

15 November 2021



**ccs
disability action**
Including all people

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TE HUNGA HAUĀ MAURI MŌ NGĀ TĀNGATA KATOĀ

SUPPORTER CODE
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Dear Mrs A Sample

“I believe in myself and it's important to me that others believe in what I am capable of.”
-Beau Campbell

On the following pages, you can read about Beau Campbell, his passion for cars and how his self-belief and determination are moving him towards the career of his dreams.

Beau and his whānau are a fantastic example of self-belief, but unfortunately that is not always enough to overcome the barriers disabled people face in gaining qualifications and employment. It's important that the community believes as well to ensure that all people are able to get where they want to go.

One way you can do that, especially this Kirihiemete is to donate to your local CCS Disability Action branch. Your gift will go directly to support the work we do in your community that supports disabled people get a fair go.

I know you will enjoy reading about Beau as much as I did and may I take this opportunity to wish you and your whānau a Meri Kirihiemete and a safe and healthy holiday season.

I would also like to thank you very much for the generous gift of <<amount>> you gave in <<date>>. Major donations like yours let disabled people know you believe in them and care about their lives.

Please enjoy Beau's story which begins overleaf.

Please fill out the enclosed card and return it with your donation.

You can write a message to Beau and his family and we will pass it on to let them know you are thinking of them this Christmas.



Beau shifts into top gear

According to his mum, Beau Campbell has had a fascination with cars since he first saw them in a picture book as a toddler. Now, with the help of his family, CCS Disability Action and the fantastic tutors at Otago Polytech, Beau hopes to turn his passion into a career.

His parents Andy and Lezanne have always had a vision that Beau would live an ordinary life where he could expect to be included and fulfil his dreams, just like their other children.

“Beau is confident, kind, caring and has a strong sense of self-worth. He has always known what he has wanted out of life and Andy and I have always advocated for him to have that. But he doesn’t always fit in. I don’t necessarily think society has always been ready to accept him as he is,” explains Lezanne.

It wasn’t until Beau was ready to leave to King’s High School that the couple felt they needed professional support.

“High school was relatively easy to navigate. We understood the routine – which is important to Beau – and he had great friendships. But what happens after school is a no man’s land for people who have additional needs. We felt like we hit a brick wall when we tried to find options that would genuinely fulfil him,” says Lezanne.



Please support our work with disabled people and their whānau by making a donation today.



Paul Arnott, CCS Disability Action Vocational & Transition Coordinator, was there to help them navigate. "The thing that we really appreciated about Paul was that he was always focussed completely on Beau and what he wanted and needed. He came into our family like a friend, with specific knowledge. He put options that we could explore on the table, and he was always prepared to be open and flexible."

"I approached Tim Wallace, tutor in Automotive Engineering at Otago Polytechnic., to discuss exactly what was involved in their 18-month New Zealand Certificate programme," says Paul. "I also met with student support, to find out what they could offer Beau. The polytechnic was fantastic in terms of their attitude – they were incredibly positive and welcoming and are now looking at how they can further improve their support for disabled students. Tim has subsequently become a mentor for Beau. You won't find a nicer, more thoughtful person than Beau, so it has been awesome to be able to play a role supporting him."

"I like to think about cars and how they work. I like to go to the Speedway and watch shows like *Top Gear* and *Gas Monkey*," says Beau. "I have been accepted into the Automotive Engineering course and now study four days a week. I spend three days at polytech where we work on different skills like welding, and learn about the purpose and function of different parts of an engine".

He describes his tutors as "very caring and honest." As well as providing any additional support he might need to work through the assessments, they've been sure to include Beau in the same extracurricular activities as his fellow students.

Yes

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Thank you A Sample for believing in Beau

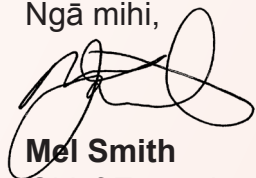
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Another essential aspect of Beau's success has been completing the weekly work experience that's required of the course. His father Andy approached Dennis Ham from Quality Vehicle Servicing. Dennis was more than happy to take Beau on, and Paul works with both Dennis and Tim to ensure that, where possible, the work experience is tied to what he's currently learning about on his course. "This means that he is being supported at every opportunity. It's a great example of how, when people work together, we can achieve great things," explains Paul.

Paul and Beau created a personal plan to help shape their work together. On it, Beau wrote this statement: "I believe in myself and it's important to me that others believe in what I am capable of."

For parents Andy and Lezanne, they believe wholeheartedly in their son and hope others, like you, will continue to support him on his journey.

Ngā mihi,



Mel Smith
Chief Executive.

P.S. Please give, if you can, to support our work with people like Beau and his family this Christmas.



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Beau needs
YOU to believe
this Christmas

1 September 2021



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Dear Mrs A Sample

Life should be a team sport

Of course, disabled people should have the same opportunities as everyone else. In their family, community, education, employment, and sport. That's what an inclusive society does – it includes everyone by reducing or eliminating barriers to participation. But that is not always the reality, so we need you on our team to support us in creating positive change.

What we have learned as an organisation is that none of these things happen in isolation. Life is a team sport because when we support, encourage, and include one another, we can all work together to reach our goals.

On the following pages, you can read about Special Olympics athlete Rebecca Heath. We share how she strives to make her dreams a reality with a little help from her friends at CCS Disability Action, fellow sportspeople, her family, and her community. Rebecca is a truly remarkable person! Her commitment to training and achieving her goals is nothing short of extraordinary. I hope you enjoy reading Rebecca's story and are happy to give a gift to your local branch to support disabled people and their dreams.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for the generous gift of <<amount>> you gave in <<date>>. Major donations like yours help give everyone a sporting chance.

Please enjoy Rebecca's story which begins overleaf.

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Use your credit card at **www.ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz/donate**
visit or phone your local branch, use the coupon contained
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Special Olympics medal-winning athlete Rebecca Heath has been supported by CCS Disability Action since birth and has had several support workers partner with her over this time. She is a competitive person driven to train and work for her success.

"I just go for what is out there for me and I don't let my disability stop me. I'm the type of person that's just willing to give everything a go."

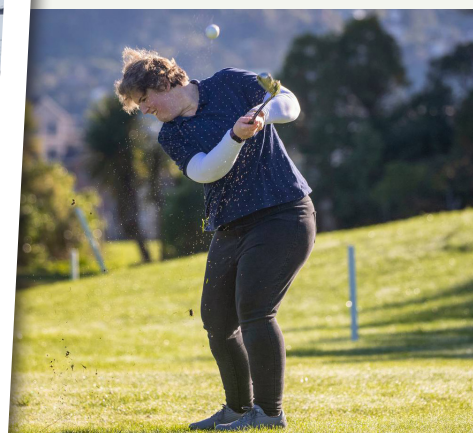
At 36 years of age, Rebecca has been competing at national and international levels for over 20 years, in not just one but two sports. And as if that is not enough, she is just about to increase her participation to three sports by competing in the precision sport of golf at this year's Special Olympics to be held in Hamilton in December.

The Lower Hutt athlete has qualified for her sixth Special Olympics, but this December will be the first time the athlete will swap swimming and skiing for golf. She picked it up during last year's lockdown at the suggestion of her support worker.

"I like golf, it's a new skill and it's outside," Rebecca said. "My dad plays, and my first aim is to beat him."



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Rebecca had a tough start in life with doctors telling her parents at birth that she would most likely never walk or talk. But instead, she's spent her life giving everything a go having attended five national games, two trans-Tasman tournaments, and the 2017 World Winter Games in Austria. Special Olympics is a community movement that began in the United States in the 1960s. Organisers aim to create an inclusive space for people with learning and physical disabilities so that they can freely participate in sport.

"I tell others, you just have to go for it. Go for gold, whatever you want to achieve just go for it."

Rebecca works full-time as a Teacher Aide at Wellington High School. She has worked there for 15 years. After work, Rebecca goes to the gym and trains. She also works out on the weekends. She loves it and dedicates all her spare time to her sport training.

"We train all through the year, we don't get a break, only at Christmas time. It's full-on."

