





## WELCOME

Welcome to our 2021 Annual Report. Through this document we hope to give you some insight into the heart and workings of The House of Grace Trust.

We're a team with a passion to see young mums loved and supported through one of their most challenging and important seasons of life. The impact of what we do cannot always be measured through statistics or graphs. We have a privileged position of helping change young lives that will impact generations to come.



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## 1. HIGHLIGHTS



Houseparents thriving in their roles and seeing young lives changed forever.



New volunteers joining the team in both Wellington and Hamilton.



Young mothers given the opportunity to parent where they otherwise wouldn't – and responding beautifully.



Former residents continue to support each other after leaving the home.



In a challenging financial season, The House of Grace is now mortgage free!



Our first ever 'mall marketing' campaign has increased awareness, helping those who need us to find us.



Our social media reach has increased by over 60%.



## 2. CHAIRPERSON'S REVIEW

In writing this, I get to reflect on the year that has been, and dream big for the year ahead. What an honour it is to be part of such an incredible team. To watch lives changed. Young women grow. Little people born. Families reunite and volunteers step up.

We've farewelled houseparents in both locations and thank them for their incredible sacrifice and dedication. They served in such a crazy season and I'm amazed by how they took every challenge in their stride. We wish them all the best in their new endeavours.

We've also welcomed two new sets of house families. Katie, Jacob and their two children began their House of Grace journey in our Wellington home earlier this year. I'm inspired by how naturally they have found their footing, quickly becoming a special part of our Wellington team. I can't wait to see more lives impacted by their love for people and their big hearts!

Danii, Jared and their three children are a recent addition to our Hamilton team. The journey ahead is going to be exciting and we appreciate their willingness and servant hearts.

With an incredible gift this year from Veronica's Place, the Trust is now mortgage-free. This leaves us with room to consider plans for future expansion. This is really exciting as we look to secure better outcomes for young mums and their children here in Aotearoa.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who make it possible for us to do what we do. From funders to volunteers, everyone works together to keep the doors open, serving young women with grace and kindness.

I also wish to especially acknowledge the founders of The House of Grace - Treena and Marcus van Rijssel. Without you, hundreds of young mums would not have been cared for. Hundreds of lives left unchanged. Children without the hope of a better tomorrow. This past year has been difficult, and I want to thank you for being you! Words cannot express my heartfelt appreciation for you both! On behalf of the team, we love you both dearly!

Natalie Joyce, Acting Chairperson





### 3. ABOUT US

The House of Grace is a home for pregnant teens. A place to live, learn, prepare for childbirth and make plans for a bright future.

Our objectives are to:

1. Equip each resident with the information and skills they need to be a successful parent.
2. Empower every resident to set life goals and instil in them a confidence and motivation to achieve them.
3. Create a safe and nurturing family environment that residents can learn from and replicate in their home and local community.
4. Provide a high standard of care and service to residents, staff and volunteers.
5. Be recognised for making a tangible difference in the lives of disadvantaged pregnant young women in New Zealand.
6. Be vigilant and transparent in managing resources to ensure sustainable growth of our organisation.

### OUR MISSION

To help create a stronger New Zealand by equipping and empowering pregnant teens to flourish and make a positive difference in their communities.

We believe in the potential of every young woman and provide a place for them to live, learn, prepare for childbirth and plan for a bright future.



## 4. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

### Board of Trustees

Provide direction and advice on major funding and policy decisions.

Chairperson: Natalie Joyce

Secretary: Craig Ell

Treasurer: Michael Bangma

Trustee: Wayne Collins

### Director

Focused on general management, growth and ongoing health of the organisation.

Responsible for staff recruitment, training and overseeing policy and strategic funding decisions.

### Regional Manager

Responsible for overseeing each region.

Manage nationwide programs and operational processes. Work alongside the Director for regional growth and process implementation.

### Accounts Manager

Responsible for accounts receivable/payable, tactical fundraising activities and securing grants.

### Facilities Manager

Management of office, properties, vehicles and assets. Other duties include project funding.

### Area Supervisor

Resident intake, volunteer recruitment, houseparent support and property management, together with developing relationships with key community stakeholders.

