

IMPACT REPORT

20
23



1 APR 22 – 31 MAR 23



MobilityDogs®

LIFE CHANGING LOYALTY



MobilityDogs[®]

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IMPACT REPORT
2023

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NZ Charities Registration Number: CC24410

puppies[®]
in prison



Our Core VALUES

OUR MISSION

To enhance the lives of people living with disabilities, increasing independence, confidence, self esteem and participation in New Zealand communities.

OUR VISION

To provide Mobility Dogs to everyone in New Zealand who would benefit from being partnered with one.

OUR PURPOSE

To have a positive impact on the lives of people living with a disability.



Dogs at
work, people
at our core.



Life
Changing
Loyalty

FROM THE DESK OF OUR **CHAIRPERSON**

Mobility Dogs has been training and placing our highly skilled Mobility Dogs with disabled New Zealanders for 15 years.

Over that time, we have seen increasing recognition around the impact that Mobility Dogs have on individuals, their families, and communities at large. We are focused on continuing to train our specialised assistance dogs and providing support for as many people and communities as possible.

We are expanding our reach beyond Auckland, and are placing dogs as Court, Dental, Therapy, and Companion Dogs. Our Puppy Raising communities have now expanded to four cities, and our Puppies in Prison™ programme continues to empower individuals through learning new skills and contributing to society.

We are mindful of the challenges faced by those affected by COVID, natural disasters, and the current

economic situation. We also acknowledge the financial difficulties disproportionately faced by disabled individuals. At Mobility Dogs, we strive to support our clients throughout the lifetime of their dogs, understanding the increasing financial burden of dog ownership.

I am especially grateful to our donors and supporters who contribute their time, energy, and funds to Mobility Dogs. While we feel well supported, we recognise the growing demand for funding across various causes and organisations. As a result, we are taking proactive measures to ensure our long-term financial security while fulfilling our fiscal responsibility. Our goal is to train each dog with care and precision, partnering them with individuals or organisations within the disabled community.

At Mobility Dogs, we understand the uniqueness of each dog and the person they

partner with. Our tailored training programmes aim to enhance their individuality, enabling them to adapt and respond in any situation. We prioritise the wellbeing of our dogs, ensuring their lifelong welfare and maintaining their distinct personalities.

I am grateful to our dedicated team for their ongoing commitment and exceptional efforts in achieving outstanding results. I would also like to extend my gratitude to our volunteers, who play an integral role in raising, training, and caring for our dogs.

From the Mobility Dogs team we look forward to the next 15 years and continuing to serve the disabled and broader communities with our ongoing initiatives.



Kathy Peake
CHAIRPERSON

Our Year in NUMBERS



SNAPSHOT OF 2022-2023

11
CLIENTS

INCLUDES PLACEMENTS OF:

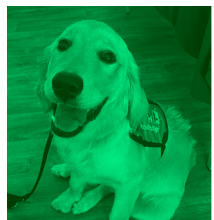
5
COMPANION
DOGS

ONE THERAPY
DOG

5
MOBILITY
DOGS



33 PUBLIC ACCESS
ACCREDITATIONS
APPROVED



2 DOGS
IN DENTAL
CLINICS



8 PRISONERS
SUPPORTED
AND TAUGHT
HOW TO RAISE
AND TRAIN
MOBILITY DOGS

59 MOBILITY DOG
PARTNERSHIPS
WERE SUPPORTED
ACROSS A RANGE
OF DISABILITIES

*Thank you for
supporting us!*



Find out
MORE

UNDERSTANDING WHAT WE DO



We train assistance dogs to help people with disabilities to lead more independent lives.



We manage a prison programme that supports the rehabilitative goals of prisoners.



We manage four puppy raising communities in Auckland, Whangarei, Hamilton and Southern Lakes.



We train therapy dogs to work in a clinical environment with a specialist handler.



We place companion dogs with families who face challenges.



We have our dogs working in two courts.



