



## BRIEF HISTORY OF UNITED WAY (NZ) Inc

A united effort to meet increasing demand for charitable human care needs in the community was first proposed toward the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. England faced many such appeals and, later, so did the United States. The Federation for Charity and Philanthropy in Cleveland, Ohio, became the first of many voluntary programmes to source private funds for distribution through, originally, Community Chests or, now, United Way organizations.

A meeting chaired by Colin Kay and attended by 31 people representing a variety of Auckland businesses and welfare charities was held in the Auckland City Council Building on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1974. The purpose for this meeting “arose out of the need to regularise appeals throughout the Greater Auckland area” and therefore to consider a “campaign to provide for voluntary giving to cover the needs of all charities in the Greater Auckland area”.

As a result of this and subsequent meetings, United Way of Greater Auckland was established in 1975. Fund raising depended on a variety of private sources for its funds, notably payroll giving and other individual, corporate and sector giving, as well as designated gifts from overseas foundations and corporations.

In 1998, impressed with the role of United Way of Greater Auckland volunteers in the efficient allocation of funds, and the United Way emphasis on family and social services, The Tindall Foundation selected United Way of Greater Auckland as one of its major funding managers. This greatly enlarged the geographic area served by United Way and generously increased the resources available for distribution. Consistent with this new scope, the name was changed to United Way (NZ) Inc (UWNZ). UWNZ currently provides funds to assist approximately 190 charities through its volunteer allocation teams in the areas of Auckland, Hamilton, Manawatu/Horowhenua, Wellington & Hutt Valley, Tasman, Marlborough, Christchurch, South Canterbury, Otago, Dunedin and Southland.

UWNZ is an affiliate of United Way International, an organisation based in Washington DC that supports the concept of United Way around the world. All affiliates of United Way International agree to maintain strict conformance with all legal and ethical standards in the conduct of administration, finance and programming. They must be an independent, not-for-profit, charitable, financially self-sustaining organization. No United Way funding may be provided to political parties, government officials or candidates, religions or places of worship. Currently, United Way operates in 45 countries of the world, processing over US\$4 billion annually through an international network of approximately 4,200 independent community funds.

Because UWNZ is an Incorporated society within New Zealand it has its own volunteer Board of Directors who make decisions on governance, administration, fund raising and fund distribution policies. **The mission of UWNZ is to encourage generosity by brokering resources, (money, time and skills) between individuals, businesses and the community.** It is New Zealand’s local charity – committed to helping the helpers.

In 2000, Dennis Nathan OBE (a foundation member and current President of United Way NZ) was selected as United Way International’s Volunteer of the Year and honoured at the International Assembly in Hong Kong.

In 2003 Don Oliver was appointed Chief Executive, Dame Silvia Cartwright, PCNZM, DBE Governor-General of New Zealand agreed to be national Patron and the Mayors of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin cities agreed to be national Vice Patrons.