CCS Disability Action Community Support Worker, Nury Olivares has supported Rebecca since 2013 and she visits her twice every week. Nury goes with Rebecca to the gym and supports her to maintain her independence by assisting with things like bill payments and recently, making an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine. Rebecca says the support from CCS Disability Action goes beyond her daily tasks though and encourages her to plan her future sporting moves. *"The support from CCS Disability Action gives me an idea of what to do next in my sporting journey and my career, it's like having added guidance."*

Yes

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Thank you A Sample for being such a good sport

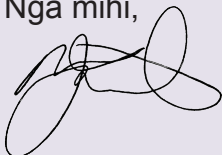
"Rebecca is a lovely, very independent, and organised type of person who gives everything a go", says Nury. "During the COVID-19 lockdown she was isolated and without her usual routine, so I called her regularly to talk and play quizzes. What impresses me most about Rebecca is how organised and determined she is. She doesn't give up and has a fantastic positive outlook. She will always be competing; I can't see her ever doing nothing."

Rebecca's greatest inspiration was her younger sister Lora who died of breast cancer four years ago. "Rebecca would not be where she is today without Lora," says mum Glennis. "They had a very special connection. Lora was Rebecca's strength and motivation."

But even the loss of her much-loved sister has not stopped Rebecca. She says, 'Lora's watching me Mum, I have to go faster!'

"You only live once," says Rebecca. "You have to do as much as you possibly can in one lifetime."

Nga mihi,



Mel Smith
Chief Executive.



P.S. Please give, if you can, to support disabled people and their families and help give everyone a sporting chance.

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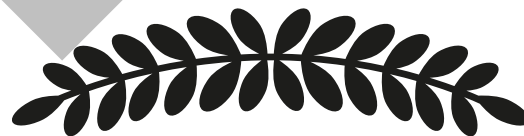
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Dear Mrs A Sample

Let's open doors for disabled people.

My name is Mel Smith and I am the new Chief Executive of CCS Disability Action. I am writing to you today asking you to support disabled people, like Alysha, so that they can be included in the lives of their family and community.

Alysha's story is a wonderful example of how our organisation supports disabled people to have more choice and control in their lives. I hope you enjoy reading it and I hope you are happy to give a gift to your local branch to ensure disabled people and their families enjoy the best life possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for the generous gift of <<amount>> you gave in <<date>>. Major donations like yours really do open doors for disabled people.

Yours sincerely,

Mel Smith
Chief Executive.



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Use your credit card at www.ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz/donate visit or phone your local branch, use the coupon contained in the following letter or email Support@ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz

Dear Mrs A Sample

There's just no stopping Alysha

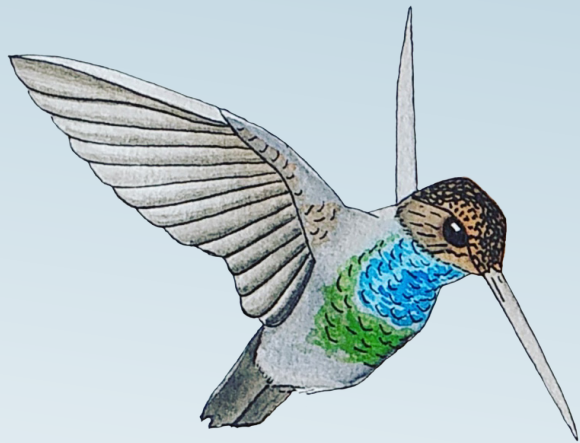
When CCS Disability Action came into Alysha's life, she was pretty much housebound, unable to deal with the uncertainties and social demands of the outside world. In fact, due to a number of impairments, when she was first referred to the South Canterbury branch, Alysha struggled to even leave her bedroom.

"I was really struggling socially. I didn't have any social interaction apart from my own family. I also found it difficult to break out of strict routines around how my day would go. It was very lonely and I found it very hard to change the pattern, even though I really wanted to," she explains.

CCS Disability Action Service Coordinator Gerry Pienaar met Alysha at this time and found a warm, wonderful person trapped behind her own front door due to a number of debilitating conditions. Gerry also found that Alysha had a very special passion for art.

Alysha finds the outside world, and the human interactions that come with it, confusing and overwhelming so Gerry thought perhaps her gift for art might provide the stepping-stones needed to support her to enter her community and create the connections and life outside of her house that she wanted. The pair began by focusing on Alysha's love of painting, drawing and sculpture and started looking for local opportunities for her to pursue her passions.

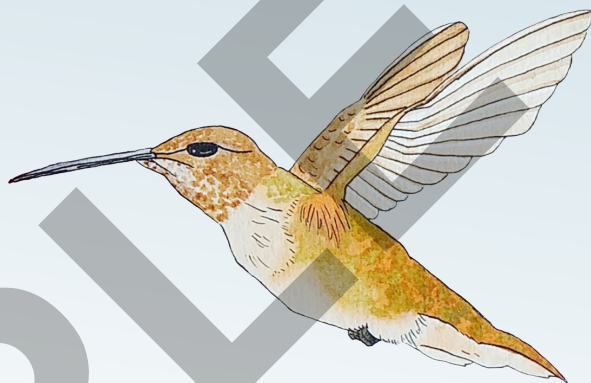




“Initially my role was to try and get Alysha out of her home – out of her comfort zone – and to reconnect her with the community around her. She is very gifted and has a talent for art, so we were able to use this to help motivate her to break through some of the barriers that were standing in her way,” explains Gerry.

Together they found some locally run art classes and, despite her fears, Alysha began to attend. The creative side came easily, but everything else was very hard. However, Alysha soon discovered that the joy she found creating art was well worth the challenge of getting there.

This experience lit a spark for Alysha that soon turned into a roaring fire. With Gerry’s support, she then enrolled in and later completed, a Level Five diploma in Digital Media and Design at Polytechnic Ara. It was an exceptional achievement, particularly as Alysha still finds interacting with people who she doesn’t know well, extremely difficult.



Please support our work with disabled people and their whānau by making a donation today.



Alysha is inspired by surrealist artists, such as Salvador Dali.

Thank you A Sample

Your support helps open important doors

Alysha was now achieving some of the things she'd wanted very badly but still, she struggled to believe in herself in the way those around her did. So Gerry suggested something that seemed at first to be quite left of field. He suggested that Alysha give karate a go. It's a personal passion for Gerry – he was awarded a black belt by karate organisation JKS in Japan – and he felt it could be really beneficial for Alysha.

"I'd never tried anything like that before," said Alysha. "But I thought, yeah, why not? I'll give that a go!"

And so Alysha began karate classes. "By the second or third class I really got into it. The people there are really friendly, so I've made friends for the first time in a long time. I really enjoy the group classes and the one-on-one classes. I would then come home and practice and try to perfect the moves," she says. Despite the disruptions of 2020, Alysha passed both her initial gradings.

She also qualified for JKS Shotokan Nationals and won a gold medal in the female development team 'kata' division. "I was really nervous as it was my first competition. It made it easier to have my two classmates competing too. I felt really proud when I was handed the medal."



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Inspired by her participation in karate, Alysha is now enrolled at Polytechnic Ara doing a Level Four Health and Wellbeing course. Once that is completed, she would like to enrol in a Bachelor of Social Work. She hopes that one day she'll be able to support others to find the fulfilment and happiness that she has achieved.

It's an incredible turnaround, made more impressive because Alysha still battles the same difficult feelings and experiences of the world that she did when she first met Gerry.

"Gerry is always so happy and relatable, which is why I really enjoy working with him. It's been really good to have his support," she says.

Gerry believes Alysha shows tremendous resilience.

"Alysha has so much to be proud of in all that she has achieved in the past two years. She doesn't shy away from any challenge, no matter how big. I know she still deals with the barriers and difficulties she lives with every day, but it just doesn't stop her. It helps to have lots of support and acceptance from people around her and she works very hard to rise to these challenges and work through them," says Gerry.

Every journey starts with just one step and for Alysha – that step has taken her to places she'd only dreamed of going.



4

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in life is your
own front door**

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Mrs A B Sample
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Dear Mrs A Sample

We put our heart into everything we do.

It is with great pleasure that in this, my last letter to you as Chief Executive of CCS Disability Action, I am able to share the story of a family I know well and helped support years ago when I was in a very different role. Bradley Aldridge, his grandmother Jeannette Oliver, the Greymouth community and a huge team of people including other CCS Disability Action staff, are the reason we now have 'Bradley House' on our list of accessible holiday homes.

In my time with this wonderful organisation I have seen the power of hearts, hope and teamwork achieve amazing things and change lives for the better. As a donor, you are an important member of that team and I hope you know just what a massive difference you make to the lives of the people we support.

