



We were pleased with the advertorial published in the King Country News in November 2023, highlighting the work of the Trust. We hope you were inspired by the efforts of the staff, who give their best every day in supporting the tamariki and rangatahi in our community.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 14th November 2023, and we had the opportunity to introduce the team in person and answer questions regarding the work we do and our future plans. Thank you to those who attended.

TRUE NORTH Brad, our TrueNorth Mentor, spends his time connecting with students in seven primary schools in the district. Brad helps and supports where he can, whether that be in the classroom, or by tossing a ball around on the field and having a meaningful conversation or talking through the harder challenges of life, one on one. A recent comment received was *“This support means a lot to our senior students ... where they are able to share thoughts, problems, and ideas with him during informal games, shooting hoops and field play.”*

Jenny continues her work with the students at Ōtorohanga College, by helping them to work towards achieving in their studies, and by supporting students as they navigate their way through life. An encouraging word is never far away. A recent comment from a teacher was *“Jenny keeps the students calm, getting them to school and helping them to stay in class; offering positive encouragement.”*

We are thrilled to be extending the TrueNorth Mentorship programme into Ōtorohanga South School. Jenny will be working with year 6 and year 8 students, identified as needing learning support. She will

thrive^otorohanga youth trust

engage with the students in the classroom with their studies, and out of the classroom on the playing field, connecting one-on-one.

Thrive have played a supporting role in previous CACTUS programmes and will do so again this year, in Term 2. Te Taki Ruarau joins us each year to assist with the fitness regimes and to mentor the students each week. This programme is run by the NZ Police School Community Officer Kat Payne, and along with Te Taki, Jenny will assist with the behind-the-scenes work, to make sure the students are well fed and ready to face the day following the morning routines.

The Harvest Rock Indoor Climbing Wall holiday programme is still running, with young people able to book in for rock climbing throughout the school holidays. Children can test their climbing skills and confidence, with parents and caregivers assisting as their personal belayers. After school climbing is also an option Tuesday through to Thursday afternoon, with the wall open until 9pm for all ages on Thursday evenings. The LIONS REACH AWARDS continue each term, with school students excelling in their chosen fields spending a morning rock climbing at Harvest Rock, sponsored by The Lions Club of Ōtorohanga. This collaboration sees approximately 800 students a year from all schools in the district enjoying the climbing wall experience.

MPOWA continues to offer support to school leavers. This MOU with the Ōtorohanga College means that when students sign out of school, they have a safety net - where, if they need to, they can connect and gain support for job applications, CV preparation and study options. The doors are always open for the young people to return for more guidance. CV support has been a popular area for assistance and using the tools on Careers New Zealand website helps students navigate their way with career options. This is all part of the MPOWA experience.

We thank you, our funders, donors, local community members and friends of Thrive Trust. Without your continued faith in the work we do, we would not have been able to continue operating. We remain grateful for your financial commitment.

If you would like to discuss any matters relating to the Trust and the programmes we provide, please do not hesitate to contact me on 027 493 0117 or on email at peter@thriveoto.co.nz

Best regards,
Peter Coventry
CEO
Thrive Ōtorohanga Youth Trust

