

SWEET Connection

Your latest news and inspiration from Sweet Louise



Debra with her daughter, Nannette (left) and her husband, Iain (right). You give Debra the hope she needs to enjoy the simple things in life.

You give Debra a sense of belonging

When Debra was diagnosed with advanced, incurable breast cancer, she felt like she was in a ‘tornado’ of confusion and disbelief. The care you offer through Sweet Louise has given her belonging, connection and hope.

“When I was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer in 2018, it was hard to get my head around the oncologist saying to me ‘terminal’ – with possibly just a few months to live. I was in a cloud of disbelief.

“For a few months I tried to keep on working, but it was impossible. It was terrible going from working full time in a good job to living on a benefit. I felt like I was in a tornado!

“But here we are – five years on. And I’m still here!

“Sweet Louise is an amazing support network. At the meetings, we often share information on treatments and side effects, and discuss strategies on how best to manage them. Sometimes we might have a moan together, but we always come away feeling uplifted. It’s a place where I am understood. No judgement – just support.

“At the meetings we all share a special connection and sense of belonging.

“This helps me feel that I’m not alone.

“The Support Coordinators play a vital role in setting the environment for a fun, supportive group. They also provide valuable help and advice whenever I need it.

“The vouchers are special too. Last Christmas I used the Sweet Louise voucher to buy books. I love reading. But I worry about buying those kinds of extras because you need to budget carefully when you don’t have an income.

“I wonder if the people who donate to Sweet Louise really understand the huge difference they make.

“Having Sweet Louise there to listen and to give encouragement when you need it – this support is priceless.”



Debra and Starky the dog.

Memory making awaits - thanks to you!

Thanks to you, mums can forget about their cancer for a while and have fun and make memories with their families. Whether it's a memory-making experience or a special treat, Sweet Louise Family Time is all about making sure mum can relax and enjoy time with her family!



Tania spent her Sweet Louise Family Time taking surfing lessons with her three sons. She said: **“Oh the thrill of standing up and riding a wave! But even better was the thrill of watching the lads riding waves with a look of pure joy on their faces!”**

“Sweet Louise you have raised the quality of our time on this earth. Thank you from the bottom of my full heart!”

“Thank you for bringing colour into my kid’s world and for making the world special.”



Ainette’s family chose to use their Family Time to get art and craft materials for the kids. Ainette told us: **“We were so excited when the package arrived. The look on their faces in this photo says it all!”**



Natalie spent her Sweet Louise Family Time at Rainbow’s End theme park with her 10-year-old daughter, Zoe. Natalie said: **“It was amazing. We pretty much went on every ride. My photos aren’t great – we were having too much fun! We really needed this time out together and it was nice to forget about everything and have fun.”**



“Thank you so much everyone!”



Claire and her young family went for a night away to Rotorua. Claire said: **“We kept the trip a surprise for the kids. When we arrived at the hotel, we were all so excited. We felt like royalty!”**

“We made special memories together that we’ll never forget. I cannot thank you enough.”



Emotional support. Practical help.
A better life thanks to your support.



Zara, centre, with friends Lizzie and Jade.

Your act of kindness means the world



Nicky's friends at her favourite seat.

“These small acts of kindness are some of the most special memories I have with my mum growing up,” says Zara.

Your kindness has given Zara some of the most special memories she has of her mum, Nicky.

Zara said: “Over the years, Sweet Louise was incredibly generous in helping families like mine. Thanks to their support, I was able to form memories with my mum that I treasure.

“One special memory I have is when Sweet Louise made it possible for us to travel to Wellington to watch *Annie the Musical*. This amazing trip helped me to form memories with my mum and sparked my love for musicals! I also have another fond memory of a trip to see the ballet.

“I decided to fundraise for Sweet Louise so other families can have the chance to create special memories like I did. I will be forever grateful for everything Sweet Louise does for families like mine.”

Zara and one of her mum’s close friends, Victoria, organised a walk with family and friends as a fundraiser. The group walked along one of Nicky’s favourite tracks and met at her favourite seat. Together they raised \$1,085 in sweet memory of their beloved Nicky.

Find out more about fundraising in memory of a loved one at sweetlouise.co.nz/in-memory



David and Grace, like you, want to help people live their lives to the fullest.

In honour of Aunt Louise

Congratulations to David and Grace for completing the Round the Bays race in Auckland.

David is Louise Perkins’ nephew and said: “Sweet Louise has always been an important part of my life, ever since my Aunt Louise passed away when I was a young boy. Since that day, my family and I have been humbled to see her memory honoured by Sweet Louise’s growing good works. I always try to support this great organisation.

“Grace and I were stoked to raise over \$1,100! Through Sweet Louise I hope I can help all the wonderful people trying to live their lives to the fullest, just like my Aunt Louise did.”



SWEET
Louise

SUPPORT FOR
INCURABLE
BREAST CANCER

Sweet Louise provides practical and emotional support for New Zealanders with incurable breast cancer, helping them to live as well as possible, for as long as possible.



Diana with her grandchildren and the quilt she adores – thanks to you!

Your practical help is a 'backbone'

"Every day I wake up and feel grateful I'm here," says Diana, who was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer a year ago.

"My home was impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle and I'm yet to get back there, but grateful to be staying with my daughter. After the cyclone, Sweet Louise sent vouchers that I spent on groceries and petrol for my daughter's car.

"I've also used Sweet Louise vouchers to get frozen, ready-made meals. It's fantastic to have delicious home cooked meals in the freezer for when I'm too tired to cook.

"Sweet Louise is like a backbone. With Sweet Louise I know I am not alone. People see me out doing things like playing bowls and think I look fine. They don't know how I feel inside. But Sweet Louise do."

Thank you for helping women like Diana when they need it most.

"I received a quilt from Sweet Louise, which I really appreciate. I have always wanted one – it's beautiful."



Cat's daughter, Kahlia, and friends joined the walk to raise funds.

A Cat Walk to Remember

Friends and whānau of Cat Thorburn held a 2-day fundraiser in her memory and raised an incredible \$10,000! They held an auction and walkathon event dubbed *A Cat Walk to Remember* – with people joining them to walk in Auckland, Queenstown and even Australia!

Sian, Cat's sister-in-law, said: "Cat gave this breast cancer battle her everything. She would have done anything to stay to be with her family and friends. She is the epitome of grit, strength and a superwoman in our eyes."

Thank you to all involved for bringing care and support to women with advanced breast cancer.



Your support brings Christmas cheer!

A Christmas surprise!

The Sweet Louise elves were excited to spread a little extra comfort and joy last Christmas by posting out Christmas Care Packs to everyone we support – all thanks to you! One Sweet Louise member said: "Thank you for the beautiful gift that arrived in the post. Such a thoughtful and lovely surprise that arrived when I was going through a difficult time. This has truly made my day. Words can't express how grateful I am."