

Media release

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Special care baby unit gets a special boost

Masterton's Elaine Leggott is one of those people that just doesn't stop. Always pitching up for a good cause, her online charity call outs on her 'Doing a Good Deed Page' on Facebook raises funds to support local projects, including her most recent effort to raise \$1,500 for Wairarapa Hospital's special care baby unit (SCBU).

"It was my 65th birthday and I thought, 'I don't need a party but I know who could do with one' and so I suggested my friends and family gave me a donation instead of presents," Elaine said.

"I picked SCBU, because in 2008 my grandchildren (twins Ali and Skye Leggott, now 12 years old) needed a bit of special care when they were born and I thought it was a cause I could support in their honour."

"Everyone loves to help babies and some of our babies need help. They are more important than my 65th birthday!" she said.

Wairarapa District Health Board Chief Executive, Dale Oliff, was grateful for the donation.

"It is really special whenever the community steps in to support our service," she said. "Of course we are government funded and we manage our budgets carefully to provide our people a great local service, but wiggle room for added extras is rare."

"Donations such as the one Elaine has made for SCBU are so appreciated as it allows us the opportunity to do just a little bit more, and that really can make all the difference."

"To our Mums that are coping with a new and needy baby, whatever extra we can offer is just so appreciated."

Elaine runs a day care facility for seniors at St Matthews Church hall three times a week and, as if that doesn't keep her busy enough, she is one of Wairarapa's most active fundraisers in her 'spare' time.

Supporting others runs in the family. Sister in law, Jenny Ewan, swapped 70th birthday gifts to abseil down a 17 storey building and raise money for Make-a-Wish, a charity the Wairarapa Hospital theatre nurse has supported for many years.

"I am swapping any birthday gifts people might have otherwise bought me for a donation to the Paediatric Ward's SCBU," said Elaine.

"It's something we all could do, really. It's an easy way to make a difference, and a lovely philosophy to teach our younger generation too."

A stalwart of people sit in behind Elaine, helping with her many and varied fundraising projects. One of them is Trudy who helps to support Elaine's raffles from the Wairarapa Resource Centre where she works.

"Trudy is great," Elaine said. "She has loads of energy for fundraising. Tex is another good helper. He came in the other day with a cash donation tucked in his collar for me."

Along with the \$1,500 donation, Elaine delivered some beautiful newborn knitting packs to the ward – some of them knitted by a 91 year old woman who is a regular supporter.

"They say it takes a village. Here it takes a village, and the villagers dogs!"

Anyone wanting to follow Elaine's fundraising projects can find her on Facebook on her Doing a Good Deed Page.

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