

Autumn leaves and Mother's Day treats

1 message

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Seasons

There's something so poignant about the seasons changing. And as I've watched the autumnal leaves fall, I've been reflecting on how the seasons of One Mother to Another have been changing too.

Having expanded into a number of new wards, and into a new city last year, this year is a bit more of a consolidation season for us here. 2022 was huge for us as we increased our care package support by 40% (think running at 110% all of the time!!). But as a small charity it is imperative that we have the right processes, people and resources in place so we can always fulfil our commitment to the hospitals we support (we NEVER want to miss a month). As such, our small team is growing and we are refining our amazing mahi!

So far so good. We've already donated 1300 care packages this year and after a visit to Nelson's Special Baby Care Unit in January, we are excited to now support their sister unit, the Wairau Special Babies Unit (neonatal services) in Blenheim with care packages. We love that we can support more rural hospitals and their services for mothers/whānau and hope to be able to do so more in future.

A friendly reminder that Mother's Day is just around the corner (wink wink to anyone who needs reminding). For us, it means that in the next few days, our team will be making up more than 250 special Mother's Day gifts to be given to Māmā who won't be having a sleep-in and receiving breakfast in bed but instead are in hospital with their child on Mother's Day. This is the ultimate example of 'mother-love' as they're focused on their child on a day designed to celebrate them. We count it a true privilege that we can spoil them in some way and hope it reminds them that they're unique, valued and doing a great job!

It may seem like the simplest act of kindness to give someone a care package, but we keep hearing about the difference it makes. One nurse recently wrote to us to tell us about one of the care packages she'd given to a mother and described it as "a turning point in her journey, a moment where she realised the importance of recentring herself in order to move forwards and gain the personal strength to deal with the challenges ahead."

That is why we do what we do, and it gives us warm fuzzies to hear it! Read on for more...

Thanks for being part of our story!

Joy

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



Mother's day



Donate a care pack to a mother who will be spending this Mother's Day in hospital with a sick baby or child.

NZ\$20 per pack

[Donate](#)

Mother's Day Gift

\$35

Free 'Over
the Ditch'
earrings



www.onemothertoanother.org.nz

Mother's day is coming up so get in early and spoil the special mother figure in your life by purchasing our fundraiser cookbook.

Each book you purchase comes with a FREE set of beautiful 'Over the Ditch' Earrings.

NZ\$35

Buy

Our WHY

This is our why!!

"My daughter is in Chch hospital and had her appendix removed this morning. After a stressful 24 hours ending with her having her first ever surgery, I received one of your care packages. Reading your note made the tears fall that I'd been keeping in all day, but I was able to tell my daughter they were happy tears because you had shown such kindness.

Thank you for the wonderful work you do!" - Kate

"Reading your note made the tears fall that I'd been keeping in all day, but I was able to tell my daughter they were happy tears because you had shown such kindness."
Kate - Mother

Volunteer Story



Sally (right) and daughter Claire (left) at our Christmas packing day last year.

Our volunteers are the lifeblood of our organisation and we love introducing them to you.

Meet Sally! She knows what it's like to have a newborn in hospital and that empathy spurred her on to become an essential part of our note-writing and our packing teams.

Why did you get involved as a volunteer?

I had read about the organisation and was impressed by its vision and related to its purpose. Now a Grandmother, my first daughter needed neonatal care and since then some of my grandchildren have had neonatal care and operations. *The terror of adjusting to parenthood with a sick baby is never forgotten.* Since my involvement, the professionalism in all aspects I have encountered has confirmed my initial impression. I also think the positive and appreciative message to its volunteers endears others to get involved.

What volunteer roles do you do?

Well I currently write notes that are included in the packages. I love the thought that has gone into the wording for these and the fact that each one is received by a Mother who is travelling a new and probably difficult path with her child, yet others have too, and are thinking of her. I also enjoy the monthly Packing days working alongside other volunteers and seeing the stack of containers ready to be distributed to the hospital wards.

What's the best thing about being involved?

You meet some fun people! I love that people of all ages and generations, life and work circumstances are involved. I love that on packing day, you can hear Mums sharing their experiences with other Mums and that the reason they have come to help is because of the joy the package they received in hospital brought them. *Its about lots of people doing a little bit to make a huge difference to families with sick babies and children in hospital.*

What do you hope for the future of OMTA?

Well I just hope that it can continue to do the same job of giving parents the gift that lets them know that others know their journey and are thinking of them. From what I've observed of the organisation, the kindness and compassion is well embedded in the foundations. Congratulations to those in the leadership roles and to those generous companies who are supporting OMTA with their product donations.

Volunteer

Welcome to the team

We are excited to introduce two new members of the One Mother to Another whānau.