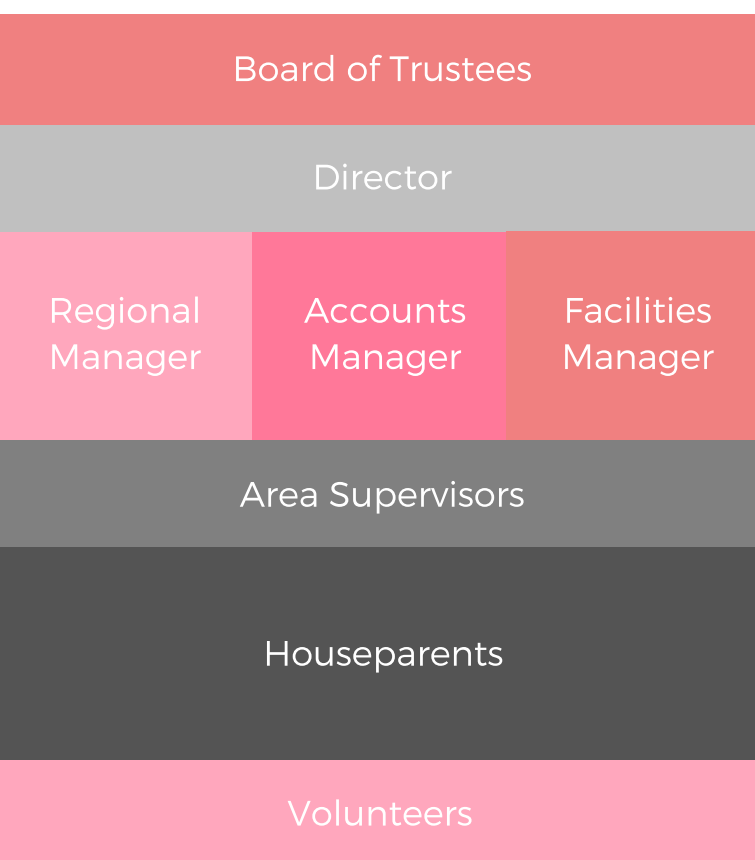
### Houseparents

Co-ordinate the day-to-day running of the home including the volunteer schedule.

Their goal is to build each resident's confidence and up-skill them in parenting techniques and household management.

### Volunteers

Provide relief and support to houseparents on a regular basis. Includes weekend relief, resident support, donations management and property maintenance.



## 5. 20 YEARS ON

In December 2021, The House of Grace will be celebrating 20 years as an organisation. What a milestone!

It all began with one incredible couple, Treena and Marcus van Rijssel. They had a vision to create a home for pregnant teenagers where they are included in a loving family.

Treena was a professional make-up artist at the time and travelled to the United States to learn more about setting up and operating a maternity home. On her return, the van Rijssel's opened their own home to a pregnant teen and the vision came to life.

The organisation became a registered non-profit in December 2001 and later purchased a home in Newlands. Together with their very young children, the van Rijssel's set their minds and efforts on establishing and growing a recognised service for pregnant teens.

They sought funding, developed programmes, wrote policies and procedures, undertook renovations and all while caring for their own children and many young mothers in their care. Together they have created a community and legacy that will impact generations to come.

The House of Grace has helped over 200 young mothers learn life skills and prepare for childbirth, parenting or adoption. Quite simply, we think Treena and Marcus are the bee's knees.





## 6. STORIES OF HOPE

When asked how The House of Grace has impacted her life, one resident shared:

*"It has made life more peaceful, and I now have a routine that has helped me achieve my goals. I've learnt new skills like budgeting, and how to look after a baby."*

When asked her experience living at The House of Grace, another resident said:

*"It's a quiet and welcoming little spot. A place where I've been able to learn new things. I have heaps of support but I also feel like I can grow independently without always being told what to do. I've learnt about other community groups that can help me and my baby, like Loving Arms, and attended the young parent evenings. Going to church has been good and everyone is so friendly. It's a fun, nice place to be where everyone is happy."*

We also received the following surprise text message from a former resident:

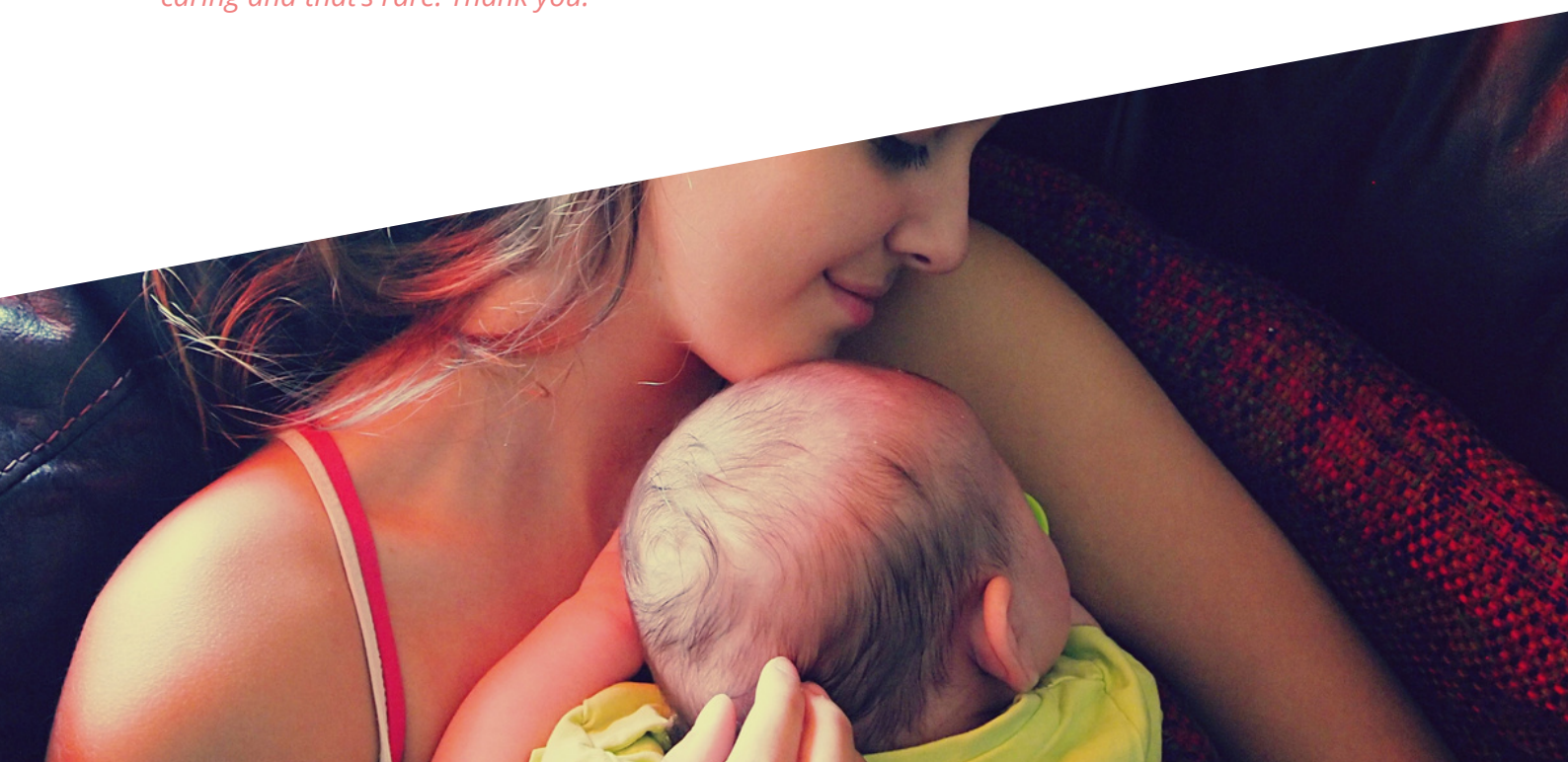
*"You guys are amazing role models, loving, caring and that's rare. Thank you."*

We recently had the privilege of caring for a young mum whose older children had been placed into alternative care by Oranga Tamariki. She'd made significant changes in her life but still needed support to parent independently. With help from The House of Grace, she worked really hard to improve her parenting skills and has since moved into her own place with her baby. She remains in contact with our Housemother, sharing photos and regular updates. She shared:

