

100% to St John

Story reprinted courtesy of Horowhenua Chronicle

Like many people, Levin woman Diana White has always given a little financial support to charities she believes in.

"It's not a lot of money but just a little something now and then," Diana White says.

One charity she has always respected is St John.

"I think they do a great job in the community. You never know when you might need them and they're there for you," she says.

Recent research revealed some charities receive as little as two percent of money collected, with the rest being retained by telemarketing companies.

"It made me think a little harder before putting my hand in my purse to donate," Ms White says. "I thought the best thing to do was to contact St John."

She dropped a letter in the post and was delighted to receive an almost instant response from Central Region Executive Officer Jim Datson.

"I was shocked to receive such a prompt reply and from the Executive Officer," she says.

Mr Datson's letter confirmed St John does in fact directly receive and process all donations sent to it.

"It's a dilemma for a huge number of very worthwhile and valid charitable groups who often struggle to attract any level of support any way they can," Mr Datson stated in the letter.

"We involve volunteers to a significant degree to keep costs down and we also test our fundraising activity to ensure that we don't end up spending money in any way that would reflect badly on our organisation. We are a blessed organisation to a number of ongoing donors and supporters we have and to receive the level of gifts offered to us. We would be foolish to risk that."

Ms White approached the Horowhenua Chronicle.

"I think it's important that people know that when they make a donation to St John it will be used as they intended." She says.



Diana White wants people to know 100 percent of any donation they make to St John will go directly to the organisation, not just a percentage shared with telemarketers

Friends

A quarterly newsletter for our donors and supporters

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Born to give

When it comes to giving 92 year-old Newton Wickham has a reputation that spans generations and has benefited hundreds of charities.

"I've been a saver, a giver and a helper all of my life. You name a cause and chances are I've supported it," Newton laughs.

One of the charities he supports is St John.

"About five years ago when I was still living in my own home I got a Lifelink medical alarm and hoped I would never need it. I woke up one morning at 6.00am and standing in front of me were two St John Ambulance Officers. I'd rolled over in my sleep and pushed my alarm and they had responded to it. They were so professional about it and checked me out thoroughly to make sure I was alright, so I decided to donate \$500 to St John to thank them," he says.

A note of thanks and an invitation for morning tea with the St John Fundraising team members and management followed. Since then his connection with St John has grown even stronger.

"Some time later a strange coincidence occurred, again I unwittingly pressed my alarm and when the ambulance arrived its officers discovered I had just suffered a stroke and they got me to the hospital in time," he says.

Regular donations and words of support followed but the desire to do more for St John was in his mind.

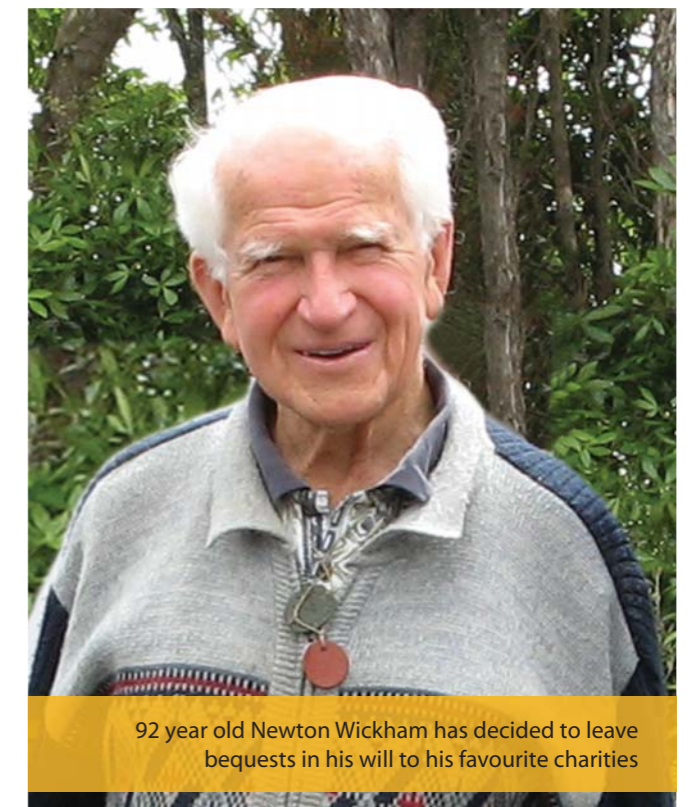
"My motto is to give a little to a lot. I erred on the generous side, went the extra mile and made sure that money was my servant not my god. I've given to scores of causes and I've always felt that St John appreciates any support I can offer. I'm in a retirement village now and I decided instead of giving regular donations to everyone that I would make provision in my will to leave money to some of my regular causes," Newton says.