We continue to support our clients for the lifetime of their Mobility Dog.



We seek new ways that Mobility Dogs can help people.



Quality

Guided by our accreditation with Assistance Dogs International, we commit to achieving high standards and best practice together with ensuring the health and wellbeing of all our dogs.

Collaboration

We work together with other organisations to advance our collective knowledge for the benefit of all New Zealanders.

Funding

We commit to spending funders money wisely through efficiency, impact and focus.

Location of OUR DOGS

1

Australia

2

Northland

4

Bay of Plenty
TAURANGA:
1 Court Dog

4 1

Waikato
HAMILTON: 2 Mobility Dogs,
1 Companion Dog

1

Hastings

1

Taranaki

1

Fielding

1

Hawera

2

Palmerston North

1

Nelson

1

Masterton

2

Canterbury

6 2

Wellington

2

Otago

1

Invercargill

2 5 1 1 8

Auckland

NORTH: 5 Mobility Dogs,
1 Companion Dog.

CENTRAL: 4 Mobility Dogs

SOUTH: 2 Mobility Dogs,
8 Puppies in Prison™

WEST: 1 Mobility Dog



MOBILITY DOGS



PUPPIES IN PRISON™



THERAPY DOGS



DENTAL DOGS



COMPANION DOGS



COURT DOGS

LINDA-LEE & DARBY

As a child Linda-Lee was the first person in NZ to be diagnosed with Arthrogryposis, a condition of thickness and stiffening of the joints. In Linda-Lee's case the affected joints are her hips, knees and ankles. Going up and down stairs or stepping down off a curb is impossible unless she is holding on to something.

'When I was told that I met the criteria for a Mobility Dog my heart was bursting with emotion'.

On the day Darby and Linda-Lee met for the first time, Darby was wearing his harness. His harness acts as a stabiliser for Linda-Lee, supporting her as she walks.

'My old confidence has returned, and I feel like my world has come back to me! I can do things that I haven't been able to do in such a long time. He makes me feel fiercely independent again and able to give anything a go. But more than that - he's given me my dignity back.'



'When I was told that I met the criteria for a Mobility Dog my heart was bursting with emotion'.

LINDA-LEE



Life
Changing
Loyalty

Above: Linda-Lee with Darby, a Mobility dog. Photo by Kirsty from Dog & Co Photography.

THERAPY DOG, **FLETCHER**

Fletcher works with Irena, an art therapist/counsellor. Her clients come for weekly counselling and therapy sessions that are usually about one hour long.

Fletcher greets the clients with Irena, and he can sit on the couch next to them if they would like. He rests his head on their lap and snuggles into them so they can pet and stroke him.

This helps the client to feel comfortable, settled and safe. Fletcher will stay there for the whole session. He often falls asleep on their lap which is something that delights people because it helps them to feel so trusted and completely accepted.

Because most of Irena's clients are long-term, he greets them like old friends. He helps people to feel grounded and safe, which is profoundly significant for trauma clients who have PTSD.



Above: Irena and Therapy Dog Fletcher.

Fletcher brings lightness into the therapy room by being playful and goofy, and he relieves tension by making people laugh.



He helps people to feel grounded and safe, which is profoundly significant for trauma clients who have PTSD.

MADDY AND HER SPECIAL COMPANION, AVERY


For those living with cerebral palsy, life can be challenging both physically and socially. For 13-year-old Maddy, her disability affects her legs, preventing her from walking independently and doing simple tasks like picking up items from the floor or taking off clothes and shoes. As a result, Maddy often feels

left behind by and unable to participate in activities such as sports or games with her peers, leaving her feeling left out and isolated.

Maddy had always wanted a dog to love and care for, and that's where Mobility Dogs came in. Maddy's mum has worked for Mobility Dogs since the start of 2022, but she first heard about Mobility Dogs when Maddy was 8 years old. At that stage Maddy didn't meet the age-related criteria for a Mobility Dog (16 years+), but when the Companion Dog programme was established, they decided to re-apply.

