



BECOME A
SUPPORTER
FOR LIFE

Create a Lasting Legacy

Dear Friend,

Many of you will know the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, some through the media and some through personal experience. Whatever your association with us, you are safe in the knowledge that we are available to you, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, at no charge.

For over forty years the Auckland based Westpac Rescue Helicopters have been serving the people from Te Hana in the North to Mercer in the South, including the Coromandel and Hauraki Gulf Islands. When we began the service back in the 1970's, we were attending to approximately 45 search and rescue missions a year, now we attend more than 1,000.

As the population increases, so too does the cost associated with providing the emergency rescue service that is so important to our friends and loved ones. There are a number of ways we endeavour to raise the funds to continue to provide our service to the community. One such way is through Bequests.

SUPPORTER FOR LIFE is a planned giving program, which you join by pledging to leave a gift in your Will to the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust.

On behalf of the Trust I would be very grateful if you would take a look at our brochure and consider leaving a gift in your Will to us. There is no doubt that it will make the ultimate difference – it will save lives.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G.B.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Greg Barrow, CEO

Why Leave a Gift in My Will?

The Auckland Rescue Helicopter service is a charitable Trust performing over 1,000 missions every year.

Free of charge.

There are a number of things about the future we can't know, but what we can be sure of is that the number of people needing our service will increase, and so too will the cost.

To prepare for the future, we have launched our SUPPORTER FOR LIFE program. This is our bequest program, where kind individuals leave a gift to the Trust in their Will. We are looking to grow our SUPPORTERS FOR LIFE, to ensure a financial future and provide the medical care that our loved ones will be able to rely on.

Your gift will go towards helicopter operations and specialised medical equipment. It could literally be the difference between life or death.



What The Helicopter Means To Me

"Having been to the helicopter base and heard about how the service works, it's an organisation I truly want to help. You never know when you might need them."

- Bonnie Farmer, Auckland

"I am leaving a gift in my Will because being a pensioner I feel I can't give too much now, but I won't need it when I'm gone will I? I chose the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust because I wanted it to go somewhere worthwhile."

- Ngaire, Auckland

"The helicopter service is one we feel very strongly about. We have tried to help as much as we can over the years and felt that leaving a gift in our Will was the next best step."

- Graham & Sheron, Auckland

"I live out in West Auckland, near Piha, and always see the helicopter flying overhead. My family are keen fishermen and if ever they were in trouble I know the helicopter would be there for them. I hope my bequest helps not only my family but others in future too."

- Cathy, West Auckland

"I think the rescue helicopters are an essential service to the community, doing a great job and often risking their own lives. I have provided for them in my Will because I would like to help with keeping the service going."

- Christine, Auckland

"I have lost a number of friends over the years and it's made me realise the organisations who do so much good and yet don't get a lot of money. The rescue helicopters provide a wonderful service to the community."

- Ruth Winter, Hillcrest

A Crew Perspective - Bruce Kerr

Advanced Paramedic with the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust

I work as an Advanced Paramedic on the Westpac Rescue Helicopter; a role I have held for 17 years full time, and 4 years part time prior to that.

Part of what makes my job so interesting is the interaction with patients and their families and the diverse types of rescues (missions) we get called to.

Every day is different. One day I might be attending a motor vehicle accident in Warkworth and the next, I am hanging from the winch, extricating a patient from the Waitakere Ranges. One of the benefits of working on the helicopter is speed, particularly to people in rural areas who, in previous years, would be concerned about the isolation from emergency services. With the Trust now having two helicopters and the fact, for example, that it only takes us 25 minutes to fly to Whitianga,

residents are comfortable in the knowledge that they have a much improved medical service available to them.



Bruce receiving his 2,000th mission award.

Having flown over 2,000 missions, there are certain ones that really stick with you. One was a young woman from the UK who was living in NZ at the time. She'd been training on her racing bike out near Riverhead and we'd been called because she'd been knocked off her

bike by a car towing a trailer. Unfortunately, she sustained very serious head injuries, so when we arrived she was Status 1 (critical).