I will be stepping down in June this year and will be in touch to let you know when my successor is appointed. The work this organisation has been carrying out tirelessly for the past 85 years will carry on as always, ensuring disabled people and their families have choice and control in their lives and are included in their communities. Thank you for your wonderful generosity such as the <amount> you gave in <date>. Large gifts like yours really do help make dreams come true.

Yours sincerely,

David Matthews
Chief Executive.



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Talking to you via email will save valuable resources.



Dear Mrs A Sample

Home is where the heart is

“The gift of land has been made in response to the marvellous support offered to Bradley and his family by our caring friends at CCS Disability Action. From his earliest days when diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, CCS Disability Action have surrounded our family with love and practical caring, pursuing all avenues to support Bradley with his mobility and schooling. We are indeed grateful that Gloria Hammond, Pat Beck and David Matthews shared the vision of a holiday home on the coast.”

- Jeanette Oliver

CCS Disability Action isn't just a big city disability support organisation – it's also an integral part of many small towns and communities from Invercargill to Northland. One of those places is Greymouth and adjoining Runanga, where Bradley Aldridge grew up.

Bradley and his friends Alex and Tom are a regular sight on the streets of Greymouth. Alex and Tom push Bradley in his wheelchair, much to everyone's delight.

“They are great mates and make each other happy. They're a lot of fun to be around,” explains Jeanette Oliver, Bradley's Grandmother.



Bradley Aldridge with Jeanette Oliver.

“We can’t go anywhere without people saying hello to Bradley, which he really appreciates. It’s always been that way. My daughter Julia has always been keen to ensure he is included and visible in the community. It would be a lonely life otherwise, wouldn’t it?”

Over 15 years ago, Jeanette and her husband subdivided a piece of their farm and gave it to CCS Disability Action to be used as an accessible holiday home site for families wanting a break on the West Coast. In partnership with CCS Disability Action’s Gloria Hammond, Pat Beck and David Matthews, as well as the entire Greymouth community including Mayor Tony Kokshorn and the West Coast Police Team, a massive fundraising blitz was undertaken to raise enough money to build what became ‘Bradley House’ in Paroa, on the outskirts of Greymouth.

Bradley House is a popular destination for many families who once found it hard to find accessible holiday home options. Jeanette and John have absolutely loved to watch its popularity and success grow, understanding first-hand how great the need for accessible holiday homes is.

Bradley needs 24/7 support to keep him happy and safe. He uses his eye gaze and body language to communicate with others, which means having trusted relationships is especially important. Jeanette is employed part-time by CCS Disability Action as one of four support workers who care for Bradley. But she has also been by his side since the day he started primary school. Initially this was going to be for six months to ensure a smooth transition to school, but she ended up following him through primary, and she was then approached by the local high school to ask if she would consider coming on board as a Teacher Aide.

Jeanette felt that her continued role in Bradley’s school life has been very important because she can act as his advocate. Robert Miedema is the CCS Disability Action Coordinator who works with Bradley and his family. He began his support role with them when Bradley left school at 18 and has done a lot to support funding applications and activities among other things.



Thank you A Sample

Communities like Greymouth need you

Bradley is a Riding for the Disabled enthusiast, attends a weekly 'Special Olympics' gym, loves basketball, and is a big fan of Speedway Racing.

But probably most exciting of all is Bradley's growing independence supported and encouraged by the whole team.

He recently moved into his own accessible unit, specifically designed to suit his needs. It is on his parent's property, with video and audio connections to the main house to ensure he is safe, but it allows him time to himself as well as having friends around on his own terms.



From left to right: John and Jeanette Oliver, Joshua and Cohen Blyth, Julia Oliver Blyth and Tarn Blyth with Bradley Aldridge.

3

Yes

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Over the years, supporting Bradley's journey has been a real team effort, with Bradley's family, including mum, dad, his grandparents and brother Josh, his CCS Disability Action Coordinator Robert Miedema and former Coordinator Gloria Hammond, having to work very hard to advocate for the funding and support he has needed.

"Don't ever tell us we can't achieve something! We have smashed down a few brick walls over the years and while money is always an issue, we have found where there is a will and the manpower there is a way," says Bradley's mum Julia.

Bradley's family, the Greymouth community and CCS Disability Action have made amazing things happen for Bradley and other disabled people in this community. They have all put enormous effort into creating opportunity and inclusion. When you donate to CCS Disability Action, these are some of the people and the kind of communities that you are supporting.



4

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*This little town
has a really big*
HEART

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Mrs A B Sample
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Dear Mrs A Sample

'Being the village' means caring for ALL Kiwi kids

I hope this Christmas finds you safe and in good company with family and friends. What a year it has been for all of us! But even through the toughest times, New Zealanders do an amazing job of looking after one another, particularly the most vulnerable in our communities. That was proven through the lockdown when literally overnight, we became a village of five million.

At CCS Disability Action, our support for children and families that need us has been unwavering. The story of our resourceful support for little children like Manase, which you can read in the attached, makes me very proud to lead this organisation.

This year has challenged us all and we have all had to dig deep and stay strong. Like many other members of our village of Aotearoa, times are tough for us financially, so I am once again asking for your support based on what you have so generously done previously in <date> when you donated <amount>.

Please know how grateful we are for your wonderful generosity but fully understand if you are not in a position to support us at this time.

Please take care, stay kind and Meri Kirihimete.

Yours sincerely,

David Matthews
Chief Executive.

P.S. You are welcome to reach out to Manase and his family by popping a note to them in the enclosed card and returning it with your donation. We will pass the cards onto the family to make their Christmas really special!



Dear Mrs A Sample

“It takes a village to raise a child” (African proverb)

Two years ago, Kesa and Tavita Lomu left village life in Tonga to bring their three young children to New Zealand for the chance of ‘a better life’.

They are a loving Tongan/kāinga (family) who would do anything for each other and their children. The family moved to South Dunedin and settled quickly into their new home and work. But with English as a second language, they found sourcing the support they needed for four-year-old Manase almost impossible.

Manase is now six and is a very loving and caring little boy who attended the local kindy when he arrived and now goes to the local primary school. Manase is fascinated by letters and numbers but he has little understanding of how to keep himself safe in everyday life. He is a remarkably capable climber and is very determined but can’t sense the edges of surfaces and has no fear whatsoever of heights. So despite their very best attempts, Manase’s mum Kesa and dad Tavita could not stop him from finding ways to climb out of their fenced section and wandering away from home. The danger was extreme with the little boy having no road sense or awareness of common dangers. His family were besides themselves with worry, in an exhausting state of constant alert and fear, while struggling to find who and where they could turn to for some help and support.

Members of the local community tried to help as best they could and Manase became known by some of his neighbours and people who saw him out and about. Local police were extremely understanding and supportive. When they were contacted about Manase being on the run, their response was always really kind and respectful. They generally dispatched one officer on foot to walk with him and keep him safe with another in a patrol car to accompany him until he was ready to wander back home. Unfortunately, with his disability, little Manase was not easy to simply turn around and bring home.

Eventually the family was referred to CCS Disability Action and connected with Dunedin Coordinator Vicki Mitchell. “We first met during a very challenging time for the family. They were doing their best to protect their son and were in the process of adjusting to a new medical diagnosis – which is difficult for any family – as well as finding their place in what can be a very complicated and confusing system. Having English-as-a-second-language as they settled into a new country and city made life even more difficult for them,” she explains.

Vicki worked to connect with Manase and get to know the family, primarily working alongside Manase’s mum Tavita.

The main concern was finding a way to keep Manase at home. “He loves to be on the move and is constantly seeking sensory input. He’s also extremely resourceful, so despite his parent’s best efforts he would regularly climb out of their house and run through neighbouring streets. Once out, it’s not a simple matter of asking him to come back as he doesn’t respond in that way. Manase does not understand road safety or how to communicate his name or address so, as you can imagine, it was very stressful for his family,” says Vicki.

Vicki successfully applied for funding for a year’s rental of a WanderSearch device which is a bracelet that can be tracked by New Zealand Land Search and Rescue. Vicki admits it’s not a perfect system – as it can be removed – but it gives his parents some peace of mind that he can be quickly found in an emergency.



Thank you A Sample

Your support means the world in our village.



With Manase still regularly heading off on dangerous wanders, despite his parents' best efforts and a fully fenced section, Vicki wanted to try and find something that would address the reasons he wanted to get out in the first place. She drew on her knowledge of what he most enjoyed from his time at kindergarten – as well as some specialist training she had undertaken.

