

# CHAMPION FOUNDATION TRUST

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ANNUAL REPORT

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YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2017

CHARITIES COMMISSION CC39895  
PRIVATE BAG 4708 CHRISTCHURCH 8140

## PURPOSE OF THE TRUST

To benefit children with intellectual or other mental or physical disabilities compromising their development with specific focus on early intervention programmes and therapies by, including and not limited to, providing financial assistance to the Christchurch Early Intervention Trust incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 so long as it remains a charitable trust in New Zealand.

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

June 2017

2017 has been a momentous year for the Champion Foundation and there is much heartening progress to report.

Financially, we have had some spectacular gains over the preceding year, as the table below will demonstrate. As of 6 November 2017 the total raised by the Foundation including all pledges and operational support of \$693,551 is \$1,808,805.00.

	2017
Total raised by The Champion Foundation Trust including operational	\$1,611,391
Total raised by the Foundation including all pledges to Capital Fund	\$1,072,840
2016/17 Funds received incl. interest	\$ 295,017
Capital Funds invested	\$ 1,094,343

### **The Continuing Financial Challenge Facing the Champion Centre**

As I observed last year, the original goal of the Foundation on its founding over six years ago, was to build a capital fund of over \$5 million, the interest on which would go a long way to helping bridge the annual shortfall between revenue and operational costs. With interest rates remaining as low as they have, this goal of bridging the gap seems increasingly unattainable.

Accordingly the Foundation has modified its strategy, and is diversifying its approach to include co-funding the newly appointed position of Development Director. This initiative, jointly overseen with the Champion Centre, will give a commercial imperative to finding new ways of reducing the annual deficit.

For many years we have allowed ourselves to believe this deficit is around \$750,000. However, if the market rate for staffing costs were applied instead of the current situation where many staff are chronically underpaid, the true deficit is more like \$1.2 million.

Clearly the Champion Centre in its wonderful work is doing tasks the Government should be doing, and our resolve for the future is to press our case for additional government funding at the highest levels in Wellington.

### **Development Director**

One of the reports commissioned in 2016 concluded that the way forward would be best served with the appointment of a Development Director, and I am delighted to report that the Champion Centre and the Champion Foundation have together agreed to implement this high level appointment.

Reporting to both boards, via the conduit of the Clinical Director of the Champion Centre, this Director will be charged with spearheading new efforts in fundraising – from high net worth individuals and corporates to government ministries.

Being a full-time salaried position, something we have not been able to contemplate to date, the benefits to both the Champion Centre and Foundation are expected to be huge.

This role will dramatically enhance the tireless efforts to date, which have been made by Eve Nissen at the Champion Centre. Every year Eve's grant application activity has pulled in hundreds of thousands of dollars in the quest for bridging the deficit. Eve is to be congratulated on her successful efforts to date.

The Development Director will also be charged with communication and public relations functions to the wider community. NB As I write, I am delighted to announce that after a very thorough search, assisted by Brannigans, an appointment has been made and the Development Director will commence her duties from 1 November 2017.

Funding for this position will be shared by the Champion Foundation and a generous philanthropist in Christchurch.

### **Champion Centre GP Appointment**

The Foundation was pleased to respond to a request initiated via Patricia Champion, that they fund the appointment of a part-time GP to fill a much needed role hitherto absent from the Champion Centre's staffing base. The Champion Centre having a GP will bring significant improvements to access to vital health services outside the immediate realm of the Centre. Dr Caroline Gibb has agreed to take on this role, committing 10 hours per fortnight. The Foundation will fund this for three years.

### **Board Appointments**

It is with great pleasure that we record the appointment of two new trustees to the Foundation.

Bridget Frame who brings a wealth of valuable experience in the Charitable Foundation sector joined as an advisory trustee, and now chairs the Fundraising Committee of the Foundation, as well as accepting an appointment as a Trustee for the Foundation.

Bridget has already demonstrated her knowledge of the workings of government ministries in this field, and will be a vital member of the team as we mount our vigorous campaign on Wellington.

Tim Blake accepted an appointment as a Trustee of both the Champion Centre and the Champion Foundation Trust. Tim brings to us a keen commercial acumen, honed by years at the Canterbury Crusaders franchise and latterly as CEO of Spanbild – a leading Canterbury construction firm. Tim possesses a passion and commitment to all the goals we aspire to at the Centre and the Foundation and we know he is going to have a significant impact on our fortunes.

### **Approaches to Government for additional annual funding of the Champion Centre**

The Foundation has long been of the view that the Champion Centre, is put bluntly, doing the government's job for them, and that a very compelling case can be made for additional funding if only to respond to a newly perceived view in government that investment today can save millions in social costs later.

After initiatives from our wonderfully supportive friend Mike Dormer, a valuable meeting was set up between Trustees Bridget Frame, Tim Blake and Susan Foster-Cohen and representatives of the Ministry of Social Development.

Further discussions including Amy Adams have resulted in advice that a business case for additional funding needs to be made to the Ministry for Vulnerable Children. This would also require qualitative research to be carried out to support such a claim for additional funding. The Foundation already possesses a voluminous report by Research First, compiled in 2016, which can be a precursor to any quantitative analysis of the pros and cons of government funding.

