



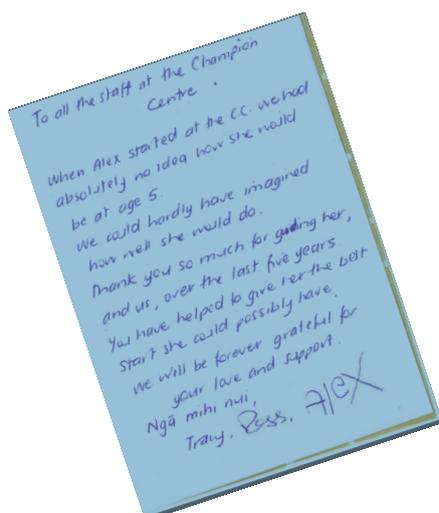
The cause we fight
for is very **ordinary**



December 2016

Well, what a year it has been on so many fronts! As they say, never a dull moment! But at the Champion Centre, we rarely have dull moments because every day there is something to celebrate. Whether it is a baby who turns and smiles at his mother; a little boy who cautiously pulls himself to a stand; or a girl who looks at her father with pride as she successfully completes a puzzle, these are all developments to celebrate. They may happen later than they do for other children, but they are just as much the source of pride and joy for their parents. In fact, more, because the children's developmental delays mean they are things that have been worked for and hoped for by families for months or even years. And many of them wouldn't happen without you!

To achieve these ordinary milestones for children takes time, patience and skill for everyone involved. That's why more than 85% of our budget goes on paying the highly skilled therapists who deliver our programmes. And, as we see over and over from the comments from families, it is money well-spent. A couple of the many cards we receive when families finish their journeys with us say it all:



This year, we have so many people to thank that we cannot thank them all in a short newsletter. Many of them are mentioned in our 2016 Annual Report which can be found here: <http://www.championcentre.org.nz/general/annual-reports> but let me tell you about a few other heroes.

A wide range of events have taken place since the end of our financial year (June 30th 2016) and have raised almost \$14,000. Together with donations from individuals and trusts, they all help to close the \$700,000 per year gap between programme costs and government grants. Thank you to everyone!



The enterprising mother of **Soul Fisher** has a friend who runs Time2Shine Photography. The two held a fantastic fundraising event including an auction, brunch feast, and special deal on children's photographs and raised \$2,100! Here is Soul and his mum presenting the cheque to Development Manager, Eve.

Members of the **Dynamic Controls Social Club** are long-time supporters of the Champion Centre and at our AGM in November they presented us with a cheque for \$4,000. Thanks so much for all your efforts. We truly feel you are part of the Champion Centre family.



Also in November, Anthony, a friend of the grandparents of young Ryder who attends the Centre hopped on a Suzuki 50cc scooter lent by Southern Suzuki in Invercargill and rode it all the way from Bluff to Cape Reinga accompanied by a couple of mates! Called "**Riding for Ryder**" the event raised a massive \$5,678! How cool is that?





Another family raised \$1,370 simply by asking their friends and family across the globe to donate to the Champion Centre through the Give a Little site in lieu of gifts to mark the first birthday of their son Edmund. Such a great idea!

To see more cool events, pictures of our graduates, and news about the Centre, check out our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheChampionCentre/?fref=ts>

And remember, you can contribute to the Champion Centre through our regular Givealittle page here: <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/championcentre> or via our website <http://www.championcentre.org.nz/>

Finally, I'd like to tell you about the support of **The Palms Shopping Centre**, the only certified fully accessible shopping centre in the South Island. The Palms management has taken a special interest in The Champion Centre and the children we serve. As well as allowing us to have a stall at their ladies' night, they held a special film screening with the needs of children with sensory challenges in mind. Children and parents came from across the city (and not just those attending the Champion Centre) and enjoyed a relaxed morning knowing there would be 'no judgement' if their children were a bit noisy. And, guess what, they weren't! More recently the Palms has put on a hugely successful Sensitive Santa where children can come and meet Santa without the stress of crowds and noise that make most Christmas events so stressful for children who easily become anxious. Thanks so much, The Palms.

Exclusive
SENSITIVE SANTA
photos for you

Private Santa photo sessions for children with special needs and sensory processing disorders.

Sensitive Santa offers private family bookings before the centre has opened, no background music, no queues and an understanding sensitive Santa.

Photos only \$500

SATURDAY 26th NOVEMBER 7AM - 9AM
SUNDAY 27th NOVEMBER 8AM - 10AM
SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER 7AM - 9AM
SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER 8AM - 10AM
SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER 7AM - 9AM
SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER 8AM - 10AM

PLEASE CALL
03 385 3067
TO BOOK YOUR
APPOINTMENT
Today

THE PALMS

So, it only remains for me to wish all our supporters a very happy and safe holiday season. Mere Kirihimete!

Susan H. Foster-Cohen

Susan Foster-Cohen, PhD
Director

Please call us: (03) 383 6867, visit our website: www.championcentre.org.nz or make a direct donation to 12-3240-0034924-01