She secured funding for a sturdy outdoor swing set which includes a large spider swing for Manase, a standard swing and a toddler swing for his little sister, who he adores. "Manase loves cuddles and motion and Kesa needed to be able to keep an eye on all three kids while they were playing. We thought this might be a good option to help with family life and keeping Manase safe," Vicki explains.

The equipment has been life-changing.

Yes

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☐ \$75

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Since having the swing set at their home, Manase has not left the property by himself once. He loves the feeling of being cocooned in the swing and can now be regularly found in his own back garden. Furthermore, like many neuro diverse kids, sleep is a real challenge. Now, he will take himself to the swing and gently rock himself to sleep when he's tired.

The impact has been a blessing for the family, who are incredibly appreciative of the support CCS Disability Action have offered. "Tavita recently wrote to me to thank us for our support, which really meant a lot as it isn't easy to write in a language you are learning. They are such a loving family who want the best for all their kids, so it feels great to have played a part in making life a little easier for them," says Vicki with a smile.



Dear Vicki

We would like to write you a letter thanking you for the swing set for our son Manase. It is a massive help for us. We came to know CCS Disability Action a few years ago and we have worked with Vicki who helped us a lot and provided information about autism and ways to help with Manase's disability.

Manase ran away from home so many times before and that was the most stressful time of our life. Vicki suggested that we apply for a funding for a swing. Now that we have the swing it is such a relief. He has never climbed the fence and run away since then. He is always on the swing when he is outside playing. Manase has two siblings younger than him and they both use the swing too.

We would like to thank you Vicki for all the hard work and follow up and also CCS Disability Action staff for being so nice and going the extra mile for our son. We thank you from the bottom of our heart. Once again thank you.

Lomu family Dunedin



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village

Meri
Kirihimete

Season's
Greetings



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TE HUNGA HAUA MAURI MŌ NGĀ TĀNGATA KATOA

SAMPLE

Season's Greetings
from
our whānau
to yours

<<Date>>

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Mrs A B Sample
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Dear Mrs A Sample

No one's life should be permanently locked down by disability.

We are all still experiencing disruption and uncertainty in our lives as COVID-19 continues to make its presence felt. Many disabled people compare the loss of choice and control we all experienced in lockdown to their everyday lives – an experience we need to change. Every disabled person should have the right to choose how they want to live, just the same as non-disabled people. Like Vikram, whose story I am sharing with you today. Being different shouldn't be a barrier to opportunities – but for many disabled people, it is.

At CCS Disability Action these extraordinary times have challenged us to find the resourcefulness needed to go the extra mile and continue support for the people who really need it but we've come through, with support from wonderful people like you, and continue to do whatever is needed.

I know many people are doing it tough right now and our hearts go out to you if you are one of them. But please know that the <amount> you so generously gave in <date> has helped our work and while we fully understand if you cannot support us at this time, we would really appreciate it if you can.

Please take care, stay kind and kia kaha.

Yours sincerely,

David Matthews
Chief Executive.

P.S. Please donate, if you can, to help ensure disabled Kiwis get a fair go.

Dear Mrs A Sample

Society can trap disabled people and make it hard for them to achieve their dreams. Your support helps let young men like Vikram ROAR.



When he was a little boy, Vikram Wagh believed he was meant to be a writer. “I saw the book *A Suitable Boy*, which was written by Vikram Seth. I asked my mum: ‘Why is my name written on this book?’ She explained that it was another Vikram and that their name was on the book because they had written it. I said to my mum that one day, I would write a book of my own.”

Vikram has Asperger's Syndrome, an impairment which causes him to see, hear and feel the world differently to other people. This has made some everyday aspects of life – especially school, making friends and being accepted, a real challenge for him. Vikram has often felt very lonely and shut out because he is different. This effected his self-esteem and made him feel very demotivated.

Vikram's parents first heard about CCS Disability Action through a family friend, Shirin Jayawant, who works at the CCS Disability Action Royal Oak branch. Vikram was finding life tough going. His family are extremely supportive and caring and they were concerned about Vikram's future after he finished university.

“There have been times in my life where I've felt very low about myself as a person. I've had to fight hard to overcome some of the challenges that come with having my impairment and CCS Disability Action has really supported me to do that. CCS Disability Action has changed my life for the better and now I can see that I have a lot that I can contribute.”

CCS Disability Action supported Vikram and his family through the self-referral process and helped to build his work-readiness with the goal of securing paid employment. This involved organising volunteer work for Vikram, helping him with his CV and building his interview skills as well as learning important aspects of independent living such as cooking and cleaning. “With CCS Disability Action's support, I have also really built my social skills. It feels great to meet new people and have friends.”

Vikram began as a volunteer supporting the communications team at the CCS Disability Action Royal Oak office where his areas of skill were recognised and applied. He was tasked with admin support which his eye for detail made him very well suited for. He was later contracted to work in administration for a few years, with his dedication and effort appreciated by his CCS Disability Action colleagues.

According to Vikram and his parents, he began to thrive, going from being a person without any purpose or direction to someone with just that. He finally felt good about himself and became less focused on what he could not do, to what he can do. He began contributing meaningfully to his home life and with the help of his first support worker from CCS Disability Action, Ian Cassidy, he learned how to get himself independently to and from work using public transport.

Vikram has a friendly and engaging nature. He lights up when discussing his two favourite subjects; lions and the city of Singapore. The relationship between these two have formed the focus of his first book. "I absolutely love lions," says Vikram. "They are such a magnificent animal. I feel like if you see a lion in person or take an interest in lions – like I have – it transforms your life for the better either spiritually or physically. For me, my interest in lions lies in both these areas. Singapore is also fascinating to me because it means 'The Lion City' and you see the lion as a symbol of the city when you travel there. Like New Zealand, Singapore feels like paradise to me." The resulting book, aptly named *Lion of Singapore*, was born drawing on Vikram's extensive knowledge and research of how the lion is presented in Singapore. Because of his love of lions, Vikram also has a fascination with Kenya, South Africa and Namibia, with a visit to Kenya a treasured memory.

“

My parents have always taught me that you can do anything if it excites you and you're passionate about it. I really believe that.

VIKRAM WAGH

”



Left to right: Priya (mum), Vikram, CCS Disability Action Northern Region General Manager Tina Syme and Hemant (dad) attending the book launch.

Thank you A Sample

Your support is very valuable to us at this time.

The book took him 11 years to complete and is now available as a printed book and on Amazon as an e-book. He completed the project alongside part-time administrative and volunteer work at the CCS Disability Action Auckland office. This work has been important for Vikram, as it has given him a much-needed sense of purpose and routine that has in turn, helped him find the motivation to keep writing.

His dedication and enthusiasm for the subject, along with support from his parents and friends were, in Vikram's view, the keys to his success. "My parents have always taught me that you can do anything if it excites you and you're passionate about it. I really believe that."



Yes

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It is a message he hopes others who experience barriers or self-doubt will also take on board. "I've always been taught that you must believe in yourself. If you do, positive things will come. I think that's true for all people," he explains.

"Writing this book has been a journey filled with fun, challenges, learning, expectation, and excitement. It has been worth every moment!"

Vikram's achievements were celebrated with a book launch attended by family, friends and CCS Disability Action staff members who Vikram has gotten to know well during his years working at the branch. "It felt like an obvious place to have the event, given how important CCS Disability Action has been in my life."

Vikram has already begun work on his second book and the subject is equally close to his heart. "I'm writing an autobiography about how I've learnt to navigate life. It is about finding my place in the world as a person with Asperger's."

“

I've always been taught that you must believe in yourself. If you do, positive things will come. I think that's true for all people.

VIKRAM WAGH

”



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**We all have
a lion inside
waiting to**

ROAR

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Mrs A B Sample
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Dear Mrs A Sample

Extraordinary times mean giving extra.

What extraordinary times we are living through! At CCS Disability Action these extraordinary times have challenged us to find the resourcefulness needed to go the extra mile and continue support for the people who really need it.

I am writing to you today to share with you one story of a person we support and how the COVID-19 crisis disrupted her life and her plans. But also how we stayed in touch, as we did with all the people we support, and rode the crisis through together. It's a wonderful thing to be a member of this team that is winning the battle against COVID-19 and even more wonderful to be able to go the extra mile for people who most needed our support as a result.

I know many people are doing it tough at the moment and our hearts go out to you if you are in that number. But please know that the <amount> you so generously gave in <date> has helped us in our work and you are a very important part of the team that is winning.

Please take care, stay kind and kia kaha.

