportunities to learn, grow, and feel valued. Because when our volunteers feel supported, they are empowered to continue making a difference.

To all our volunteers: thank you. Your time, your empathy, and your willingness to stand alongside others is at the very core of Have a Heart. You are not just helping—you are creating change.

If you’ve ever considered volunteering with us, we warmly invite you to join this community of care. Together, we can continue building a future where everyone feels seen, supported, and valued.



Thank You to Our Funders and Sponsors

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the generous funders and sponsors who continue to stand alongside Have a Heart Charitable Trust. Your support is more than financial—it is a powerful vote of confidence in our mission and in the communities we serve.

Because of you, we are able to reach more individuals and families, provide meaningful support, and create lasting impact where it is needed most. Every programme delivered, every life touched, and every step forward is made possible through your partnership.

We are deeply grateful for your ongoing commitment and belief in our work. Together, we are building stronger, more connected communities—and we couldn't do it without you.



Help Us:

Do you know you can be a silent partner of Have a Heart Charitable Trust? By making financial contributions toward projects or an ongoing monthly donation towards the overall goals of the Trust. All donations are tax deductible.

Join Us:

Become a working partner – volunteering and being part of the project team. Share your skills on the projects that you wish to support. Contact us for more information or to join the team.

Contact us:



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Have a Heart Charitable Trust



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