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Celebrating our volunteers

Happy National Volunteer Week! I just love an excuse to celebrate those who give so generously of their time to others.

I read last week that half of all Kiwis volunteer in some capacity in their community - and the value of volunteers' labour alone contributes \$4 billion to our GDP - what amazing statistics!

We at One Mother to Another are so grateful for the 123 people who in the past year have donated more than 2500 hours of their time, skills and expertise to help us provide thousands of care packages for parents and whānau in hospital with their sick child/ baby.

123 people!!!! - We are so blown away by their efforts and this week we are so proud to celebrate them.

Whether it be writing handwritten notes of encouragement, flexing muscles at a packing day, skillfully crocheting hearts, knitting blankets or donating their business nous and big picture thinking around the board table, our volunteers are superstars. Many of them have their own personal stories of hospital journeys with a sick child and their empathy and kindness help propel One Mother to Another forward.

Today we want to share some of their stories - so please read on.

And to everyone involved in One Mother to Another - no matter how big or how small your contribution... **We are so grateful.**

Every hour is greatly appreciated and I just want to say **we see your efforts** and **greatly applaud them!!** **You are helping to make a difference in someone's**

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our morning tea celebration on Thursday.

Joy

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



Our volunteers

We are so grateful for all of the 123 amazing One Mother to Another volunteers!! We value every hour of effort invested into our mahi. Over the past year our volunteers have donated more than 2500 hours to help us support nearly 5,000 families in need, and we could not do it without them.

Keep reading to find out more about just a few of our many amazing volunteers.

Notes from the heart



We are so incredibly thankful to have such a wonderful volunteer team of note writers who put so much love and support into writing our hand written notes.

So often we hear from care pack recipients how much they love the hand written note and how much it truly means for them to not feel alone and to feel supported. They are the **most** talked about item in all of the messages from grateful parents. That personal touch is so special and speaks volumes of care and love.

One of our note writers, Petya (below) shares her reasons for volunteering.

Why do you volunteer for OMTA?

After the birth of my first child, I was given a package myself and I was touched with the thought behind it. A year later I was extremely happy to find I can be a part of it!

Best thing about being involved?

The best thing about being involved is the difference that it makes during those hard times in hospital. The support, encouragement and love that this “small” gesture gives is beyond words.

What do I hope for the future of OMTA?

I hope more people get involved in the project, so it can reach more places around New Zealand and more mums can receive that support.

A big and special ngā mihi to Petya and also to superstar coordinator Fiona who spends hours every month organizing and liaising with the team of note writers, your



Packing day superstars



Every month a truly amazing team of volunteers come together to pack our care packages. In the past year the team have packed an incredible 5,000 care packs!!

These volunteers are often care pack recipients wanting to give back but also grandparents who either had child or grandchild sick in hospital. They arrive with a smile and are so dedicated in the care in which they put all the goodies together. They really pack each gift with so much love.

Why do you volunteer for OMTA?

I received one of these amazing packs when my 6 month old was in hospital for a brain tumor.

What's the thing about being involved?

Meeting other parents who have been in the hospital system and knowing how valuable it was as a parent to receive one of these when going through the hardest times.

What do you hope for the future of OMTA?

That they can continue to provide this amazing service for parents in their darkest moments to provide some hope and connection.

Thank you Zoe, and all our volunteers, for all your mahi at packing days and supporting OMTA.



Expanding our reach



Meet the phenomenal Gemma Wragg! We want to say a huge thank you to our Dunedin volunteer Gemma who is leading our expansion into Dunedin Hospital. Gemma's efforts are truly outstanding as she has taken on the role (along with her amazing support team) to pack and deliver our first care packages and never misses a month despite juggling a high-flying corporate job. We are amazed! Thank you Gemma for all your time and energy in helping support your community.

Crafty carers



EVERY STITCH MADE WITH LOVE



A big thank you to our amazing knitters and crocheters put so much love into creating beautiful blankets to be given out to children needing some warmth and crocheting gorgeous hearts that are a much-loved handmade item in every One Mother to Another pack. Every stitch is made with so much love!

Many of the hearts are hung on the bedposts of the child and taken home as a special keepsake! They are very special!!

Irene (pictured above), one of our very dedicated knitters, shares below her reasons for volunteering.

What's the best thing about being involved?

The delight of making a difference in the life of 1 baby at a time

What do you hope for the future of OMTA?

For more & more volunteers (in their own area of ability) to discover the joy I have found in being involved. Thus enabling OMTA to bless more Mothers. My dream is that there would be enough blankets that Mothers could choose the colour & pattern they most love.

Thank you for all the time and energy you put in to making these beautiful crafts and we truly appreciate every stitch.

The boardroom



Here at One Mother to Another we are incredibly lucky to have eight amazing board members who generously give of their time and energy to guide, strategise and help us support those who need it the most.

Their collective wisdom and passion is helping propel us forward so we can develop and have the best impact in a moment of need.



Click the link below to find out more about volunteering with One Mother to Another.

[Volunteer](#)

Volunteer morning tea - this Thurs!

To celebrate National Volunteer Week in June we would love for you to join us for a coffee and a catch up at **Columbus Coffee - Westfield Riccarton, Christchurch, Thurs 22 June, 10am-12pm.**

Drop in anytime between 10am-12pm, kids welcome!

All our volunteers will get a **FREE COFFEE!**

When: Thursday 22 June

Time: Anytime between 10am-12pm

(If you're outside Christchurch - we are sorry we can't say thank you in person but keep an eye out on your letterbox!!)

And a bit of news



At our recent AGM our Board appointed a new chair, Claire Cowles (above), as well as a new board member Athol McCully.

Claire has been on the One Mother to Another board for two years and along with being an amazing mother and baker, has extensive knowledge in fundraising, and marketing and will make an excellent chair.

We want to take this opportunity to also thank outgoing chair retired Judge Robert Murfitt for his incredible leadership over the past two years. His mana, advice, wisdom and ideas have been a key part of One Mother to Another's growth. We are so grateful that he will stay on as a board member.

And speaking of board members, we are excited to welcome Athol McCully to the board. He's been a champion of and an adviser to One Mother to Another since 2018 and we are so excited that he's now officially on the board.



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



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](#), [Maggi](#), [Uncle Tobys](#), [Starbucks](#), [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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