Yours sincerely,

David Matthews
Chief Executive.

P.S. Please donate, if you can, to help us go the extra mile in these extraordinary times.



Dear Mrs A Sample

Thank you for helping us go the extra mile.

Sue lives in Whangarei and the team at CCS Disability Action have been involved in her life for well over a decade now. Kevin was initially her Coordinator and his role was to support Sue so she could navigate the complexities of caring for her daughter, while managing her own wellbeing.

“CCS Disability Action have been my rock with anything I’ve needed over the years. I have Asperger’s and I find it hard to do things with new people, because people often don’t understand me, and I find that I don’t understand them. I can’t read body language or expressions. I also find it hard to interpret a lot of the feelings and emotions I have which makes everyday life difficult. To find people who I connect with and who ‘get’ me, like the team at CCS Disability Action do, makes an incredible difference. It means I can live my life and not feel like I need to hide away,” she explains.

Sue’s daughter Dani was born with a serious health condition that affected her for her entire life. Sue describes giving Dani the round-the-clock support she needed – something she did on her own as a single mum – as “a privilege”.

“I was really blessed to be her mum,” said Sue.

Tragically, Sue lost her beloved daughter Dani, when she was just 24 years old.

When Dani passed away, Kevin was by Sue’s side to help with the difficult process of laying her to rest and dealing with her overwhelming feelings of grief and loss. “There were a lot of practical things to sort out and Kevin was there with me through it all.”



Sue typically retreats to being alone when things are tough but knows that isolation causes her to spiral further into anxiety and depression. Kevin was there to listen and to encourage her to engage with the world around her as she began the difficult process of healing.

“It’s still really hard. There’s not a day that doesn’t go by that I don’t want to be with Dani. I’d give anything to go back. But I can’t do that. And now there are other things in my life that make me happy.”

Sue is now supported by Coordinator Marilyn, who jokes it’s because “Kevin couldn’t afford the ice creams anymore!”

Marilyn quickly built a strong relationship with Sue and, along with keeping the ice creams supplied, she was tasked with bridging a gap between support offered by another agency and Sue’s ability to access it.

“When I came on board Sue had been referred to Sailability, which creates opportunities for disabled people to try sailing, but she had no way of travelling to get to the yacht club in the Bay of Islands. I organised for a Support Worker – someone who Sue could get to know and trust – to travel with Sue to get there. Honestly, she hasn’t looked back since!”



Your support helps us give extra
during these extraordinary times.

“It was a fun sail. We explored the Bay of Islands and Chris Sharp – who is a former Paralympian – was so nice and made me feel welcome and part of something. It was awesome.” Sue began attending every week and slowly began re-learning the craft.

“It was my first ever competition. Chris joked that our goal should be to ‘not come last’ and to remember to have fun. In the end I was part of a pair that won the 303 Doubles and I won the Ability Class. It felt really awesome.”

Sue's newfound love of sailing has had a profound impact on her life and how she sees herself. "Sailing has shown me that I can do anything I want to do," she says. Sue now has her sights set on the Paralympics and Marilyn hopes to work with her to secure sponsorship to help make that a reality.

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other \$

June 2020

Sailing has been a catalyst for saying yes to other opportunities. Sue has been attending a range of classes at Emerge, which is a community-based provider for people with a wide range of support needs. "It's a really cool organisation. I've tried ukulele classes, sewing, mosaic-making, pottery and cooking classes so far. I've made friends for the first time, which is hard for me. They've become like a family to me," she says.

Unfortunately, just as Sue's world was beginning to expand, it became very small when the Level 4, COVID-19 lockdown was announced on the 25th March 2020.

"I had just found my 'normal' and Coronavirus happened. It did make me feel very uncertain and anxious," she explains.

Marilyn and Sue felt that regular contact during the pandemic was essential, to ensure Sue did not become isolated and depressed again – especially after the incredible gains she had made.

The pair have continued to meet regularly throughout lockdown for a walk and a chat. It's enabled Sue to keep her eye on the future, while continuing to reflect on the past – and have a bit of a much-needed laugh too.

"Sue has a great sense of humour, so it's been a pleasure to continue to catch up. She's a strong independent woman and if she sees something she wants, she goes for it. She's a phenomenal person – so I'm really pleased to have been able to play a part in her journey.

Sue has also appreciated the opportunity to continue to connect. "Meeting up with Marilyn has helped me so much during this time. It is a little hard to think about what the future might look like, but I do know that nothing will keep me away from sailing."



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Extraordinary
times mean going
the extra mile.

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Mrs A B Sample
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Dear Mrs A Sample

It's time for meaningful change.

It never ceases to amaze me how our society and our support systems can rob disabled people of their basic rights and no one seems to bat an eyelid. Everyone should have reasonable choice and control over how they live their lives. Henk, whose story you can read in the following pages, waited 58 years to decide his own bedtime! I cannot imagine what it feels like as an adult not to have control over such a basic daily choice.

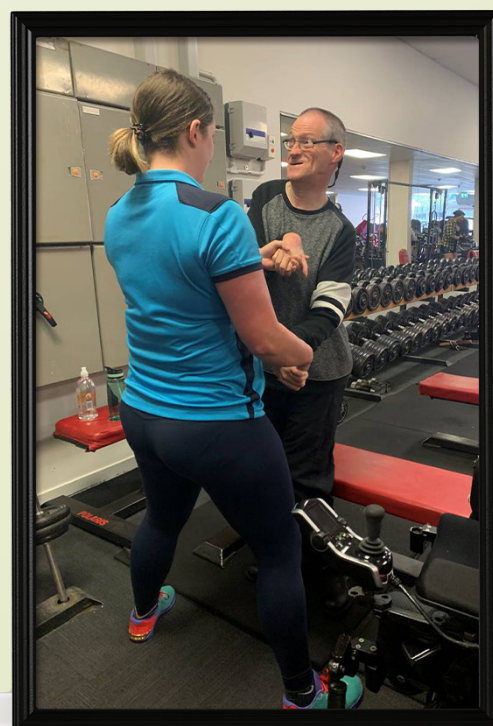
Everyone should be able to exercise basic choice and control so they can have dignity and a good life. So please assist us in ensuring disabled people have access to the same rights as everyone else by donating to your local CCS Disability Action branch online or by using the enclosed coupon. And thank you for the very generous gift of <amount> you gave quite recently in <date>. We could not work for positive and meaningful change the way we do without your wonderful help.

Henk's story is a real insight into how much disabled people put up with and for how long. It really is time that all changed. Let's continue to work together for a truly inclusive world.

Yours sincerely,

David Matthews
Chief Executive.

P.S. It's time disabled people enjoyed the same rights as everyone else. Please donate to help us create a world that truly includes all people.



Dear Mrs A Sample

Please help fund the right to choice and control.

The story of Henk Dijkstra's enforced bedtimes over most of his adult life should horrify us all. Especially since he is just one of thousands of disabled adults in New Zealand whose lives are simply not their own.

Do you have a say over who comes into your home and what time you go to bed? Do you manage your own budget and decide how much you want to spend on groceries, entertainment, utilities and home help? Of course you do – if you are an adult, these are things most New Zealanders take for granted. But just imagine for a moment that was not the case and you had never in your entire life been able to exercise control over something as basic and personal as what time you wanted to go to bed at night. Imagine instead that you were under the control of people employed to look after you that you had no say in choosing. How devastating would that feel? Well you could ask triple Paralympics champion Henk Dijkstra how that feels because despite the fact that he is 58 years of age, he has lived most of his adult life with no choice and no control over the most intimate and the most basic aspects of his life.

Until he teamed up with CCS Disability Action.



Henk is described as a "warm, direct and intelligent person" who is now enjoying his new-found freedom and flexibility.

