



# TODD FOUNDATION NEWS

July 2008



Kia ora koutou and warm greetings from the Todd Foundation.

This is our second mid-year newsletter to organisations we've funded and other interested community groups. We are initially sending it to one person per organisation only, so feel free to forward it either within your organisation or to other groups, and please email us if you would like us to add names to our mailing list. Alternatively if you do not wish to receive this, just let us know. The newsletter is also downloadable from our web site in the 'publications' section.

## *In this issue:*

- [What makes a good funder?](#)
- [Cooperation and collaboration](#)
- [New Study Awards for Polytech Research](#)
- [Be green, save money, video conference!](#)
- [Free booklet on preventing child abuse](#)
- [What we're learning](#)
- [Who's received funding](#)
- [Our commitment](#)
- [Applying for Funding](#)
- [Our Vision and Goals](#)
- [How to contact us](#)

## *What makes a good funder?*

We would be very interested in your input on:

- What are the characteristics of a good funder?
- How can these be assessed?
- How can Todd Foundation improve?

We constantly try to do be a better funder, but it isn't that easy to define what "better"

means, and it is harder still to measure it! If you happen to have any thoughts on any of these questions we would gratefully receive your feedback. You can do this anonymously by using the contact form on our web site and putting a question mark or other random character in the name and email fields; we'll receive it but we won't know from whom. Alternatively just email us; all contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

## *Cooperation and collaboration*

We're firm believers that we all need to work together to change the world for the better, and we would love to receive more applications for collaborative projects. Here are some recent examples of organisations working together whom we have supported:

- **Refugees as Survivors:** last year we funded professional development for three sister organisations providing counselling services for refugees who have experienced trauma and/or torture. Bringing international trainers in this very specialised field to NZ is not something any of the three organisations could have done by themselves, and there were additional benefits realised through better communication and co-ordination.
- **Science-related Competitions:** New Zealand's talented and gifted students compete on the international stage in a range of science endeavours, and, despite relatively low levels of funding and support, we regularly beat countries with many more students and much larger budgets. Each competition functions as a stand-alone organisation, but, following a workshop and grant from Todd Foundation, they are now scoping possibilities for working together more closely.

- **Family Help Trust (Christchurch) and Family Support Services Whanganui:** Both organisations provide home visiting services for 'ultra-high risk' families. Todd Foundation funding allowed social workers from the two organisations to visit families together and workshop what seems to work best under what circumstances. Their findings are published as 'Best Practice Guidelines for Home Visiting Family Support' and are available at [www.familyhelptrust.org.nz](http://www.familyhelptrust.org.nz)
- **Inspiring Communities Network:** "It takes a village to raise a child", so they say, and when communities work together to make their town a better place to live there is hopefully an increased chance that all children and their families / wh\_nau will receive the support they need. This initiative connects communities engaged in community-lead development, enabling shared learning and collaboration. Two year's funding from the Todd Foundation will support both the running of the network and an emerging initiative in Porirua coordinated by Wesley Community Action, and complements the Tindall Foundation's ongoing support for this initiative.

At the Todd Foundation we also try to work collaboratively, both with the organisations we fund and with other funders. Here are some examples:

- **Promoting Generosity Hub:** this project, convened by Volunteering NZ, Philanthropy NZ and the Office of the Community and Voluntary sector, aims to "grow the level of giving in all its forms in our communities". Kate is a member of this hub; see <http://www.ocvs.govt.nz/work-programme/promoting-generosity.html> for more details.
- **Hikurangi Foundation:** This new foundation set up to promote climate change action and sustainable living is a joint initiative between the Tindall Foundation and the Todd Foundation; see [www.hikurangi.org.nz](http://www.hikurangi.org.nz) for more details.
- **Convening and sharing learning:** Last year we convened our first "learning

circle" where a group of grantees working with people experiencing disability were invited to share what they are learning, where they are heading and how funding can help. Additionally we have convened workshops on topics like supporting young school leavers to succeed in the workplace and how to support talented and gifted students. We plan to continue and improve these practices, and our learnings are now available on our web site in the publications section.

- **Philanthropy NZ:** Kate is now deputy chair of Philanthropy NZ, an organisation aiming to "inspire generosity and thoughtful grant-making".

### *New Study Awards for Polytech Research*

This year Todd Foundation announced our first recipients for our "Awards for Excellence (Polytechs)", a new research award available to students in their final year of study at Polytechs and Institutes of Technology. These awards complement our existing Awards for Excellence for university students and are administered by ITPNZ, the membership organisation for Polytechs and Institutes of Technology. More information is available at [www.itpnz.org.nz](http://www.itpnz.org.nz), or see below for recipients.

### *Be green, save money, video conference!*

On the topic of collaboration, if you are working with people located in different locations around the country, meeting by video-conference could be an option to consider. Parent to Parent, (an organisation facilitating peer support and advocacy for wh\_nau with disabled family members), have video-conferencing facilities located in Whangarei, Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Rotorua, Palmerston North, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill. These facilities can be rented by other community groups

for \$65 + GST per site, per hour for two sites. For meetings involving three or more sites there is a total hourly rate of \$120 +GST. If you're interested or would like more information please contact Lynda Peploe, [national@parent2parent.org.nz](mailto:national@parent2parent.org.nz) or phone: 0508 236 236.

