

SWEET Connection

Latest news and inspiration for Sweet Louise supporters



Marino with her daughter Zoe and her grandchildren.



Marino with her granddaughter Isabella.

What you give is huge

Marino was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer at the age of 49. Thanks to your support, Marino is living her life to the fullest and creating precious memories with her whānau.

“When I was diagnosed with breast cancer I was still working,” says Marino. “I was well. At the time, I’d never felt fitter. It was very difficult telling my family. There was an overwhelming sense of grief and sadness.”

Marino’s 12-year-old granddaughter, Isabella, lives with her full-time. Her daughter Zoe, Isabella’s mum, has bipolar disorder and struggles with depression.

“It was particularly hard for Zoe,” adds Marino. “She went into deeper depression. It was a difficult time for us all.”

Marino was referred to Sweet Louise and the next week she met with her Support Coordinator, Nadine.

“I told Nadine my story and I was given some vouchers. Nadine told me about Family Time, where Sweet Louise would

help me organise a treat for myself and the kids.

“All of a sudden I could put petrol in the car. I took the kids to the movies. I could do the good stuff you do with your grandchildren. We went on a family holiday and stayed in a motorcamp.”

“ I am so grateful for Sweet Louise. Without Sweet Louise, I wouldn’t have those precious memories. Those times are captured in my mind and my heart.”

Marino has also been a regular at the Sweet Louise meetings where she has the chance to meet and chat with other women who have been diagnosed with incurable breast cancer.

“Sweet Louise is my strength. I haven’t missed any of the meetings, including the Zoom meetings over lockdown. The meetings bring hope, laughter and

ideas. We laugh and cry together.

“Nadine, my Support Coordinator, is always willing to listen. She listens and then asks me how she can help. She makes me feel like I am the most important person to her – that I am precious.

“Without Sweet Louise I would have been at a huge loss, including the loss of all those precious memories with my grandchildren.”

“ I would like to say to all those who donate to Sweet Louise – I appreciate your support. I am so grateful. Your donations help me to live my life to the fullest.”

“Even though we have a terminal illness, we can still have a quality of life. Our life still matters. We still matter. For me, the support has been life changing. What you give is huge.”



“We don’t let it get us down”

At Sweet Louise, our ambition is to be there for every New Zealander with advanced breast cancer at the time they need us and in the way they need us. Thanks to your support, anyone with a diagnosis of advanced breast cancer can join Sweet Louise and receive the personal care and compassion they deserve.



You make it possible for our team of Support Coordinators to be there for Kiwis with incurable breast cancer. I’ve seen first-hand the incredible difference this makes. It’s a humbling experience to see the smiles of those who are given practical and emotional help and support. To experience their relief in knowing they aren’t facing their cancer diagnosis alone. To help create the hope and positivity they need to live their lives as well as possible.

One woman recently told me: *“We can’t beat the cancer, but we won’t let it get us down.”*

Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart for the vital role you play. Sweet Louise relies entirely on the generosity of friends like you to enable us to be there to support New Zealanders with incurable breast cancer. Together, we make an enormous difference.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Catrin Devonald, CEO



Polly’s bike challenge!
Below: Polly Thomas with her good friend Patricia Weiss.

Cycling for cancer

Polly Thomas started a 30-day Tour Aotearoa bike ride across New Zealand in March 2020 in memory of her beautiful friend Patricia Weiss, who lost her battle with incurable breast cancer two years ago.

Polly’s tour was cut short due to the lockdown, but not before she’d raised nearly \$3000 for Sweet Louise. Thank you Polly and all your supporters for this amazing effort!

Helping is the greatest reward

Robyn Warin, right, is one of our special volunteers. She helps run the morning tea for the Sweet Louise meetings in Northland. And last year she even took the brave step of shaving her head to raise \$3000 for Sweet Louise.

Robyn says: “I like the values of Sweet Louise. It’s all about giving women with advanced breast cancer the support they need, when they need it. And as a volunteer, to be able to give back is amazing.

“Knowing that I can help make a difference for people in my community is the greatest reward I could have.”



To find out how you can make a difference by fundraising for Sweet Louise, please visit www.sweetlouise.co.nz/get-involved

Emotional support. Practical help.

A better life thanks to your support.



Stella with her daughter Donna: giving back to mums with advanced breast cancer.

Sweet remembrance

Stella Wall has left a gift in her Will to help Sweet Louise continue our vital work. Her daughter, Donna, was one of the first women to join Sweet Louise.

