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PRESS RELEASE

Karamu High School Students Raise \$1000 for local Rescue Helicopter Service

Students from Karamu High School have raised an incredible \$1,000 at a school fundraising day, in aid of the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter.

Year 13 student Isla Christensen, who helped co-ordinate the fundraiser said, "We chose to support the Rescue Helicopter as staff and students have both used the services which has saved their lives. One of our school's sayings is to be, 'proudly Karamu and proudly Hastings'. This is our way as a school community to show our support to this awesome local organisation".

To raise the funds, the students organised a coin trail in the shape of a helicopter, along with a BBQ for students, staff, and parents.

Principal Michael Leitch said, "The students and staff at Karamu High School wanted to thank the Rescue Helicopter Crew for their constant commitment to our community. We hope that this donation is able to help the Trust with their work that saves many lives each year"

Isla, along with her fellow year 13 students, presented the funds raised to Fulltime Crewman, Geoff Taylor, and Pilot Jeremy Bruce when they visited the Graeme Lowe Rescue Helicopter Hangar in Orchard Road.

Paying tribute to the student's hard work, Geoff said "We are very grateful to the students for their amazing fundraising effort, and for helping to support our lifesaving service. We have to raise \$1.3 million a year from the community to keep our service available 24/7 and free of charge to whoever may need it, and this donation will go a long way to helping us achieve this target. Thank you from all of us on the crew!"

End

Photo 1: Isla Christenson and fellow students meet Crewman Geoff Taylor and Pilot Jeremy Bruce.

Photo 2: The coin trail in the shape of the helicopter

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About the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust

The Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter is a charitable trust, which provides a dedicated Rescue Helicopter service to the Hawke's Bay region. Each year the Rescue Helicopter Crew completes over 320 lifesaving missions, helping those who need urgent medical care and transportation. The service is free of charge and available 24/7 to everyone in our community, but costs \$2.3million each year to operate. www.hbhrt.org.nz