

QUARTERLY REVIEW

December 2024 to February 2025



Photo courtesy of Peter Feuerstein

March feels a little late in the piece to be wishing you a Happy New Year, but I do hope 2025 has started well for you. This Quarterly Review covers the Foundation's activities from December to February, so there's lots to share.

When we last spoke, our Christmas Buckets of Love campaign had just ended, and we are working through finalising \$150,579 to be distributed evenly amongst our three worthy charities - Pillars, Pet Refuge and Nurturing Families. In this newsletter, you can read about how the money was used, and the massive difference it made towards making Christmas special for families and fur babies in need.

We were very excited to see our 15 new Milford Foundation Scholarship students begin their university studies in late February. We now have three cohorts totalling 46 students studying with the Foundation's support.

There's more on the students below, including a link to read about their amazing journeys.

Also in February, we launched a different sort of scholarship through a unique partnership with Rowing NZ - the Emerging School Rowing Scholarship. You can read more about it in this newsletter – along with the announcement of the four recipients of the Brian Gaynor Initiatives – Business Writing & Journalism Excellence Award for 2024. There's been a lot of amazing people and initiatives to celebrate over the past three months!




Bryce Marsden
Chief Executive

New partnership with Rowing NZ

The Milford Foundation is proud to announce a new collaboration with Rowing NZ – the Emerging School Rowing Scholarship worth \$10,000.

The scholarship programme is designed to assist schools with a rowing programme in its infancy. "The aim is to help establish and grow programmes for schools that may not have the means to do so themselves," says Bryce Marsden, Chief Executive of the Foundation. "One of our core pillars is to assist the youth of New Zealand, including physical and mental wellbeing, and we see this as a great way to encourage young people into the sport of rowing."

Podcast sponsorship

The Foundation has sponsored NZBusiness Magazine's season 2 podcast *Sustainability Ever After*. Hosted by 14-year-old sustainability advocate, Lilah McDonald, it delves into the dynamic intersection of sustainability and entrepreneurship within New Zealand's SME sector. The first episode of season 2 premiered in late February featuring Greig Brebner, Founder of Blunt umbrellas.

As at
28 February
2025



Funds Growing

\$8.95M



Money granted/committed to grant

\$8.30M

Our partners



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Buckets overflowing with Christmas cheer

As you will have read, our 2024 Buckets of Love campaign raised more than \$150,000 for our three nominated charities: Nurturing Families, Pillars, and Pet Refuge.

The impact reports from the charities are nothing short of moving. So, rather than cramming them all into one newsletter, we are going to spread the love! Here is the impact your donation made for families supported by Pillars.

309 tamariki and rangatahi received gifts

More tamariki and rangatahi than ever were gifted presents and gift vouchers to open under the tree.

132 kai hampers were given

Thanks to your generous donations, kai hampers were given filled with food and Christmas treats to bring families together around the table.

132 whānau received food vouchers

Due to your support, we were able to offer extra support to families over the holidays.

Countless magical moments created this season

Your support brought more than just joy—it provided families with the financial relief to focus on what truly matters: creating special moments with their loved ones.



A note from the team at Pillars Ka Pou Whakahou

Ngā mihi nui Milford Foundation!

"We could tell you about the numbers—the gifts delivered, the kai shared, the vouchers distributed—but numbers alone can't capture the heart of what your support truly means.

They can't fully reflect what it feels like for a child to unwrap a gift on Christmas morning, for a caregiver to set a festive table without the weight of financial worry, or for a whānau to enter the new year with a renewed sense of hope and possibility. What we can share, though, are the stories—stories that reveal the impact of your generosity and aroha.

Your incredible donation of over \$50,000 this Christmas has been nothing short of transformative. Because of your unwavering support and partnership, whānau in the Pillars Ka Pou Whakahou community experienced a Christmas filled with relief, joy, and love. Your support is a reminder to whānau that they are seen, valued, and supported by a compassionate community walking alongside them on their journey toward positive futures."



Whānau voices

"This Christmas is the first one for my son and me since I was released from prison five months ago. He's still getting used to me being around, and I'm still getting used to being a dad and learning how to be one after being in and out of prison for most of my son's life. My son is going through a lot, but we are getting there. Thank you, Pillars Ka Pou Whakahou, for the kai and gifts. My son and I are over the moon. I'm so glad you guys exist". – Dad supported at Christmas

One mum described her family's trauma from last Christmas. She had put so much thought and planning into the holiday, hoping it would be a special day for the whole family. But it was traumatic for her children when her husband was arrested on Christmas. After his release, the past six months have been a journey of strength and resilience. She and her husband are focused on healing as a family and working towards positive futures for their children. This Christmas marks the new start of a promising year. The support of kai hampers, supermarket vouchers and gifts has brought them excitement and joy as a family. "This year's Christmas will be a day of togetherness and making positive memories." – Mum supported at Christmas.



Pumped in 2025!

We thought we'd start the year with a good news story from one of the projects the Foundation assisted with following Cyclone Gabrielle.

You might recall that funds raised from our Burgers, Beers and Brilliant Sportspeople event assisted with the building of the Ūawa Skate 'n' Park Pump Track in Ūawa, Tolaga Bay.

We recently visited to check out how the track is being enjoyed, and spoke with Haimona Ngata of the Tairāwhiti Adventure Trust, which organised the building of the track.

"The pump track has been super, super busy over the past six months," he says. "We've had reports from school teachers and parents getting annoyed that the kids are down here before school and after school, which is a pretty good annoyance.

"It's a really well-used community asset right here in the middle of Ūawa township. Pass on our thanks to everyone at Milford for the huge support!"



Photo by Guy Needham

Four journalism grants awarded

When business writer, commentator and Fund Manager Brian Gaynor died suddenly in May 2022, his wife Anna Gibbons knew the best legacy for a man known for his passionate advocacy of New Zealand business was to encourage and fund excellence in the field.

Now in its second year, the Brian Gaynor Initiative (BGI) has announced its Awards for 2024 - two for investigative business journalism projects and two for professional development opportunities leading to increased industry knowledge and expertise.

The successful applicants are:

For investigative business stories:

Cecile Meier, a freelance journalist working with NZME/ BusinessDesk for an investigation into New Zealand's plastic waste.

Rebecca Styles, Consumer NZ, for an investigation into the home insurance market in New Zealand.

For professional development leading to increased industry expertise:

Matt Nippert, NZ Herald, to complete the Bellingcat Open Source investigative journalism course, including working on a story about illicit cargo and financial flows around the Pacific.

Hamish McNicol, NBR, to take the LSE online certificate of financial analysis and management accounting.

Congratulations to all four worthy recipients.



2025 cohort starts uni

We're delighted to introduce you to our newest Milford Foundation Scholarship students. You can read their bios at:

<https://milfordfoundation.co.nz/scholarship/recipients/>