Donna was only 29 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. After treatment, Donna went into remission but Stella recalls the day they found out the cancer was back: "When Donna came to visit me, she looked so grey and tired. She had just been to the doctor and was told that her breast cancer was back. It was terrible."

"Donna got so much from Sweet Louise. She was very grateful for all the help they gave her. The vouchers provided practical assistance and opportunities for self-compassion experiences like massages.

"Leaving a gift in my Will is my way of giving back. I have looked after my family, my sister, my sons and grandchildren. But I feel that Donna would be happy to know that we are making life a bit easier for women struggling with advanced breast cancer. Especially the young mums – they need all the help they can get. I just want to lighten their load."

If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift in your Will, please complete the enclosed form, phone 0800 793 385 or email info@sweetlouise.co.nz



Jenny Cade: "Sometimes it's just about letting the women we support know that we're there for them."



Connection & kindness

Our team of Sweet Louise Support Coordinators currently provide 730 Kiwis and their families with specialised practical and emotional support.

Jenny Cade manages the team as well as supporting women in the north Auckland region. Jenny tells us about just some of what the team do every day:

"We make regular phone calls and visits to the women we support. We might visit people at home or at the hospital. Often we don't talk about the cancer at all – it's all about them and how they are.

"We organise and run meetings so women can chat with others in their community who are facing the same challenges. They tell us that getting together with others who understand completely what they are going through is really helpful.

"We explain how the Sweet Louise vouchers and the Family Time services work. We help people work out what they need

and help them organise it. For some that might be setting them up with ready-made meals, for others the chance to do something special with their family.

"The most important skills we use every day are listening, empathy and compassion. We know that it's not one size fits all – we need to find what's important for each person. And sometimes, it's just about letting them know that we're there for them, that they matter to us.

"I want to thank all those who generously support this work. I'm motivated by the feedback we get from the women we support about how much they appreciate our services. Thank you for helping us to keep on doing what we do."

SWEET
Louise

SUPPORT FOR
INCURABLE
BREAST CANCER

Sweet Louise provides practical and emotional support for New Zealanders with incurable breast cancer, helping them to live as well as possible, for as long as possible.

SWEET October

SUPPORT FOR INCURABLE BREAST CANCER



Join us this October...

...and host a tea party for Sweet October and raise funds to provide vital care and support for New Zealanders with incurable breast cancer.

You could host a fancy high tea, a laid-back “pie” tea, a fun morning tea or even a Mad Hatter’s tea party. The most important thing is to have fun and embrace the Sweet October sugar rush!

Register now at www.sweetoctober.nz and you’ll be able to set up your own super easy online fundraising page. You’ll also receive an online host pack with some egg-cellent recipe ideas, fundraising tips and resources to make your tea party a sweet success.

Once you’ve registered, all you need to do is set up your fundraising page, pick your date and invite your guests. You don’t have to be a master baker – you can be a shop-bought faker! Or ask your guests to bring a plate. Whatever you decide, have fun and know that every dollar you raise will help care for Kiwis with incurable breast cancer.



Why October?

It’s Breast Cancer Awareness Month and 13 October is Metastatic Breast Cancer Day – a day to raise awareness and build support for people with incurable, metastatic breast cancer.

We believe no one should have to face a diagnosis of incurable breast cancer alone. Join us for Sweet October and let’s make it happen.

Register for Sweet October now at www.sweetoctober.nz

SWEET Louise

SUPPORT FOR
INCURABLE
BREAST CANCER

Phone: 0800 793 385 | PO Box 137 343, Parnell, Auckland 1151
info@sweetlouise.co.nz www.sweetlouise.co.nz

Sweet Louise is registered with the New Zealand Charities Commission CC31706



Cheryl and her daughter are feeling positive thanks to your support.

Thank you from Cheryl

Thank you so much to all those who generously supported our appeal in March this year, which told the story of Cheryl and her daughter Grace. Although daily life remains a challenge, Cheryl is feeling positive and recently celebrated her seven-year anniversary since her diagnosis.

Cheryl says: “Thank you so much for your donation to Sweet Louise. Having stage 4 incurable breast cancer is hard enough, but add in the financial strain and it’s sometimes too much. You have helped me put food on the table for my daughter and myself when times are tough.

“I am so glad I have Sweet Louise. I now have people at the end of the phone line who know how to help me and who care. Because of your donation, they can help me when I need it most.”

Thank you

To all the community heroes, donors, supporters, volunteers, organisations, sponsors, clubs and trusts who make our work possible – thank you!

We rely entirely on your generosity to continue our vital work. A special thank you our principal sponsors: The Hugh Green Foundation, The Lindsay Foundation and Auckland Radiation Oncology.