*"The Houseparents were so nice and I really miss their kids. I loved my time at The House of Grace. They supported me and also put in a good word for me. I'm now set up to keep my son and OT have closed their file."*

Another resident with a similar story said:

*"Thank you so much for giving me and my baby boy a chance. I now have the freedom to parent him alone and I couldn't be happier."*



## 7. SOWING SEEDS

At The House of Grace, we often talk about the long term impact of what we do. This can't be easily seen or measured in a simple way. Over the years I have been fortunate to connect with many former residents who have shared similar stories. Tales of gratitude, learning and insight into what a healthy family can be like. These are experiences and memories they have taken into their future. Even if they didn't always do so while living at The House of Grace.

One former resident recently reflected, "Looking back, I'm so grateful for the opportunities The House of Grace gave me. I wish I could do it all over again!"

Another resident shared that she still has the scrap book she made while living at The House of Grace seven years ago. It is something she has treasured and looks back on with fond memories.

We like to think that the love and support we provide is a lot like 'sowing seeds'. A seed doesn't turn into a mighty tree straight away. It takes time, the right nutrients and conditions. That is what we're doing at The House of Grace. Sowing seeds, encouraging healthy support systems and seeking whānau and community connections to help young mums grow mighty and strong.

Our young people are our nation's future. It's our responsibility and privilege to protect and pave the way for them to thrive and not just survive. Not all are given the same opportunities in life and some have more challenges than others.

We must protect, encourage and uplift our tamariki as best we can. Thank you for partnering with The House of Grace to make that a reality.

Fiona Collins, Acting Director



## 8. AT HOME IN WELLINGTON

The Rikihana family live onsite at our Wellington home. Katie volunteered at The House of Grace ten years ago and Jacob was the builder who recently carried out our 'Warm Home project' renovations. It's great to have them now in the role of Houseparents.

As they run the home, residents are included as an extended part of their family. As well as programmes such as goal setting, preparing for childbirth and home management, residents get to be a part of Rikihana family experiences such as 'all in' extended family meal nights and side-line sports supporting.

The learning that takes place is so much more than what can be provided by external courses. Learning how to deal with life not quite turning out as anticipated, what to do when children are unwell or how to prepare a fun afternoon tea and create special family memories. Simply put - everyday family life is experienced together.

The home is located just a short walk from the local supermarket, medical center, pharmacy & bus stop. This enables residents to be supported yet retain some valuable independence. The main entrance was recently renovated and now provides a warm space for residents to entertain guests or simply relax in the sun.





## 9. HAMILTON HOME UPDATE

The Vercoe family have recently moved to live onsite in the Hamilton home. Together with their three children, learning experiences will include, how to manage life with nap times, how to make food for toddlers and what to do when things don't quite go according to plan (aka 'toddler life!'). All of this in addition to our usual in-home learning programmes.

The grounds are beautiful and residents often enjoy spending time outside on the porch or seeing what they can grow in the garden. With a number of large fruits trees, there is always lots of fresh fruit to experiment with.

We encourage all of our residents to engage in ongoing education, appropriate to their stage of pregnancy or parenthood. The local teen parent school is within walking distance of the home, making it a practical and easy option for many residents.

Just like the Wellington home, resident bedrooms are uniquely prepared and ready to welcome each new young woman. This includes welcome packs to convey "you are special, you are wanted and you are safe". An important message for every young mum.





## 10. THANK YOU

Like many charitable trusts in New Zealand, The House of Grace continues to navigate these challenging financial times.

We've made decisions to delay projects, keep a close eye on core costs and ensure we continue to provide an excellent service to our communities.

With support from local groups and generous individuals, we have been able to ensure our homes are open and operating and that they will continue to do so. We make prudent decisions to ensure we are around to assist young mums and their babies for future years to come.

One particular highlight I would like to mention is that The House of Grace is now mortgage free. Thanks in particular to Veronica's Place who in the last financial year donated a large sum of money that enabled us to achieve this.