Once Maddy was accepted, the process of finding the right dog for her began. They were eventually matched with Avery, and after a one-month trial, it was clear that Avery was the perfect dog for their family.

Since Avery has joined their family, Maddy's life has



“Avery will often come and lay her head in my lap when I am feeling a little low. The first time she did this it was beyond wonderful; it was like she knew I was sad.”

MADDY

changed in countless ways. Avery helps her with simple tasks like taking off shoes and socks, closing drawers and doors, and nudging open sliding doors. But more importantly, Avery provides Maddy with companionship, love, and a constant source of comfort. Avery has filled their days with fun and love, and Maddy no longer feels lonely or left out.



Above: Maddy (13) and her best friend, Avery.

BEING A VOLUNTEER: **CARLA'S STORY**

It's been almost 3 years since we welcomed our first Mobility Dog puppy Avery into our lives. It was such an exciting day, yet in some ways also a bit daunting because we knew we had a huge responsibility. Making sure we'd nurture, train and guide this tiny wee pup to eventually transform someone's life by offering them practical support, companionship and security whilst living their life with a disability.

We decided to apply to be Puppy Raisers after watching the Dog Squad Puppy School program. It was important to us to teach our then 8-year-old son about social responsibility and finding ways to help others with challenges in their lives. Being a Puppy Raiser seemed to be an awesome way of doing this.

Where we thought we were doing this for others, we actually ended up gaining so much out of our involvement



Above: Carla and Avery.

ourselves. Seeing this helpless little pup developing into an amazing companion in his new partnership was one of the most rewarding things I think I have ever experienced. The joy she brings to the person she is with, the independence this young lady has gained and the emotional support Avery offers her is just heartwarming.

I have also gained a whole new community of the loveliest people. All the other Raisers, Staff and Management - everybody with the same goal and sense of caring for others has enriched our lives in many ways. The support and kindness we all offer each other is something very special to me.

GREENSTONE MEDIA AND DOG SQUAD: **PUPPY SCHOOL**



Above: During filming for the Dog Squad: Puppy School TV Series.

Greenstone Media produces Dog Squad: Puppy School and over the last four years they have followed a number of Mobility Dogs for the series.

They have tracked the journeys of specific pups from only 12 weeks old when they are placed with their puppy raisers, up until they graduate and go to their forever home

with their human.

Dog Squad: Puppy School was filmed across all four Mobility Dogs areas as well as in the prison programme.

It has followed the lives and training journeys of more than 20 Mobility Dogs over 4 seasons.



"Puppy School takes viewers behind the scenes to discover how 'dogs with jobs', including Mobility Dogs are trained."

DOG SQUAD

A WIN-WIN PARTNERSHIP

puppies[®]
in prison

Since 2008, Mobility Dogs has partnered with the Department of Corrections on the Puppies in Prisons programme. Prisoners are educated on how to train Mobility Dogs who will be partnered with people living with disability. Prisoners value the sense of purpose the programme offers and develop skills that are invaluable to their rehabilitation. These include self-discipline, empathy, reporting, teamwork and leadership. Staff working with prisoners see the difference it can make to those involved. Prisoners develop pro-social behaviours, build self-esteem, and gain a sense of responsibility and respect.

"The gift we receive when we get a dog is: loyalty, protection, great listeners, huge willingness to help any time and best of all, unconditional lifelong



Above: Dog in training in the prison programme.

friendship. ... You have made me believe in myself again... and I will always be grateful for what you've taught me and the time you've taken to teach us."

Quote from a Prisoner.



"We feel really lucky to be involved in this programme, training the dogs gives us a real sense of purpose, and just having them around means so much for our own wellbeing."

PRISONER

Making a DIFFERENCE

OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

Our incredible Mobility Dogs volunteers are the heart and soul of our organisation. From puppy raising and boarding to fundraising and beyond, they embody unwavering dedication and boundless compassion. With their selfless contributions, they help transform adorable puppies into life-changing companions for those in need.