St John is one of the organisations he has chosen for a bequest. While the subject of wills is often hard for some people to talk about Newton describes the process of leaving a bequest as straightforward.

"I decided what I wanted to do and asked that the details of each bequest be added to my will," he says.

Newton's expectation is that one day his bequest will help St John to continue their work and benefit other people.

"My giving has inspired other people and I hope it continues to inspire more people." He says.



92 year old Newton Wickham has decided to leave bequests in his will to his favourite charities

» We welcome your support

If you would like to make a donation please call **0800 ST JOHN (0800 785 646)**

An automatic donation of \$20 can be made through your phone bill by calling **0900 ST JOHN (0900 785 646)**



St John
first to care

Contact us on **0800 ST JOHN (0800 785 646)**

- » to advise us of changes to your address, email or phone details
- » to let us know your mailing preferences
- » to make a donation
- » to volunteer for St John or find out more about how St John works within your community

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The buzz on bequests

For a rare breed of St John donors the gift of giving lives on long after they are gone in the form of a bequest.

A special gift made in a Will, a bequest identifies benefactors nominated to inherit all or part of an estate.

As with all donations bequests vary depending on the wishes of the person who has given the gift.

No matter what size a bequest is this unique form of giving makes a significant difference to the effectiveness of the services that St John delivers to improve the health and well-being of all New Zealanders.

The generosity of donors who leave bequests to our organisation has enabled the expansion of St John services, purchase of Health Shuttles, Ambulances, development of treatment facilities and other exciting initiatives throughout New Zealand.

There are many ways a bequest can be tailored to suit personal preferences and circumstances.

The most common types of bequest include;

Percentage bequest

Your estate can be divided among a number of people and/or organisations such as St John. This means you won't have to remake your will to compensate for inflation.

Residual bequest

You can provide for family and friends first and leave what is left (the residue) to St John. As your estate increases in value, so does your bequest. A residual bequest helps offset the effect of inflation.

Specific amount bequest

A specific cash sum is a common form of bequest but because it doesn't allow for inflation, it may need to be reviewed regularly.

For people who already have a Will in place and decide they would like to include a bequest, the process of amending an existing Will is possible with the aid of a legal advisor and the preparation of an additional page called a codicil which documents the gift.

A special donation that becomes a long lasting legacy, bequests are one of many ways donors support the work of St John in communities throughout New Zealand.

- if you would like to find out more information about bequests contact St John Central Region Fundraising Coordinator Sandy Carter on 06 355 7755 ext 5763 or email sandy.carter@stjohn.org.nz or discuss options and specific wording with your legal adviser to make sure your Will reflects your wishes.

Support St John so it can support you

In June St John will launch its second annual **Flash a Light for St John Appeal** to raise funds for the medical, emergency and community programmes it runs in communities throughout New Zealand.

The week long appeal will run from 20 to 26 June including St John the Baptist day on 24 June.

While last years appeal featured the story of a small boy who helped to save his grandmothers life after attending a St John course at his school, this years appeal will focus on the 125 year anniversary of St John in New Zealand and the vital role our services continue to play in communities today.

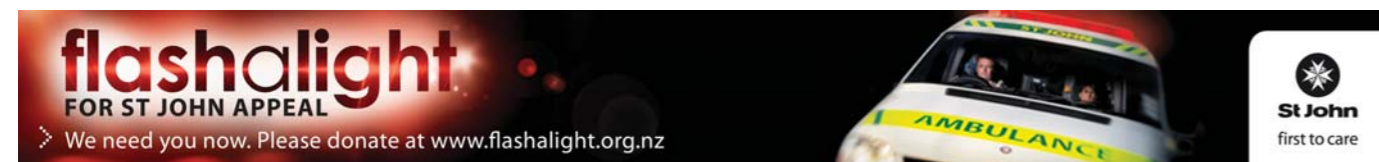
A key part of last years appeal success was local activity coordinated by St John Area Committees. This activity will continue with street collections in many towns and cities, support from ASB and Bunnings and St John members who will take the opportunity to promote St John to community groups.