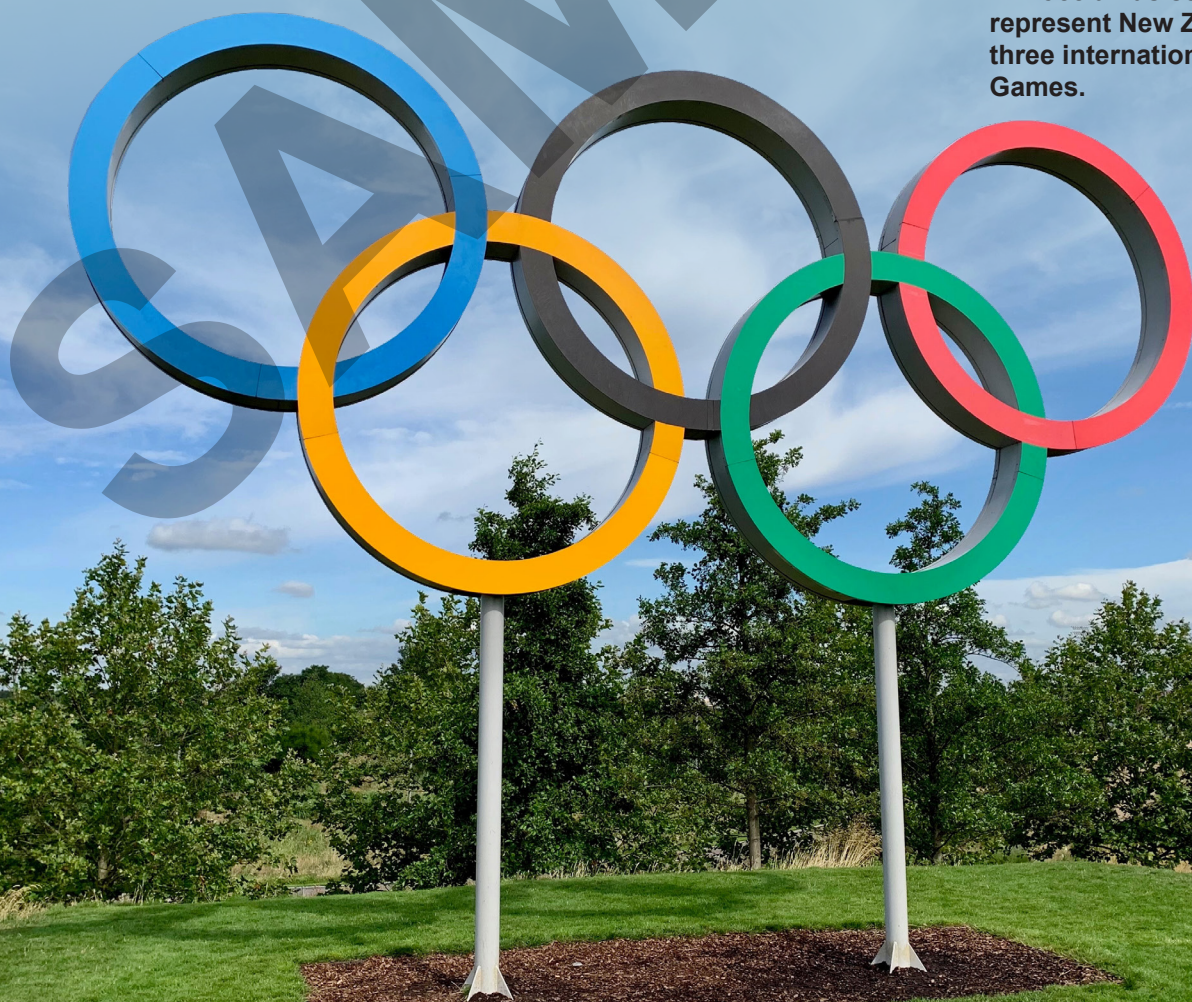
Henk has travelled to three Paralympic Games to represent his country, but has spent the majority of his 58 years being treated like a child – simply because he has a disability and the system therefore dictates when, how and through whom he receives support.

Henk recently switched to CCS Disability Action's 'Choice in Community Living' as soon as it became available in his city. The service gives him the flexibility and control that he's been wanting for much of his adult life. It's the ability he now has to make important choices which were previously off limits, that has made the biggest difference to how Henk feels about his life. Things like; being involved in interviewing and choosing his own Support Workers, what time he goes to bed, who comes into his home and when they do so. "I have greater independence and empowerment now," he explains. Paul Arnott, CCS Disability Action Coordinator, describes Henk as "warm, direct and intelligent." The pair make an excellent team working together to ensure Henk's support works the way he wants it to.

"It's really important for people with disabilities to be able to take control of their lives. There's an expectation that disabled people want others to do things 'for' them, but I don't think this is true," says Henk. "I didn't have any contact with the coordinators of the previous agency I was with. I don't think they knew anything about what was important to me. I felt really annoyed and frustrated by their lack of empathy and total lack of interest in me as a person. Paul has had a completely different approach. He's taken a lot of time to get to know me, find out what I really want in life and has put things in place to suit me.



Henk's passion and skill in Boccia has seen him represent New Zealand at three international Paralympic Games.



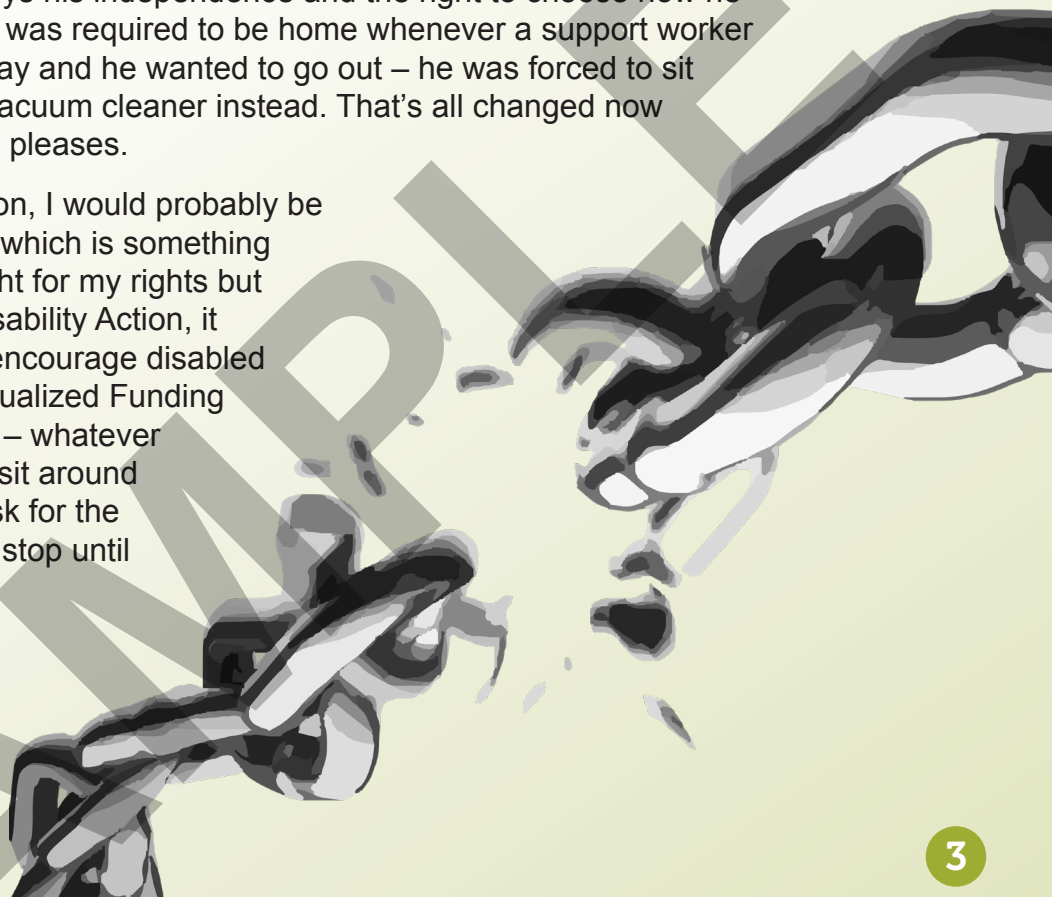
"Paul and the team at CCS Disability Action also ensure that my Support Workers have enough training prior to starting work for me ensuring they can provide a high standard of support. It's surprising how many times in the past that was not the case."

Thank you A Sample

Your support gives disabled people choice and control.

Like most people, Henk enjoys his independence and the right to choose how he wants to live. In the past, Henk was required to be home whenever a support worker came by. So if it was a lovely day and he wanted to go out – he was forced to sit and listen to the sound of the vacuum cleaner instead. That's all changed now and he can come and go as he pleases.

"Without CCS Disability Action, I would probably be living in a group home by now, which is something I'd really hate. I have had to fight for my rights but once I teamed up with CCS Disability Action, it got so much easier. I strongly encourage disabled people to enquire about Individualized Funding or Choice in Community Living – whatever is available in your area. Don't sit around waiting for things to happen, ask for the assistance you need and don't stop until you're happy with your life."