We stabilized her at the scene and then flew her directly to Auckland Hospital. For the next several days she was in Intensive Care and we soon learned that she had passed away. It was extremely sad, when we had been hoping that there was a chance that she would recover. It made me think how tragic it was that her parents had to come all the way from the UK to attend her funeral, rather than to visit her on holiday. It made me realize how precious life is and that how suddenly everything can change. In this situation, it made me appreciate my family more.

The upside of course is that missions like this inspire me to do the absolute best I can and I know that for every tragic mission, there are many more with positive outcomes - that's what makes it all worthwhile. To know that because of our service we may be the reason a person is still here; that's a feeling you just can't describe.



February 2013 – Tuakau – Motocross accident

What is the SUPPORTER FOR LIFE Program?

SUPPORTER FOR LIFE is the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust's planned giving program. Those who choose to leave a bequest in their Will become SUPPORTERS FOR LIFE because, through supporting us, you are saving lives.

It is a method of donation not subject to the fluctuations of the economy. Simply put, it is a legacy; a gift for future generations to be able to continue to receive the service of a free rescue helicopter.

SUPPORTERS FOR LIFE meet twice a year to hear interesting speakers and have an opportunity to visit the base and meet the crew.

There will be opportunities to attend events and meet other like-minded people such as yourself who share a belief in our work, seeing first-hand how your legacy will be used and what a difference it will make.



Pam Coles

25/8/50 – 10/7/13

The following is written by one of Pam's sisters



Our sister Pam was an enthusiast of many things. In her early 50's she decided she would learn to fly and aviation of any kind became a real passion. This included ongoing support for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter service. Some of this was possibly fuelled by driving past the

Mechanics Bay base twice daily from St Heliers while working and, as a long-time hospital worker, being aware of just how many mercy flights the service made on a regular basis.

Pam achieved many things in her life – one of them, flying solo in 2006 at aged 55 and also gaining impressive results in her ASL exams. Aerial photography was also a developing passion and she was happy to leave the controls to a friend while they flew for the next few years extensively covering New Zealand and all its airfields. THE SKY WAS THE LIMIT!

Another treasure was Pam's immaculate silver 18 year old Mazda MX5 sports car, which she owned from new in 1995. No-one else was allowed to drive it and for years she would not visit family who lived on unsealed roads for fear of damaging it.

When the diagnosis was made in early 2013 of Pam's terminal lung cancer, one of her first questions was "what to do with the car?"

For Pam, the decision was not hard. She decided to donate it to the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust and told them they could use it for funds however they wished. Her family of 3 sisters and 4 nieces were happy with her decision and the fact that she could make it herself and see the benefit.



*Pam taking her ride from Mechanics Bay with
the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Crew*

The helicopter Trust put it up for auction on Trade Me soon after and Pam followed its progress with enthusiasm. As a thank you, she was able to enjoy a flight generously given her in the helicopter the week before she passed away.

As the oldest of the 'Coles' girls, Pam's sister has also been a Westpac Rescue Helicopter supporter for many years and experienced its service first-hand when a farm contractor was picked up from her property after a serious quad bike accident. She believes his very fast and safe delivery to hospital contributed to his eventual recovery and says "you never know when someone close will need them."

Become a SUPPORTER FOR LIFE

Naturally when preparing a Will, most people plan to provide for their family first. Once your family is taken care of and you decide to leave a gift to the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust, we suggest that you discuss this with your family and then speak to your solicitor.

If you do not have a solicitor, we recommend the Public Trust. Your solicitor will be able to explain the options you have. To nominate the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust for your bequest, the suggested wording for your Will would be:

“I give to the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust a specified share of the residue of my estate/or the sum of/or a specific bequest for its general purpose and I declare that the receipt of the Chief Executive or other Authorised Officer of the Trust shall be full and sufficient discharge of the said legacy.”

Please note that your bequest must be written into your Will and must be signed by you. The content of your Will is personal – we won't ask you for any details and anything you share is held in the strictest of confidence.

If you do leave a gift, please let us know so that we can welcome and include you in our SUPPORTER FOR LIFE program.



For further enquiries about leaving a powerful legacy for the future, please contact our Planned Giving Manager:

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AUCKLAND WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER

Every. Second. Counts.

