



ANNUAL REPORT FROM CHAIRPERSON

9 September 2022

Tūtawa mai i runga
Tūtawa mai i raro
Tūtawa mai i roto
Tūtawa mai i waho
Kia tau ai te mauri tū
Te mauri ora ki te katoa
Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e

Come forth from above,
below, within, and from the environment
Vitality and wellbeing for all
Strengthened in unity

Tena koutou katoa,

Welcome to the annual report of the Fifeshire Foundation for 2021-22.

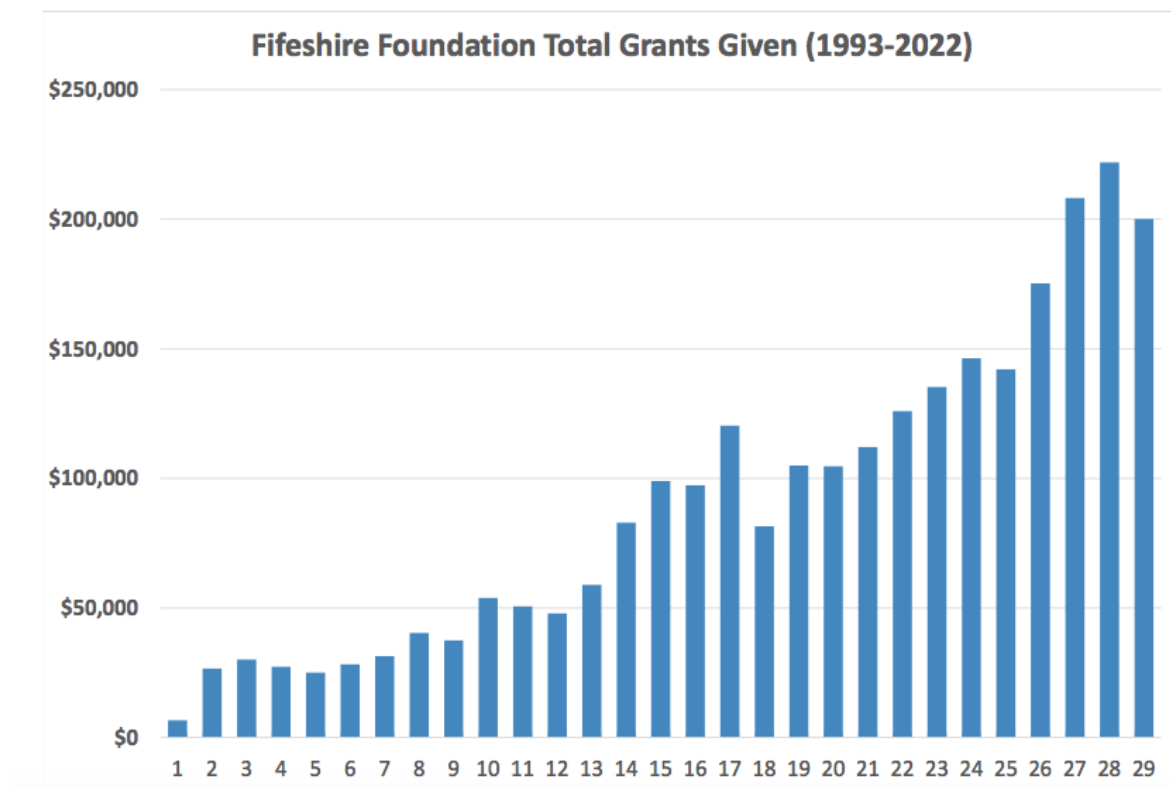
Since 1993 the Fifeshire Foundation's aim has been to help people in crisis and hardship. As a local charity looking after local people all our funds are raised and distributed in the Nelson/Tasman region. For funders, we aim to be the local 'charity of choice', and for grant applicants, we aim to be 'locals looking out for locals', through trusted relationships with partner agencies and personalised handling of all applications.