## *Free booklet on preventing child abuse*

All of us have a responsibility to keep children safe, and the publication "How Can I Tell?" from Child Protection Services is a short and simple guide to recognising abuse or potential abuse. We have free copies of this which we can send to you or you can order through the CPS website [www.cps.org.nz](http://www.cps.org.nz).

## *What we're learning*

We ask grantees to tell us what they are learning on the initiatives we help fund, and, while not everyone provides this, we are building up some "frequently learned lessons". Here are some of the themes that have emerged since last year:

- There's not much point in printed hand-out materials if the group you are working with has low literacy skills; face-to-face communication is much more effective. Additionally, when working with people for whom English is a second language, interpreters may be required.
- Initiatives and organisations aimed at any particular group (young people, disabled people, a particular cultural group) should have leadership and representation from members of that group wherever possible. Additionally, working cross-culturally needs to be two-way learning process; the "provider" needs to look at their own organisation and ensure it is culturally appropriate.
- Long term, positive relationships with adults is a key missing ingredient for high need children and their families.
- Working collaboratively with another community organisation requires

good communication, a respectful approach and trust.

- Good governance may make the difference between a thriving organisation and one that struggles.

## *Who's received funding*

The following organisations received funding from us in the May funding round:

### **GOAL 1: Support Families to provide safe and nurturing environments for children**

Big Buddy: *Expansion of mentoring service, \$60,000*

Community-Led Development Trust: *Support for a national community development hub \$42,000\**

EastBay Reap: *Books for new borns \$3,000*

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: *Support for Central North Island Field Officer \$18,500\**

Wesley Community Action: *Porirua Good Cents Project: reducing debt levels \$58,000\**

### **GOAL 2: Help Children to be school ready by age five, and, after that, to participate actively in school life**

Champion Centre *Support for music programme for disabled children (under 5) \$60,000\**

McKenzie Centre Trust: *Assistive technology for disabled children (under 5) \$14,000*

Miriam Centre: *Intervention for children displaying violent behaviour \$62,000\**

SPELD New Zealand: *Evaluation of the effectiveness of the SPELD NZ tutoring programme \$70,000*

### **GOAL 3: Help young people to develop their potential and contribute fully in the community**

Affirming Works Ltd: *Support South Auckland school leavers to transition into tertiary education or work \$60,000*

Biology Olympiad: *Explore establishing an umbrella organisation for science-related international competitions \$33,000*

Foundation for Youth Development:  
*Development of a new programme to support high risk young people \$30,000*

Gifted Kids Programme: *Develop models for communities to create their own one-day schools for gifted kids \$40,000*

Hui Taumata: *Mentoring for young Maori through the transition to work \$100,000*

Kids Help Foundation Trust: *Employ additional counsellors for '0800 Whatsup' \$58,282*

SAFE Network: *Wilderness Camps component of programme for children with inappropriate sexualised behaviour \$15,000*

\* Indicates a multi-year grant

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS:**

**Scholarship in Energy Research:** John O'Sullivan, to investigate the technology of wind turbines and their optimum siting, \$25,000 for three years

**Awards for Excellence (Polytechs)** Judith McCool: Skills and knowledge retention after resuscitation courses, \$5,000, John Pike, Swimming performances and coaching practices, \$5,000

**Awards for Excellence (Universities)** Annalise Swan Medical study of lung conditions, \$7,000, Pamela Bell, Simplicity in architectural design, \$5,000, Daniel Bassett, Earthquake studies and petroleum potential, \$6,500, Tara Murray, Biological control of parasites, \$7,000, Debra Gardiner, Earthquake resistant building structures, \$5,000, Paul Mudge, Soil technology, \$2,000, Mariana Vargas, Possum control, \$7,500, Hadley Brooks, Design form techniques, \$7,000

### ***Our commitment***

At the Todd Foundation we understand that how we give is important. The following is a statement of our commitment to applicants and grantees:

1. We will respect and appreciate your commitment to making a difference.

2. We will listen and learn
3. We will have regard to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi
4. We will keep our processes clear and simple and be available for advice when requested
5. If we say no to a funding request, we will do so respectfully and provide a clear reason.
6. If we say yes to a funding request we will notify you personally, pay promptly and will be available to provide advice and feedback throughout the life of the grant. We are interested in what you are learning and open to discussing any adjustments to funding purpose based on these lessons learned.
7. Our aim is to work together to change lives for the better.

### ***Applying for Funding***

If you wish to apply for funding to the Todd Foundation, please go to our web site for full details of the application process. Please also note that if you wish to put in an application for our next funding round in November you will need to send in the one-page "Expression of interest" by the end of August, or, better still – well before then!

### ***Our Vision and Goals***

Our vision for New Zealand Aotearoa is: *A place where everyone can contribute to the best of their ability in a society that nurtures and values young people, encourages endeavour and tolerance and recognises our cultural diversity*

To work towards this vision, we focus on the following key goals:

- *Supporting families and communities to provide safe and nurturing environments for children*
- *Helping children to be school ready by age five and, after that, to participate actively in school life*

- *Helping young people to develop their potential and to contribute fully in the community.*

These goals are in turn achieved by directing our funding to the following target areas:

- *High Need Families*
- *Early Childhood and Children's Education*
- *Disabled Children*
- *Talented and Gifted Children*
- *Youth Development*
- *Scholarships and Awards*
- *Environmental projects that address climate change through encouraging sustainable living (2007 and 2008 only)*

### *How to contact us*

We really appreciate your feedback and comments!

**Email:** Executive Director Kate Frykberg:  
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