

## Mid year musings

1 message

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## Mid year musings

Tēnā koe e hoa – We love June - a time to celebrate our fabulous volunteers, and also wrap up warm with a cuppa (which we hope you have in your hand as you're reading this). The mercury is definitely dropping and our volunteers have been hard at work knitting blankets for the babies who need some extra warmth this winter.

We're already half way through the year and have donated 1700 care packages so far in 2022! Last month was extra special with Mother's Day, and we helped make it a little bit more memorable for 170 mothers who had the unenviable situation of spending the day in the hospital with their child. The messages we received from those who received one brought tears to our eyes.

*"Sunday was an incredibly difficult day for us, so the package was really appreciated, especially the handwritten note which brought my husband and I to tears xxx." - Mother*

With Covid restrictions easing we also were able to run our first fundraising event of the year. We hosted a night of connection and upskilling with a First Aid course for parents at Winnie Bagoes City. It was such a fantastic night and we raised more than \$2600! Scroll down to see pics!

June is a special month because we get to celebrate National Volunteer Week (June 19-25). One Mother to Another only exists thanks to a very dedicated team of volunteers who lend their skills, time, expertise and passion across a variety of essential roles. Just last month 56 people put in 224 volunteer hours into One Mother

to Another (and that's just a normal month... some months it's even more!). The amazing work that the volunteer teams do for our community cannot be expressed easily. We receive so many messages from grateful mums and carers who have received a care package, including beautiful thankyou's from mothers and families, and so so many comments on the heartfelt handwritten notes of encouragement. Our volunteers dedicate hundreds of hours to making these happen. So I would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who volunteers with us, every hour is GREATLY appreciated and none of it would be possible without you.

Ngā mihi maioha

**Joy**

Joy Reid, Chief Executive & Co-Founder of One Mother to Another



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## Volunteers

With National Volunteer Week just around the corner we would like to reiterate our gratitude and thanks to ALL our volunteers. Ngā mihi nui ki a koe ... Huge gratitude to you - Your work makes a huge difference!!

Volunteers are the life blood of One Mother to Another. Scores of people write beautiful hand written notes each month, others flex their muscles and help with packing the care packages, another team of needle masters whip up crocheted hearts, or knit blankets. Still more donate their business nous, admin and IT acumen or big picture thinking to help us make One Mother to Another more sustainable. There are so many skills reflected in our volunteer community and we need every one of them.

We also know that our volunteers love being part of One Mother to Another's story too! Many are past recipients of our care packages and now want to help others who are in the same position they were in. This helps many people write a "Chapter two" to their hospital journey and is a really healing experience for many. We have a strong volunteer ethos and believe in helping our 'community build its community'.

To you ALL... WE SAY THANK YOU!!!! Ngā mihi nui ki a koe

If you're interested in joining our team, we have a number of roles available. **Note Writers. Events Helpers. Packing Day Helpers. Administration Support. Delivery Drivers. Crochet Heart Makers. Knitters.** Find out more on our [website!](#)

## Karen & Caroline



Meet needle masters Karen and Caroline! They are two of our chief knitters, who volunteer up to 150 hours a month together and have donated more than 50 knitted blankets so far.

Last year we were asked by one of the charge nurses if we could start supplying warm blankets because they noticed that some of the young children they were treating needed some extra warmth at home. We wracked our brains to try find a blanket supplier and then an email popped in our inbox from Karen asking if we needed knitters!!! We said "yes!" and they've been knitting ever since.

*"As soon as we discovered One Mother to Another online and all the great work they were doing for Mothers and little ones, it grabbed our attention and we contacted Joy to see how we could be involved. What keeps us going is that every stitch we craft will keep a little one warm as they are nurtured and grow stronger on their journey in life."*  
- Karen and Caroline

The wool is donated by Naturally Yarns - and we're so grateful to Oliver for keeping Karen and Caroline well supplied.

Thank you to Karen and Caroline and all our other amazing volunteer knitters, for keeping our mokopuna snug and warm.



Volunteer

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## Bron's story

"I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the gifts I have received over the last 3 years of going in and out to hospital with my wee one. He was born with a brain bleed and we were told he wouldn't make it... that day in NICU was the first time I received one of your gifts and the beautiful note made me feel like you and all the mothers like me who had been through this before were sitting and standing with me holding my hand. For the last 3 years we have been in and out of hospital and it's been hard but getting your gifts have helped me through. Thank you from the bottom of my heart xx" - Bron



Bron with Meredith and Jaxon

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## Mother's day packs



*"Thank you so much for these. I received one today while in the Children's Emergency Care area and it was such a lovely surprise. The note was beautiful and brought tears to my eyes. Nga mihi ki a koutou." - Michelle*

*"These are so super special and thoughtful!! Received one today while in the CHOC ward with my son. Thank you so much to everyone who put in time and effort to put these together and get them out to us struggling mummies xx." - Catherine*

*"When we had no idea what was happening to our little girl, receiving one of your care packages*

*and reading the note inside lifted my spirits. It was so much more than the items inside and I will forever be grateful to have a little light brought into our lives in such a dark and horrible time. Thank you all so much.” - Tess*

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## News & Media

### First aid fundraising event

One Mother to Another is all about CARE. CONNECTION. COMMUNITY! We absolutely love connecting with others and are still buzzing from the fabulous night we had at the end of last month at our "first aid course fundraiser" in Christchurch. It was such a special night! Thanks to everyone that made it along and our amazing sponsors for the evening Tavendale and Partners Limited, Insurance Life, Winnie Bagoes City, and also to Phillip our amazing facilitator!

P.S. missed out this time? Keep an eye out we've got more fundraising events to come later in the year!



### Our story

Watch our story in 3 minutes ~ Check out this awesome little video we made to share a little about what we do.



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## Give us your thoughts



We know many of you have received one of our packs, or know someone who has. We are constantly trying to make them as relevant as possible and would love your help. We want to hear what you thought of them, whether there was something that you would have liked to have had in the pack, and any other feedback. The survey should only take about 5 minutes of your time and will really help us make changes to our packs going forward.

[Feedback Survey](#)

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# Thank you



Our latest care packages were full of goodies. Thank you to all our generous sponsors, we couldn't do it without you. Our May/June and Mother's day packs suppliers include: [Latitude Magazine](#), [Goodness](#), [Linden Leaves](#), [Essano](#), [By Nature](#), [Whittakers](#), [Arnotts](#), [Dilmah](#), [NESCAFÉ](#), [Dignity](#), [Original Foods](#), [Earthwise](#), [Xtend Life](#), [180 Degrees](#), [Small Babies](#), [Office Max](#), [Bell tea](#), [Ruths Patch](#), [Emma Lewisham](#), [Warren Agencies](#), [WEFT](#), [Westfield Riccarton](#), and [Over the Ditch](#).

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