The Current Climate

This year has witnessed a worrying continuation of recent trends in the rise of social and economic hardship in our community. The emergence of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 in early 2022 finally breached New Zealand's previously strong defences, bringing the pandemic into our homes and workplaces, causing widespread illness and disrupting employment. At the same time rapidly rising inflation, the ongoing housing crisis, and recent floods have further strained already tight household budgets, and highlighted vulnerabilities among particular groups in our community. Sustained high employment rates have blunted the worst effects of the downturn for in-work households, but for people who live on benefits, and, increasingly, even those in employment, the current conditions have shredded the safety net, tipping more people into crisis and hardship. The effects of this are evident in the recent rise in applications to the Foundation.

Grants

The Fifeshire Foundation's primary purpose is to gather and distribute funds to people in need in the Nelson/Tasman region. Our ability to do this is demonstrated in the following chart:

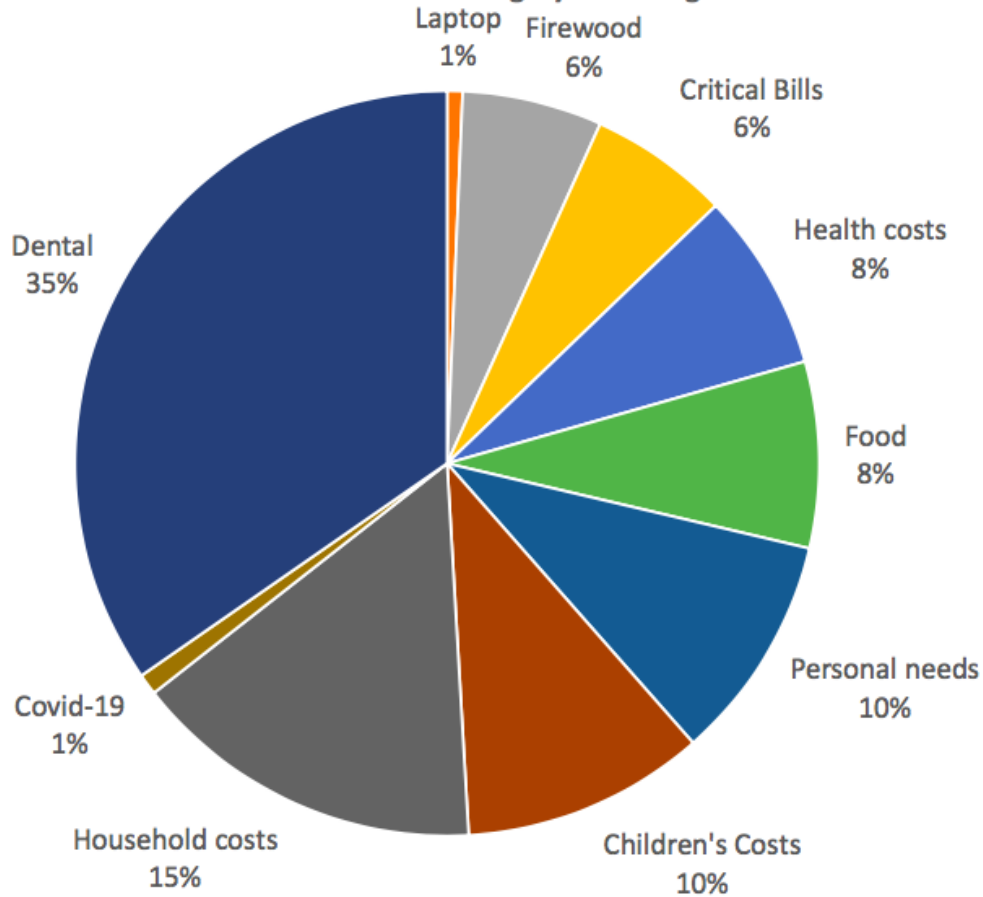


Over 29 years our allocation of grants has risen from a few thousand dollars annually, to around \$200,000. In 2021-2022 we allocated exactly \$200,000 in grants to 318 applications, supporting approximately 670 people. This is slightly lower than the \$233,000 distributed in the 2020-2021 year, the difference being largely due to the additional funding received and distributed through our Covid emergency fund last year.