This initiative will be occupying the Foundation and its Development Director very actively in the months ahead, especially with the change in government. Whatever that may produce for organisations such as ours.

#### **Significant Donations in 2016/17**

Judith and Howard Jelinek \$207,154 (donation received from USA)

The Hickman Family Trust \$20,000 (part of 100,000 pledge over 5 years)

Henry Van Asch \$12,500

Independent Fisheries \$150,000 (paid in 2017/18 financial year).

Obviously these are very generous donations indeed, and on behalf of the Trust we acknowledge this magnificent support of the Champion Foundation Trust these represent.

#### **Wills Trusts and Bequest Activity**

The Champion Foundation hosted a drinks function for Wills, Trust and Bequest lawyers at the Christchurch Club on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017. This was a small and targeted event to pass on information to those Lawyers about the work of the Champion Foundation and Champion Centre. Fourteen senior Lawyers and Partners attended the function along with a couple of senior Financial Advisors. The sole purpose of the evening was to raise awareness of the Champion Foundation and Centre to those who attended so that if any current or potential clients were interested in making a bequest there would be information available for them to give to those clients.

#### **Patricia's Book for Premature Children**

Funding is being sought for an illustrated children's book for premature children and infants to be written and published. The purpose of the book is to enable parents and caregivers to read the book to their prematurely born children about their different birth and early journey. There is currently no such book in New Zealand, Australia or internationally. The book will be distributed by means of gifting and retail. Any profits will be paid to the Champion Foundation Trust.

#### **Online Newsletter**

The Foundation's first online newsletter went out as a means to keeping supporters up to date with what is happening with the Foundation.

#### **Fundraising Activities – "Art from the Attic"**

The major fundraising for the year was the hugely successful "Art from the Attic" auction function, conducted in conjunction with CoCA on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

Over 120 invited guests paid their admission monies then attended the evening, kindly hosted at the premises of Lane Neave.

Organised principally by the Foundation fundraising committee members Katie Gyde, Sue Rutherford, Carolyne Grant and Bridget Frame assisted by countless other helpers, St Margaret pupils and more, the evening presented over 100 artworks generously donated for the cause and skilfully auctioned off by Phil McGoldrick, who even trod on the broken Christchurch Cathedral etching to make it more authentic!

Approximately \$35,000 was raised, making it the Foundation's most successful event yet. Congratulations to all involved!

### **Thank You All Round**

As the financial year draws to a close, may I thank all members of the Fundraising Committee for their tireless enthusiasm and dedication to the cause:

Bridget Frame, Katie Gyde, Sue Rutherford, Patricia Champion, Peter Guthrey, Jan Ward, Gay Rutherford, and Carolyne Grant.

On the Foundation may I pay tribute to my colleagues: Roger Young, Treasurer, Patricia Champion (Founder), Celia Barker, Carolyne Grant, Bridget Frame and Tim Blake.

No one should overlook the fact that all of the above are volunteers – freely giving of their time and expertise without reward, yet who cheerfully assemble for regular meetings and functions with unceasing enthusiasm and commitment.

### **Secretarial and Administrative**

We had to say goodbye to our new Secretary Sarah Burns last year, due to family reasons and we thank her for her brief, but very useful contribution to the Foundation.

Almost magically, Sarah's replacement was found and we have been blessed with the energy and professionalism of Stephanie Burdon, who brings new enthusiasm and dedication to the role.

The task of Secretary/Administrator has increased steadily over the last few years, as the activities of the Foundation have grown, and the number of donors has steadily multiplied.

We are indebted to Steph's input which will be increasingly relied upon as we enter the next phase of the Foundation's growth.

### **Deidre Rance**

As I mentioned last year Deidre retired from her secretarial function with us, but promised to continue producing the annual accounts for us. True to her word she has done this and our gratitude to Deidre for producing the 2016/17 accounts for the Foundation so seamlessly.

Such preparation pays enormous dividends in keeping the annual audit fees as low as possible. Thank you Deidre.

### **On a Personal Note**

This will be my last year as Chair of the Foundation, as I step aside after five years to make way for younger, more energetic talent. I am delighted that Celia Barker has agreed (after a tiny amount of pressure) to take over the reins.

I wish her well and hope that she will find the task as enjoyable and fulfilling as I have.

We are blessed with an amazing team of trustees and committee members – each one of whom has something to offer (and often something to teach the Chair!). It is a privilege to serve on such a Foundation, and I am pleased to be able to continue as a Trustee.

The Champion Centre is such an outstanding institution, and we must support it as long as we are able.

As I reflect on the work the Foundation has done to date, literally since its inception as a purely fundraising arm of the Champion Centre, it is with some pride that I note the Foundation has widened its scope of activities quite significantly.

Not only are we able to fund the GP referred to earlier, but we have also been proactive in seeking new areas of funding altogether, which culminates in our newly energized approach to government, aided by a

business case to support more funding.

Finally, with the co-funding of the payroll of a Development Director, I believe we have laid the foundations for a sustainable contribution to the magnificent work of the Champion Centre.

Michael Norris, Chairman, Champion Foundation Trust

**Champion Foundation Trust**

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**Christchurch 8140**

**A registered charity, established by a Trust Deed dated 30 September 2008**