Jane Jackman has recently been appointed to the One Mother to Another Board. Jane brings a wealth of business and governance nous to the One Mother to Another table. She is a Partner at Nexia New Zealand and has more than 30 years accounting and advisory experience. She also brings authentic wisdom and empathy having experienced first-hand what it's like to have a child in hospital, and also a grandchild.

Big welcome also goes to Kirsty Drummond who has taken up our newly established Grants Coordinator role. Kirsty has been an avid volunteer and has written thousands of notes for mothers over the last few years. She has incredible experience and is already a very valued member of the team.



Newest board member, Jane Jackman (above)

Grants Coordinator, Kirsty Drummond (below)



What's new

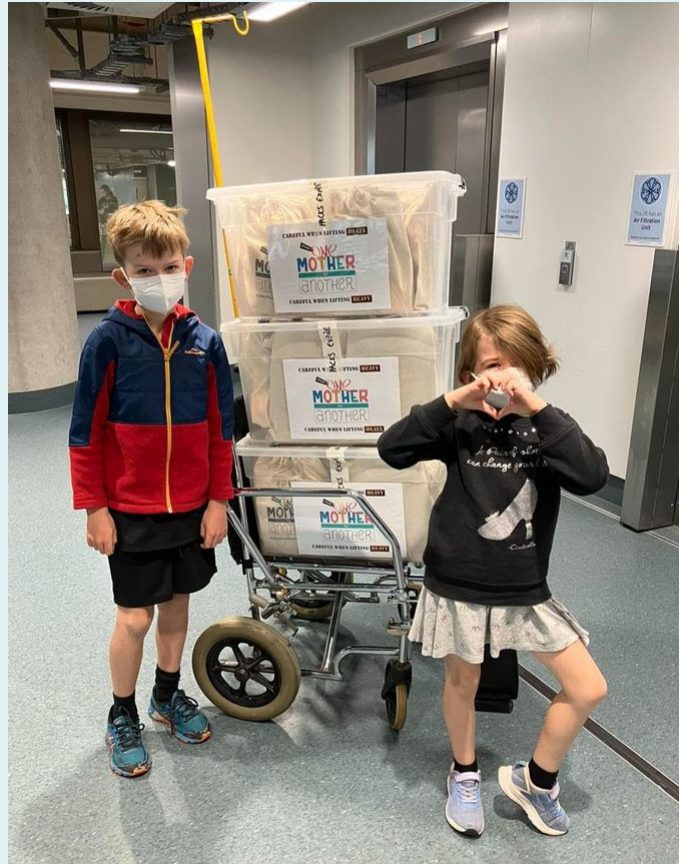
At One Mother to Another we are constantly evolving our care packages to be practical and sustainable as well as luxurious. That's why we've wanted for some time to move to using a cotton reusable gift bag to put all the goodies in. We are excited that, after much fundraising, we've managed to finally purchase these bags which can now double as a laundry bag, toy bag or just somewhere for our whānau to put their hospital items.

In addition, after much feedback, we're now providing collapsible drink bottles in all our care packs too. Just another little helpful item for all those mothers/caregivers who are spending hours at their child's hospital bedside.

A big thank you to all our generous funding partners and individuals that helped make this possible.



Delivering the goods



Here's a few pics of the hard workers (across multiple generations) in action.

This month we had some "little helpers" doing the hospital drop offs.

A huge thanks also goes out to our [Smiths City](#) crew who assist us with transporting our care packs every month to Christchurch Hospital.



Current needs

One Mother to Another is always keen to chat to anyone who might help us provide the following:

- Toothpaste/ toothbrushes - anyone have dentist contacts?
- Mints
- Lip balms
- Pens
- Beauty products/ jewellery
- Men's products

We are also keen to speak to anyone interested in corporate sponsorship of our upcoming fundraising dinner event to be held in September with Sir Stephen Tindall as our guest speaker.

Please contact us at info@onemothertoanother.org.nz and one of our team will be in touch!



Our latest care packages were full of goodies. Thank you to all our generous sponsors, we couldn't do it without you. Our suppliers include: [Latitude Magazine](#), [Mindfood Magazine](#), [Arnotts](#), [Prokiwi](#), [Warren Agencies](#), [Tui Balms](#), [Weft](#), [Antipodes](#), [Staedtler](#), [L'Oreal](#), [Aviant](#), [Nestlé](#), [180 Degrees](#), [Goodness](#), [Linden Leaves](#), [Essano](#), [NESCAFÉ](#), [Whittakers](#), [Dilmah](#), [Dignity](#), [Over the Ditch](#), [Original Foods](#), [Glow Lab](#), [Small Babies](#), [Office Max](#) and [Westfield Riccarton](#).

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