3

Yes

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Paul says, "Like all of us, Henk just wants a good life. His choices deserve to be respected, so it's important for me that he's always consulted on what works best for him," he explains. Henk has control of an individualised budget and he uses this for support in his home and to get out and about regularly. He's a familiar face at Moana Pool and is a regular gym goer. To balance things out Henk has some other, less active, pursuits too. "My hobbies also include watching sports and movies, camping, eating out and enjoying a home cooked meal," says Henk.

But it's the sport of Boccia where Henk really shines. "I started playing Boccia in 1995 and I have represented New Zealand in three Paralympics; Atlanta in 1996, Athens in 2004 and Beijing in 2008," he says. Henk appreciates the opportunity Boccia has given him to see the world and now, with his day-to-day life firmly in hand, he's looking forward to combining travel with some family time. "For my next trip, I would like to visit my younger brother who lives in Australia on the Gold Coast."



Lauren Kelly (right) is a graduate of the School of Physical Education Otago University. She is employed by Henk as his personal trainer under Choice in Community Living.

4

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Henk's bedtime story
will horrify you



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Mrs A B Sample
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Dear Mrs A Sample

We are all at risk of **losing our mobility.**



As I get a little older, I see first-hand how more and more of my contemporaries are affected by illness, accident and sometimes simply the outcomes of a lifetime of wear and tear. We often think of people with disabilities and mobility issues as different to ourselves in some way but the truth is – we are all just a heartbeat away from experiencing the very same challenges. In the enclosed letter, you can read about how Neil's life suddenly changed from active and physical to isolated and immobilised and how CCS Disability Action supported him to overcome barriers and continue to live his best life. I hope you enjoy reading Neil's story.

Helping support people with disabilities to live well is not something we can do alone. We rely heavily on your support and the involvement of our communities.

So please allow me to sincerely thank you for the very generous <amount> you gave in <date>. Your significant support has enabled disabled people like Neil overcome barriers to participation in the lives of their family and community.

I wish you and your family a safe, peaceful Christmas and holiday season. I also hope the New Year brings you good health and goodwill.

Yours sincerely,


David Matthews
Chief Executive.

P.S. Please consider writing a message to Neil using the enclosed greeting card and sending it back together with your donation. We'll pass the card on to Neil. Please remember all cheques need to be made out to CCS Disability Action.



Dear Mrs A Sample

"Our ability to get out and about and live independently is not guaranteed for life. Accident, illness and age can steal your mobility."



Rangiora resident Neil Baldwin always prided himself on his endurance and physical strength, and with good reason! The tall, hard-working man laboured in the forestry industry since he left school at 16. Often working 100 hours a week without a day off, hard physical work was a way of life for Neil. So much so that he had little time for a social life and he became quite estranged from his family. And then quite suddenly, he was felled like one of the tall trees he had logged.

"One day, completely out of the blue, I just lost my eyesight. Just like that, in an afternoon. I was hospitalised for three weeks until it returned. I thought at the time that the reason was just physical exhaustion. I was always working. Having any kind of social or home life just wasn't possible at the time," he says.

But this incident proved to be the beginning of deteriorating health and wellbeing which eventually led to the loss of Neil's job and contributed to the loss of his marriage. "I was eventually diagnosed as having a rare form of M.S. (Multiple Sclerosis). I started using walking sticks, but after the earthquakes here it just became too difficult to get around on the uneven ground. I was falling over a lot. I'm six foot five – that's a long way to fall," jokes Neil.



Neil used to spend hours by the window of his Rangiora home watching the world pass him by.

Transitioning to a wheelchair proved a mixed blessing. For a man who felt defined by his physicality, it proved a difficult adjustment to make. “I felt like I was no good to anyone anymore. My house didn’t have any ramps, so I couldn’t get out by myself. I was trapped. All I could do was stay at home and look out the window.” Because his life had always revolved around his work, Neil’s new situation found him isolated and cut off from his community.

Neil became literally housebound. He knows what it’s like to watch life passing by and feel he has no part to play in it. In fact his situation was compromised to the point that he was physically prevented from leaving his house due to a lack of ramps that could accommodate his wheelchair. Neil spent day after day watching the outside world through his window feeling that he was basically “surplus to requirements.”

It is hard to believe that situations as awful as Neil’s can exist in New Zealand communities. But for a variety of reasons, they can and they do. That’s why the work CCS Disability Action does is so vital. CCS Disability Action provides a lifeline to over 5,000 people, their families and whānau. But being only partially government funded, we cannot do it without support from people like you.

Thank you A Sample

Your support means the world to people like Neil.

Things finally began to improve when CCS Disability Action entered Neil's life. "Everything changed at that point," says Neil. Service Coordinator Glenda Miller organised for a team of local Support Workers to regularly visit Neil and re-connect him to his community. Modifications to his home were also completed, enabling Neil to move in and out of his home freely for the first time in years.

"Neil is an absolutely lovely man and it was harrowing to hear how difficult things had become for him due to the change in his mobility. No-one should ever become that isolated. I am really pleased that the support we put in place made such a difference to his outlook and his confidence. He has a new lease of life now and, rather than feeling stuck, he is looking forward, which is how it should be as he has a lot to give to his community," says Glenda.



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Neil has been able to re-frame how he sees himself as a person. "It's nice to have the support but know that I can still be independent," he explains. "I can physically get in and out of my house, so I don't feel trapped anymore. Having Support Workers with me means I can do the everyday things that I used to take for granted. Talking to people at the supermarket, getting out into town - it made me realise that I can still get out and live my life," he explains.

A chance conversation was the catalyst for another huge change in Neil's life. "I was outside when Becca, my neighbour, walked past and stopped for a chat. I asked her where she was headed, and she told me she was going to the bowling club. She said: 'Why don't you give it a go?' and I thought, 'You know what? I will!'"

Neil now attends the Rangiora Bowling Club three afternoons a week. The place, and the people in it, have proved life changing. "I love it. I have friends now. That's something I've never had before in my life," says Neil with a smile. Glenda has also worked to secure Lotteries funding for a specialised wheelchair that allows Neil to take part in bowls year-round, funding he was initially knocked-back for.

And as for his bowls form? "Well, let's just say I'm better than when I started. I'm not the best, but I'm not the worst. And I'm not complaining!"



Neil and one of his Support Workers Glen have a fantastic rapport. Glen says bowling with Neil is one of the best day's work he could ever ask for.



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**It can happen
to anyone.**

Just ask Neil.

Season's Greetings



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from
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Dear Mrs A Sample

Can you spare a little **to make a lot of kids smile?**

CCS Disability Action cares about kids. That's how we started out over 80 years ago, supporting children in New Zealand effected by the polio epidemics. Of course over time we have grown to become the largest pan disability support organisation in New Zealand, proudly supporting everyone and anyone with a disability. But children and families are still at the heart of everything we do.

We rely heavily on donations to support the work we do with kids like Marley and his mum Susan, who you can read about in the enclosed letter. Children like Marley can flourish and succeed with a bit of help from people like you. It's so wonderful to see him riding high in the saddle grinning from ear to ear. That pride and confidence is what we want for all New Zealand's children, equally and inclusively.

And may I take this opportunity to thank you for the generous gift of <amount> you gave in <date>. Your very significant support has contributed to disabled children throughout New Zealand being included in the lives of their family and their community. For that I thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

David Matthews
Chief Executive.

P.S. Every donation you give supports our work to assist disabled people live a more inclusive, more fulfilled life. Donate using the coupon enclosed or online at www.ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz/Donate



Dear Mrs A. Sample

“Working with this family reminds me of why I love my job and making a difference so much. I like seeing kids smile.”

In many ways, life in the sleepy, Taranaki community of Patea sounds idyllic. Single mum Susan and her son Marley (10) live on a peaceful rural property with their dog Bolt, a goat, some sheep and plenty of chickens for company. “Marley’s always out with the animals, or on the tramp. He’s a really active kid. I can’t imagine living anywhere else,” says Susan.

While Susan is grateful for how positive life is now, it hasn’t always been so smooth. Marley has a disability which affects his ability to process the world around him, making everyday things like getting ready for school, getting around or even talking to people he doesn’t know, a real challenge for him.

“He has had his struggles, especially socially and at school. He had a rough start when he was born and I knew from that moment, that whatever happened, I was always going to be there for him 100%. And that’s how it’s been ever since, really, my life is my boy,” says Susan.