The distribution of allocated funds is shown in the pie chart below. Continuing the trend of recent years, emergency dental was the largest single category of grants, claiming 35%, or around \$70,000, of our monthly allocations. The rising number of applications for emergency dental treatment, and the extremely high cost of these applications compared to other needs, is a source of ongoing concern and discussion for the Foundation. With the non-renewal of specific targeted funding for dental that we received from the PHO and Manuka Street Charitable Trust in previous years, our trustees agreed in 2021 to place a temporary cap of \$30,000 on dental funding until we could find a better solution. We have been able to exceed that cap and still remain within our budgeted monthly allocation of grants due to lower applications for other goods and services in some months. This does nothing to resolve the issue of how we will respond to rising dental needs in future, nor does it begin to address the long-term crisis in dental care within our community, and nationwide.

As a note, we have been greatly supported in our decision-making around dental grants this year by Kate Neill, a retired dentist, who reviews our monthly dental applications and advises on clinical matters. Thank you, Kate.

Fifeshire Foundation Grants Given Category Percentages 2021-22



Other significant funding categories are household costs (including appliances, beds, power bills, rent support), children's costs (including car seats, school uniforms and other school costs, fees for special programmes, assessments for learning needs), health costs (doctors' bills, medical equipment) and food.

The dollar sums are only a surface feature of the support provided by the Foundation. Beneath each application is a rich story of care for our grant applicants and recipients, both directly from our staff and trustees, and through our network of support agencies. Through emails, phone calls and face-to-face conversations, in home deliveries and followups, we personalise support and build relationships with our people. For some applicants who are isolated we become a significant social contact, and a few 'regular' clients may view the Foundation almost as whānau.

The Big Give

A highlight of the 2021-22 year was the annual Christmas Appeal – The Fife shire Foundation Big Give. This year the Fife shire Foundation Big Give raised over \$60,000 in donations and countless more in the value of donated gifts and vouchers, helping 400 families. We are grateful to our sponsors, particularly our key partner, Milestone Homes, and to Nelson City Council for allowing staff to take time off work to assist the Big Give. I also congratulate Leanne Churchill on her superb organisation and delivery of the 2021 Big Give. As her final major project for the Fife shire Foundation it was a tribute to her vision and skill.

Strategic Review

Throughout 2021 the Foundation conducted a detailed review, that affirmed the original goals in our Deed of Trust and reshaped these in four strategic objectives:

- To alleviate crisis and hardship through the collection and distribution of funds
- To advocate for the elimination of social inequality
- To increase our partnership with regional agencies, organisations and local authorities
- To be a high-performance organisation with structures and systems well suited to our purpose

The objectives are guided in a three-year strategic plan, defining specific actions and outcomes. The new strategic plan aims to address pressure points that had emerged in recent years, and be a path towards our vision for the Foundation.

One pressure point was in the Foundation's organisational capacity, where a single contracted manager role had become insufficient to meet the current workload, much less our expectations for future development. We resolved this problem by creating two new part-time roles; a Kaiwhakahaere (Executive Officer) and Kaiwhakarite (Programme Director). Establishing these positions has been a major focus in 2022, and I am pleased to report we have outstanding employees in both positions, who are now settled in their roles and beginning to address our strategic vision. Moving from contractor to employee status required a major revision of our employment practices, and I note the significant and ongoing work of our HR and Finance committees to ensure we fulfil all our responsibilities as a good employer.

A further improvement to our operational capacity has been the refinement of our committee structure. With three standing committees (finance, human resources and applications) we are making smarter use of our trustees' time and capabilities and sharpening our reporting processes. Our move to quarterly meetings of the full board may, I believe, be still regarded as a trial, and should be reviewed before the end of 2022.