We are incredibly grateful for the people who partner with us and donate throughout the year, whether that is through a regular automatic payment, donations through Givealittle, leaving a bequest, Payroll Giving, or another way. This long-term, consistent support makes a huge difference and allows us to do so much in communities across the nation. Thank you!



There are a number of key businesses, Trusts and Foundations that generously give grants to The House of Grace throughout the year. We simply couldn't do what we do without these contributions, so special thanks goes to these groups. Please see the following page for a list of our key supporters from this year.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you, our whānau of supporters, for your commitment to those who are in need, and for your grace throughout the last year. We look forward to continuing to partner with you as we strive to make a real and lasting difference in communities throughout New Zealand.

Ngā mihi

Michael Bangma, Treasurer

## 11. THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

A huge thank you to every individual and organisation that has supported The House of Grace this year, including those who may have been inadvertently left off this list. We appreciate you all so much.

### Trusts

Aileen Drewitt Charitable Trust -  
Archdiocese of Wellington - D V Bryant  
Trust - COGS - Community Waikato -  
Eastern & Central Community Trust - EM  
Parazyn Trust - FH Muter Charitable Trust -  
Gallagher Trust - Gaynor Charitable Trust -  
Grassroots Trust Central - Hutt Mana  
Charitable Trust - John Illot Charitable  
Trust - Len Renyolds Trust - Lions Club East  
Hamilton - Lion Foundation - Marlborough  
Christian Aid Trust - Nikau Foundation -  
Norah Howell Charitable Trust - NZ  
Lotteries Grants Board - Page Trust -  
Pelorus Trust - The Catholic Foundation -  
The Roy & Jan Mace Trust - The Trusts  
Community Foundation - The Wallis Trust -  
Trust House - Trust Waikato - Vavasour  
Trust - Wel Energy Trust - Wellington  
Children's Foundation Inc - Wellington  
Community Trust - Wellington Methodist  
Trust - Winton & Margaret Bear Trust

### Organisations

Association of Anglican Women -  
Faisandier Group - Infoodle - Inner Wheel  
Wellington - Integrated Property Services  
Ltd - Johnsonville Rotary Club - Jumble Tree  
- MARDAG Holdings - Marlborough  
Christian Aid Trust - Max Architectural  
Design - Rotary Club of Port Nicholson -  
Upper Hutt City Council - Veronica's Place -  
Voice for Life Waikato - Waikato Regional  
Council - Wellington City Council

### Churches

ARISE Church - Elim Church Wellington -  
Kings Church - Methodist Church of NZ -  
Newlands Baptist Church - Northern Hills  
Church - Onslow Community Church -  
Plimmerton Presbyterian Church -  
Reverence for Life Group - Te Awamutu  
Baptist Church - The Order of St Luke - The  
Village Church - Wellington Reformed  
Church - Western Suburbs Christian  
Fellowship Church

### Donated goods or services

Beanies for Babies - Bear & Moo - Devon &  
Patterson Flooring - Disbin - Dobbins  
Furniture - Good Bitches Baking - Guthrie  
Bowron Porirua - Jet Electrical - Kiwi  
Community Assistance - Mane Build -  
MediTrain First Aid - MMM NZ - North City  
Motors - Plumb 2 Please - The English  
Craftsman - The Nest Collective

### Veronica's Place

Special thanks goes to Veronica's  
Place for their amazing donation.  
Veronica's Place Charitable Trust  
housed and supported young  
mothers and babies in Waipawa,  
Hawkes Bay. While the Trust  
recently closed it's doors, their  
legacy will continue through The  
House of Grace.