The dedication of our staff and volunteers will be highlighted during the week to media with a series of profiles and stories which showcase the work of our everyday heroes.

Special **Flash a Light for St John** promotional items such as last years flashing light lapel pin and mini key ring torches, will be on sale again during the appeal week along with new items that are guaranteed to attract attention.

Since its creation more than 900 years ago in the holy land and inception in New Zealand 125 years ago, St John continues to touch the lives of people 24 hours a day seven days a week. We appreciate your ongoing support and hope you will take the time to Flash a Light for St John during our appeal week from 20 to 26 June.

- If you would like more information about this year's **Flash a Light for St John Appeal** email sandy.carter@stjohn.org.nz.



Putting the fun in fundraising

St John Central Region has a new team of fundraisers who are putting the fun back into fundraising as they raise funds for St John services and facilities in the lower North Island.

Sandy Carter returned to New Zealand early in 2009 after a 20 year sojourn in South Australia where she worked as a volunteer ambulance officer, professional photographer, courts official and seasoned sales professional.

Raised in Feilding and now living in Foxton, Sandy's ties with St John began upon her return when she offered her skills as a volunteer and continued when she was appointed as the Regional Fundraising Coordinator in November last year.

Passionate about people and her role Sandy is working hard to raise St John's profile in the community, meeting with donors and working on new and exciting initiatives in the world of fundraising.

"I'm passionate about my role as fundraiser. The money raised in our appeals goes back to the communities we serve in facilities and services, it doesn't get any better than that." Sandy Carter says.

Helping her with her plans is Fundraising and Support Services Administrator Wendy Dromgool-Price. Wendy came to St John in early 2009 after a successful career as a personal assistant with a leading New Zealand business.

Friendly, detailed and enthusiastic, Wendy maintains the Central Region donor database, is a local contact for calls from donors, processes funds donated to St John during

appeals and assists Sandy with fundraising projects. Together the new fundraising team have introduced a sense of fun to their work and passion for the services that St John delivers to communities throughout New Zealand.

"We welcome any communication from our donors – whether its calls, emails or letters. When we hear how St John has touched their lives it makes what we do feel even more worthwhile." Wendy Dromgool-Price says.



St John Central Region's new fundraising team
Wendy Dromgool-Price and Sandy Carter

Proud past leads to bright future

A diverse organisation built on the generosity of donors and support of volunteers, St John origins date back beyond the First Crusade to the Holy Land in 1095 when the Crusaders founded a hospice, the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, run by a group of monks.

The Crusaders gave the hospital land and money and in 1113 the Pope recognised it as an independent religious order, The Order of St John, whose special task was to care for the sick.

Over the next 800 years, a number of "branches" of the original Order of St John rose and faded throughout Europe. The Order of St John in England, from which the Priory in New Zealand is descended, re-established itself in 1831 after centuries of persecution and decline and in 1888 it became incorporated by Royal Charter of Queen Victoria, who served as its Sovereign Head.

In 1877 The St John Ambulance Association was founded in England to provide ambulance transport and instruction on first aid to the public at home and at work.

On 30 April 1885 St John began in New Zealand at a community meeting at St Mary's Church in Merivale, Christchurch when a meeting was called to discuss and agree on options for the community to serve its own need for ambulance and first aid services.

The New Zealand branch was the sixth branch in the world outside Britain.

St John rapidly established itself throughout New Zealand in our larger cities and smaller towns where medical services were limited and the labour-intensive workforce was susceptible to serious injury.

In its early days the success of St John depended heavily on the service of volunteers and support of organisations and donors – ordinary New Zealanders who gave up their time and money to serve their fellow citizens. Today volunteers and donors remain crucial to the success of the services St John provides.