These remarkable individuals tirelessly work behind the scenes, giving their time, energy, and love to support our mission. They are the driving force that enables Mobility Dogs to empower individuals with disabilities. We are endlessly grateful for their commitment, and their impact reverberates through the lives they touch.

We are gifted an incredible number of volunteer hours each week.


35 PUPPY
RAISERS



WHO SPEND

 **5,800** HOURS
P/WK

caring for Mobility Dog Puppies 24/7 in their homes

 **8** DOGS IN
PRISON 
365 days per year



Making a DIFFERENCE

Thank you to our volunteers who are the heart of Mobility Dogs.



Our PEOPLE

MEET OUR BOARD

CHAIRPERSON, MOBILITY ASSISTANCE DOGS TRUST

Kathy Peake
BVSc, DVCS, DLDT

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Karen Elliott
BSc Molecular Biology

Trustees

Emma Clarke BSc, PGDipBus,
Marketing and Communications

Suzie Mudge MHS, PhD

Troy Kennedy CA

Gregory Shanahan LLM (Hons)



ACKNOWLEDGING OUR SUPPORTERS

Our heartfelt thanks to the many philanthropic organisations who make our work possible.



AK Franks
Charitable Trust



Continued over page...

Thank
YOU

ACKNOWLEDGING **OUR SUPPORTERS**

Joyce
Fisher
Charitable
Trust

**KIWI
GAMING**
FOUNDATION LTD

**THE LION
FOUNDATION**

**LINDSAY
FOUNDATION**

LW Nelson
Charitable Trust.
Managed by Public Trust

**MASTERTON TRUST
LANDS TRUST**
est. 1872

**MAURICE PAYKEL
CHARITABLE TRUST**

NZCT
NZ COMMUNITY TRUST

FOUNDATION

Oxford
SPORTS TRUST Inc.

**Pub
Charity**
Limited

perpetual guardian

RANO
COMMUNITY TRUST

REHABILITATION WELFARE TRUST
Assisting people with disabilities

TECT

the trusts
Keeping it local

MANAGED BY PUBLIC TRUST
THOMAS GEORGE
**MACARTHY
TRUST**
ESTABLISHED 1912

TRILLIAN TRUST
SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

**Trust
Waikato**
TE PUNA O WAIKATO

**Wellington
Community
Fund**
Te Upoko o te Ika

However you support us, whether through donations to our special appeals, regular monthly donations, workplace giving or other fundraising efforts, you are helping provide positive outcomes for people living with a disability throughout New Zealand.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

REVENUE

Donations, fundraising and similar revenue	\$707,374
Revenue from providing goods and services	\$71,573
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	\$13,114
Total revenue	<u>\$792,060</u>