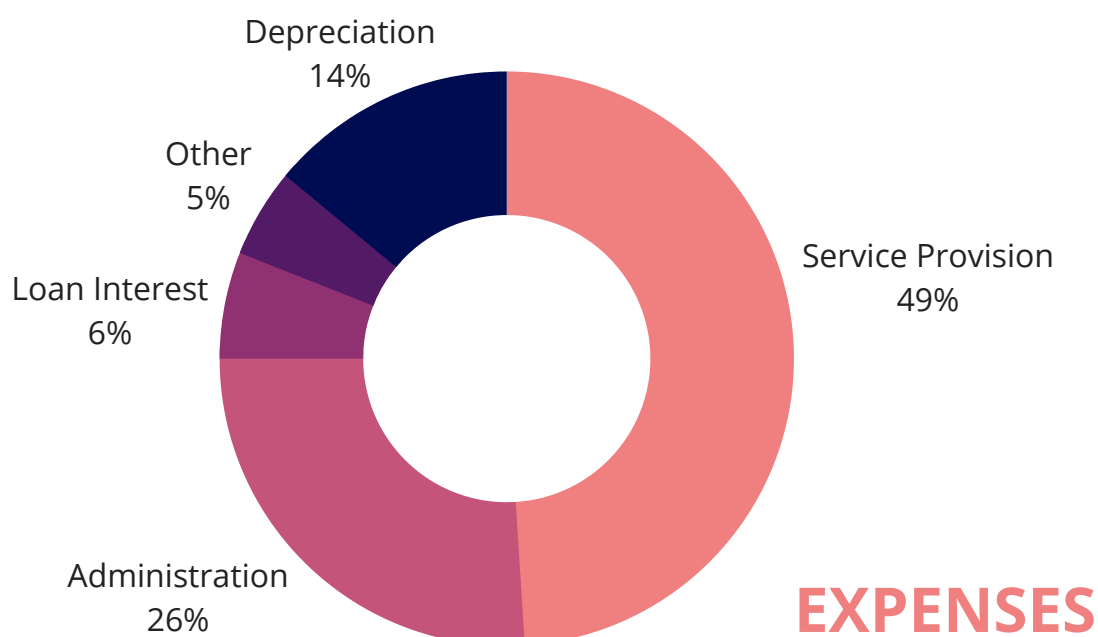
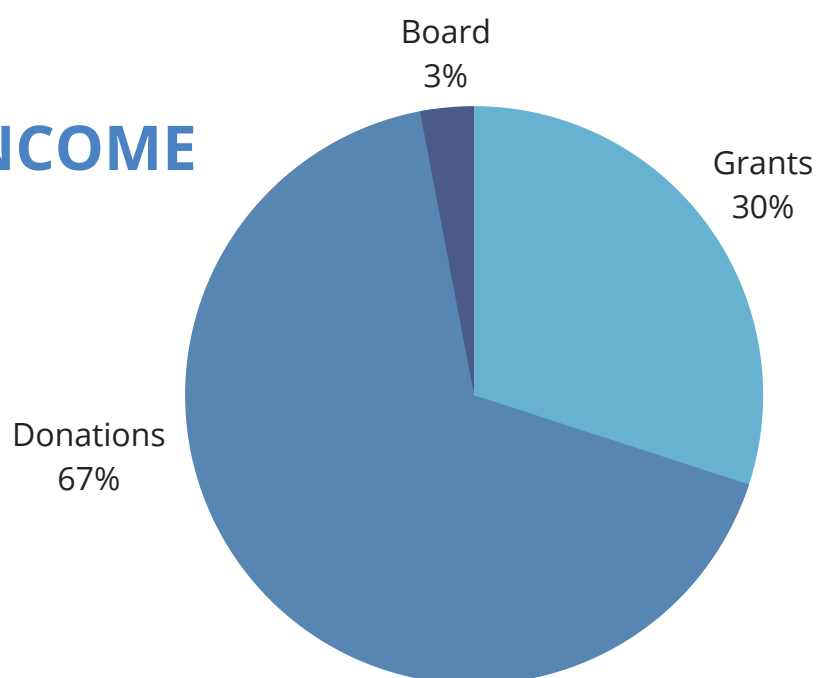


## 12. INCOME AND EXPENSES SUMMARY

Our key income sources include grants, donations and accommodation board from residents. With the exception of the initial COVID-19 Wage Subsidy, The House of Grace does not receive any government funding.

Here's a snapshot of our income and expenses performance for the year ending 31 March 2021. For full details, please refer to our financial statements which are available on request.

### INCOME



### EXPENSES

**Legal Name of Entity**

The House of Grace Trust Incorporated

**Charities Registration Number**

CC10642

**Postal Address**

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**Contact**

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