

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

300 Market St South
Hastings 4122
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P.O Box 494
Hastings 4156
www.standrewshastings.org.nz



10 July 2025

Dear Doner,

It has been some time since we have been in touch and I am wanting to update you on where we have landed post cyclone. Firstly though, I want to take this opportunity to thank you once again for the money that you generously donated to St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Hastings following the devastation that Cyclone Gabrielle.

Initially the money was spent operating genLend, the initiative we quickly created post cyclone, that was a lending library of generators, bobcats and diggers etc. The genLend operation has now been handed over to the Stortford Lodge Rotary Club, here in Hastings (including six generators) for them to roll out when the need arises.

During the eighteen months (post cyclone) funds were given to families, schools, community groups and organisations as the needs presented themselves including \$10,000 to Weave (formerly the Napier Family Centre) to fund a counsellor in Wairoa two days a week.

We also partnered with two women from the Village Baptist Church in Havelock North and created Bridging Hawkes Bay. Trained volunteers went out two by two to cyclone affected areas offering baking as koha and an icebreaker to begin a conversation of listening and simply being there. This went well for a season but was very small. We planned to grow this important work, and we employed a Community Minister half time to run this. Sadly, just a few months in, she died suddenly.

After this, St Andrews decided to wind down Bridging Hawkes Bay. An important part of this process was discerning where the remainder of the money should be redistributed. Knowing that the impact of the cyclone was continuing to affect people more than two years on, we wanted the money to go to organisations that were working in this space.

We have now directed \$100,000 to Weave who work throughout Hawkes Bay from Wairoa through to Porangahou providing mental health including individual and group-based therapy as well as financial health support.

Weave started out as the Napier Family Centre and was founded forty years ago by the inner-city churches of Napier (including St Pauls Presbyterian Church) who recognised the need for greater support for local families. Their research revealed whānau facing severe social pressures, isolation, and hardship. In response, Napier Family Centre was born, offering budgeting support, family assistance, and early childhood programmes. For many, it

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became a lifeline, creating opportunities for tamariki to grow and thrive. Now that it has grown beyond the geographical boundaries of Napier, it has been rebranded as Weave. See <https://weavehb.org.nz> for more information

A further \$90,000 was given to the Manawa Ora Trust to assist with ongoing peer support and practical support of cyclone affected whānau. This includes a rent to own tiny home initiative and counselling sessions.

The Manawa Ora Trust grew out of Bay Vineyard Church. They are a community trust with a wraparound approach to help whānau look after themselves, strengthen relationships, and gain knowledge and skills to thrive. For more information see: <https://manawaorahbt.org/>

We are so heartened by the work that both Weave and the Manawa Ora Trust are doing and are thrilled to be able pass these financial resources on to each so they can continue this important mahi with those whose lives were turned upside down by the cyclone.

We thank you once again for your generosity, which has contributed to so much care and love being offered to those who were affected.

Yours sincerely

Rev. Jill McDonald
St Andrews Hastings