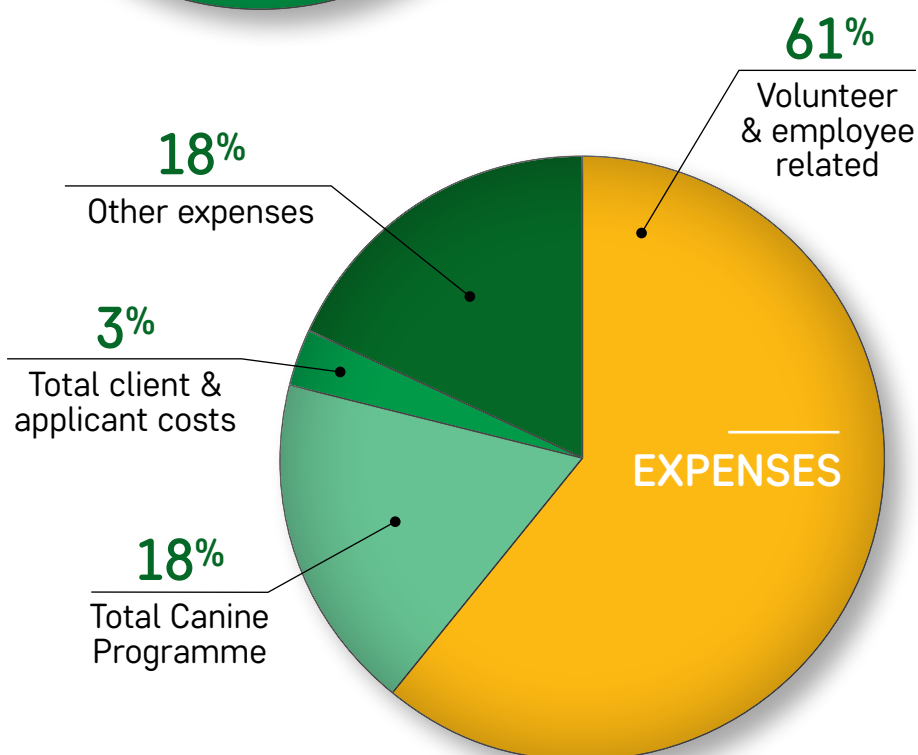
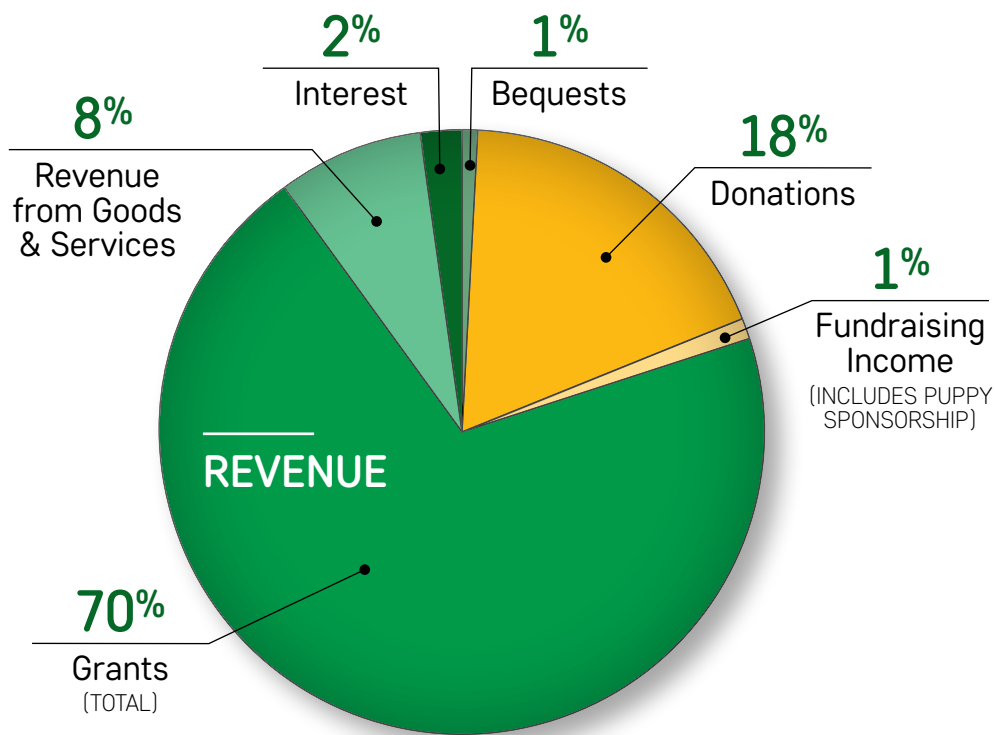
EXPENSES

Volunteer and employee related costs	\$454,435
Costs related to providing goods and services	\$153,047
Other expenses	\$140,528
Total expenses	<u>\$748,010</u>

SURPLUS (Deficit) for the year	<u>\$44,050</u>
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Financial PERFORMANCE



To view the complete set of the audited accounts please click [here](#)



MobilityDogs®

LIFE CHANGING LOYALTY

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