Like any strategic plan, we must be diligent in attending to the actions that will move us towards our goals. It is easy for immediate needs and regular tasks to occupy all our attention, but we must regularly give time in committee meetings and staff timetables to prioritise long-term goals. This is often more challenging work, that requires us all to engage at a deeper level: to think through problems, design strategies, test these with other stakeholders and implement.

We intend to hold a strategic plan review meeting towards the end of 2022, and I recommend this becomes an annual fixture.

Trustees

Our strategic review has, I believe, allowed us to make better use of the talents of our trustees through a degree of specialisation within the new committee structure. Trustees can be more selective about which areas of the Foundation's operations and strategy they wish to contribute to, which I hope makes the role more rewarding.

We have recently focused on strengthening our governance group with recruitment of new trustees to three vacant positions, and I welcome Elizabeth Owens and Mark Sheehan to the board. Both bring excellent skills and wide experience in areas we've identified as challenges and opportunities for our future growth. We are ever-mindful of the balance of skills and attributes on the board as we seek to fill the final position.

I thank all trustees for your work over the past year. Your commitment to the Foundation's vision of 'locals looking out for locals' is outstanding. Any organisation's effectiveness is only as good as its leadership group, and I believe we are a highly effective group, working with mutual respect, diligence, creativity and good humour.

Challenges

Regrettably, the social and economic conditions for disadvantaged people in our community are growing and becoming more complex. More people experience more complex problems for more sustained periods, due to the crises and hardship in which they find themselves.

In response, I believe our challenges as a Foundation for the next few years are threefold:

1. To increase funding. When we established our new operating model and redoubled our work to attract grant applications we knew these initiatives needed to be matched by attracting greater funding. Our proposed budget for the next twelve months defines the challenge in a simple and compelling way; we need to find an additional \$100,000. This will be a challenge, particularly in the current economic circumstances, but I believe we have the skills, the people and the goodwill of our community to do it.
2. Balance funding and needs. As we work to raise additional funds we will need to manage existing funds with great care, requiring a fine balance between encouraging more grant applications and having sufficient funds to meet additional demand for our service. Being unable to service the demand we actively create would risk losing our good standing in the community, particularly among our social agency partners.
3. Advocate for the elimination of social inequality. We know this is an unfulfilled objective in our Trust Deed; we have committed to action in our strategic plan; this year we need to take real steps towards this goal. It's a big challenge, where often better-resourced and better-connected agencies than ourselves appear to gain little ground, but we must be confident that, in concert with others, we can be positively influential. 2023 being a general election year should give us an impetus with this work, locally and nationally.

Opportunities

In the coming year I see strong opportunities for the Foundation to strengthen its profile, reputation and funding.

1. Celebrating our 30th anniversary. Done well, this should raise both our profile and funding support.
2. Launching an endowment fund. We can lay a platform for future financial security for the Foundation.
3. Utilising the many talents of our staff and trustees. We've done excellent work this year to recruit the right staff, establish a smarter governance model and bring new skills onto the board. We now have the capacity and energy to take the Foundation to the level we aspire to.
4. Capitalising on key partnerships. Our recent donors and partners function highlighted the depth of support and goodwill towards the Foundation. We see influential figures in many sectors wanting to support us; including both longstanding sponsors and donors, and newer businesses and professionals.

As we buckle down to the work of the next twelve months, let us be encouraged by this whakatauki:

*Whaia e koe ki te iti kahurangi
Ki te tuohu koe, me maunga teitei*

*Seek the treasure you value most dearly
If you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain*

Let us aim high and persevere in the face of challenges. If we reach beyond ourselves and fall short of our mark we will still have achieved more than expected.

Nga mihi ki a koutou



Peter Verstappen
Chairperson
Fifeshire Foundation
September 2022