

Media release

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### **BestStart Marne Street tops annual Plunket fundraising appeal**

Sliming teachers with gloop, selling cupcakes and hosting teddy bear picnics are just some of the fun activities tamariki from BestStart Marne street got up to for the annual BestStart Plunket fundraising appeal this year.

Thanks to their efforts and that of their kaiako with support from whānau and the wider community, the centre was the biggest contributor to the appeal this year.

Whānau Āwhina Plunket Chief Executive Fiona Kingsford paid a visit to the centre to personally thank tamariki, whānau and the wider community for its generosity.

“We are truly grateful and humbled by the efforts BestStart whānau have gone to, to support Whānau Āwhina Plunket at this time.

“We know a lot of whānau are doing it tough with the increased cost of living across Aotearoa New Zealand. It’s amazing what you’ve fundraised for us.

“Whānau Āwhina Plunket couldn’t do what we do without the support of amazing people and organisations like BestStart, so thank you BestStart, and all the whānau and communities that get involved in the appeal every year. Together you’re helping us to make a difference of a lifetime for our tamariki,” Mrs Kingsford says.

Kathryn Cherrie, BestStart Marne St Centre Manager says she’s proud of the support received from the BestStart Marne Street community.

“We are delighted that our generous whānau and passionate team get right behind the BestStart Plunket Appeal.

“We know we’ve got a great little centre, and every year we’re humbled to see how generous and willing our community is to help others,” says Ms Cherrie

BestStart is the Star Partner of Whānau Āwhina Plunket and runs the BestStart Plunket Annual Appeal, as well as funding Whānau Āwhina Plunket’s PlunketLine breastfeeding service. This year BestStart centres raised \$35,000. Over the seven years it has run the appeal more than \$ 275,000 has been fundraised, making it a significant funder of Whānau Āwhina Plunket community initiatives.

### **About Whānau Āwhina Plunket**

Pēpi, tamariki and whānau are at the heart of Whānau Āwhina Plunket. The charity is Aotearoa New Zealand’s largest health and wellbeing support service for tamariki – seeing 290,000 under-fives.

About 80% of newborns are enrolled with Whānau Āwhina Plunket each year. Our nurses provide clinical assessments, and along with Kaiāwhina and Community Karitāne, support whānau and families,

through home and clinic visits, as well as PlunketLine 0800 933 922, a free 24/7 telephone advice service for parents.

Our website **plunket.org.nz** is one of the country's most widely read digital child health resources, with 1.8 million visits each year. It is data free which means you don't need mobile data to access, and you can choose to view in English or te reo Māori.

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Pictured below: Whānau Āwhina Plunket Bear and CEO Fiona Kingsford pay a special visit to BestStart Marne Street to personally thank the centre and it's whānau for their support.