CCS Disability Action entered Marley and Susan’s lives when Marley was four, when it became clear that he would need some extra support to be ready to start school like other five year olds.

Community Service Coordinator Sandy Nuku has been the family’s go-to for support for the majority of this time. Sandy has been a passionate advocate for disabled children and their families through her work at CCS Disability Action for over 16 years. Because of the experience she brings, she is an expert at navigating all the avenues available to ensure Marley gets the support he needs.



Most parents of disabled children just want to see their children happy and included in their local community. Paving the way for children to take part in school, make friends and enjoy local activities is an important part of CCS Disability Action's work across New Zealand.



Susan (left) and CCS Disability Action Service Coordinator Sandy (right) make a fantastic support team for Marley (centre).

She also understands that good relationships are essential to seeing families thrive and this isn't something that can be rushed. "Marley's a really cool kid. It's important to me that I always listen to Susan *and* Marley on how his support looks. In the beginning I took time to build the relationship with him, so we could make that happen. Now he's really confident and tells me exactly what he wants," explains Sandy with a smile.

As well as organising much-needed respite care so that Susan can have a short break occasionally, Sandy supported the family to access their full transport subsidy to get Marley to and from school – something they were originally knocked back for. Marley finds the pressure of getting out the door for school each morning a real challenge, so turning this 'no' into a 'yes' was a game changer for them.

Marley goes to swimming once a week, something he absolutely loves, but Susan was looking for something else that could build her son's social life and confidence. Marley has a strong affinity for animals and Riding for the Disabled (NZRDA) was something he really wanted to try. Sandy jumped in and completed the paperwork necessary to make it happen.



From the moment he entered the grounds with the horses, Marley hasn't looked back. "From that very first session he was very keen and confident. We generally spend the first session introducing our kids to the horses and showing them how everything works, but he just wanted to jump on!" says Jenny Curflake, a volunteer at the Hawera NZRDA.

Thank you A. Sample

Your support puts smiles on many little faces.

Marley is fiercely competitive and one of the goals Jenny Curflake and the Hawera team are trying to teach him is that winning is fun, but it's giving things a go that's most important.

"Marley is outgoing and fun and he really enjoys the horses. In a session we usually do a mixture of games and exercises to settle them on the horses but also to develop their balance and all the other skills that go along with riding a horse. He tries hard to do the right thing and he's really determined to get to the next stage."

Just a few weeks in to his time at NZRDA, Marley was included in a team of four to represent Hawera at the organisation's annual regional games. It's an achievement that Sandy describes as "amazing."



3

Yes

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"The thing with Sandy is, I make one call and she's there. If I'm unsure of anything, I can check with her. It is really great to have someone who knows the system so well who is there for me."



Sandy (left) and Susan (right).



Marley with his beloved dog, Bolt.

It was a fabulous experience for Marley with his proud family watching on. And most importantly, in Jenny's view, he demonstrated some excellent sportsmanship at the event, shrugging off a loss in a game of 'musical poles' with a smile.

It's his zest for life that Susan most appreciates about her son. "He is very loving and has a big heart. He's really blunt at times, which can be hilarious, but he's a great kid. Honestly? He makes life awesome."

For her part, Sandy loves being part of Marley and Susan's story. "It can be challenging living in a smaller community in terms of the services available to families, but nothing's ever impossible in my mind. Marley is lucky because Susan is a wonderful mother. She is totally there for her son."

"Working with them reminds me of why I love my job and making a difference so much. I like seeing kids smile." Fortunately for Sandy and Susan, Marley has plenty of those to dish out.

4

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Let's give kids
plenty to
SMILE about



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Dear Mrs A Sample

It's people like you
that keep the wheels of
opportunity turning



CCS Disability Action is at the forefront of providing support, advocacy and information for disabled people, their families and whānau in New Zealand. We do that despite historical government underfunding of our sector with help from people like you.

We rely heavily on donations to support our work and outcomes like Roald's, which you can read about in the enclosed story. I hope you enjoy reading about Roald's passion and determination. It is a wonderful tale of how you really do make a difference in disabled people's lives.

That's because the work our organisation does to support disabled people like Roald get ahead is made possible in part thanks to you giving generous gifts such as the <amount> you gave in <date>. Your very significant support has contributed to disabled people throughout New Zealand overcoming barriers to participation in employment, the lives of their family and their community. For that I thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

David Matthews
Chief Executive.

P.S. Every donation you give supports our work to assist disabled people live a more inclusive, more fulfilled life. Donate using the coupon enclosed or online at www.ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz/Donate



Dear Mrs A. Sample

Your support helps people like Roald shine

Christchurch born and raised Roald Phillips can't remember a time when cars weren't his thing.

"It's just something I've always been into. I love how they work. I love how they're put together and I love that each one is different."



The upbeat 21-year-old lives at home with his mum Nadine, who has been a constant and much loved presence in his life. "I would describe my mum as lovely, caring and understanding".

Roald went to his local primary school in the close-knit suburb of West Spreydon and then later to Catholic Cathedral College.

Despite his best efforts he always found concentrating on his studies – or "paperwork" as he terms it – a real challenge because of his impairment. However, Roald is completely in his element with anything and everything hands-on. "I like to keep busy with practical jobs. Pulling car engines apart and putting them back together comes really naturally to me."

CCS Disability Action entered Roald's life when he was 16, as it became clear that he needed some extra support to get through his final years of school.

After completing high school the decision to move into some form of automotive training, with his sights firmly set on a paid job at the end of it, seemed an obvious choice.





Securing a meaningful job, that's the right fit for an individual, is an important part of CCS Disability Action's work in communities across New Zealand. It means finding a role that genuinely allows a person to flourish and shine.

Lisa Wall, Service Coordinator - Supported Employment and the dedicated transition and employment teams at the Christchurch branch of CCS Disability Action went into high gear to support Roald to find the right course of study, complete it and then find paid employment.

For people who are not good with "paperwork", the qualifications they need to achieve their goals are often out of reach unless they get the right support. With the CCS Disability Action team on his side, Roald completed a three year certificate in Fabrication, Panel and Paint at the Canterbury Polytech Institute of Technology and followed this with a Certificate of Automotive Engineering at the Southern Institute of Technology.

His determination to complete this training was legendary.

"We absolutely knew Roald had it in him to succeed. He simply needed some practical support and a bit of encouragement from us, to help him make it happen. We arranged things like a reader-writer for exams so he wasn't disadvantaged by "paperwork", we got him some technology that made it easier for him to complete his assignments and provided regular check-ins to ensure he was handling everything. The rest was all Roald," explains Lisa.

But then, like many young people trying to secure their first job, he found it challenging to find an employer who was happy to take him on.

"The automotive industry is quite a tough industry to get into as there are more trained people than jobs. It had been a couple of months since I'd completed my study and I still didn't have a job. It was hard," he explains.



But he wasn't prepared to give up. "What stood out about Roald was his enthusiasm and motivation to get a job. If it had a connection with cars Roald was prepared to give anything a go," says Lisa.

Keen to do whatever it took to get that all important job, Roald attended a two-day Employment Skills Workshop run by the CCS Disability Action Christchurch office. The workshop focussed on ensuring attendees put their best foot forward with potential employers and included CV tips, interview techniques and proactive ideas for getting a job.

With a freshly updated CV and cover letter he and Lisa hit the online vacancies and made several cold calls to businesses.

His efforts and attitude were rewarded when, as the result of one of the cold calls, Roald interviewed for and was offered a full-time job at Bridgestone Tyre Centre.

It was a *hugely* satisfying moment. "It was really great to get that first job. It's great to feel like I can keep up with what my friends are doing and to go from having no money to having a good wage coming in."



3

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Thank you A Sample

Your support means we can help people find a job where they can shine.

And now a couple of years down the track, he is going strong and is working as a tyre technician at a different branch of Bridgestone.

"It can be very technical work, especially with the more modern vehicles which have detailed electrics and sensors."



It's also allowed Roald to begin to plan and dream about what his future might look like, both in the short and long term. Not surprisingly, cars feature in both. Not content with his current ride, a new car is on the wish list. "I want something with a bigger engine, so I'm saving for a Subaru Legacy." Further down the track he'd like to go out on his own and open a car dealership. "That's the dream," he says.

He and his mum have also begun saving to buy a house and he's also looking ahead to settling down into family life of his own. "I'm still waiting for my plus-one - I would love to start a family one day."

With your support, disabled people like Roald have more opportunity to reach their goals, develop their skills and really shine.

4

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