



“One person can make a difference,  
and everyone should try.”

John F. Kennedy



# October UPDATE

## AGM

Thank you to those of you who could make it to the AGM on 1st October.

### Highlights;

- Financial position has improved in past year – brainstormed ideas of priority spending
- Reflection on advocacy work in the community over the last year, especially around reduced number of abortions and canceled appointments.
- Pregnancy Support work over the last year
- Thank you to Living Well Church for storage room upgrade
- Continue with Nappy November, Christmas Boxes (increasing donation), Candlelit Vigil, Mother’s Day Raffle
- Introduce a “Gathered” event for new mums we’ve supported
- Setting vision for 2025 = More public awareness work around euthanasia and abortion, particularly in the online space.
- For full chairperson report, please see following two pages.

## Nappy November

Last year we had a very successful nappy drive which served two purposes;

1) received many donations of nappies and cash to buy nappies for Pregnancy Support

2) gained awareness of Voice for Life Rotorua and the work we do in the community

We need people to be the lead in their church community for Nappy November to put up posters and speak at services to encourage people to donate in this practical way. Please get in touch if you are able to help. [rotorua@voiceforlife.org.nz](mailto:rotorua@voiceforlife.org.nz)

## Get involved!

- Become a supporter <https://www.voiceforliferotorua.org.nz/plans-pricing>
- Share our website with others [www.voiceforliferotorua.org.nz](http://www.voiceforliferotorua.org.nz)
- Stand in peaceful protest, at our hospital on abortion days, Wednesdays or Thursdays
- Offer your time to support Pregnancy Support Rotorua – Contact Christa 0220451942
- Come to [March for Life in Wellington](#) on December 7th 2024
- For more information contact Jenny on 0276315011



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## **Chair Person Report for the 2024 AGM**

1 October 2024

Kia ora koutou

It is with pleasure that I offer my chair person's report for 2024.

We have achieved a major goal of raising more money in order to support local women in need, and the pro life cause. It is wonderful to see the practical support offered to Mums across Rotorua. Some highlights of support offered this year have included helping a Mum with surprise twins (baby 7 and 8) to get twin carseats, blankets, nappies and baby gear. As well as another Mum who had to leave an abusive relationship, re-establish herself with baby gear for her 9 month old. And many more mums in need through Pregnancy Support. Being able to offer this 'on the spot' support is really wonderful.

Christa has been supported by her church, Living Well, to upgrade the storage room that they host for Pregnancy Support. This is much more practical and has great storage for our goods. Nappy November was a great success last year, producing enough nappies for the following year. We will discuss later in the meeting if we'll run this again this year. Our Candlelit Vigil was well attended, however feedback was that a more visible location would be better for 2025. We will take this onboard. This outreach event generated new awareness, prayer support as well as financial support for Voice for Life Rotorua. This has become an expected annual event, and one we would like to grow. I look forward to hearing your ideas about how we could do that.

Rotorua bucked the trend in the rise of abortions in New Zealand. Nationally, the numbers rose about 6%, but in Rotorua, we went DOWN by 13%. This is a start in the right direction, and we have no doubt the prayers and visible action of our hospital teams are impacting the women in our community. We know that 75 women canceled their abortions in 2023, and that one woman reported it was because of seeing our signs. We really need more people to attend these short weekly vigils, even if only from time to time. If you feel this is on your heart, please let us know.

Our Mother's Day Raffle was a great success this year, raising over \$800 and more importantly, raising awareness in our Churches about the mahi we are doing. I personally feel this raffle suited our kaupapa better than the Christmas one, as it has a connection with Mothers.

We sponsored \$400 towards the Christmas Box appeal last year, which paid for 10 boxes. However, we were able to deliver 50 boxes to families that we helped last year. We are hoping to do this again this Christmas, with a review needed of how many boxes we will sponsor.



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We had planned to attend the Saturday Market in 2024, but this hasn't been able to happen so far for a variety of reasons; weather, children's sport, lack of volunteers. I'd like to discuss this idea again, and see if there's a feasible solution.

I was interviewed on Outside of Sunday podcast and spoke in depth about the plight of the unborn and the vulnerable in New Zealand, as well as the work we do in Voice for Life. These episodes gained a lot of online attention and this flowed over into "The Real World" too. I've had many conversations with people about our pro life beliefs and what it means to advocate for the sanctity of life. This has been a huge blessing. I was also interviewed on Brendan Malone's podcast "The Dispatches" about the OIA Request and Ombudsman complaint win. It was great to be able to share the democratic work we've been involved in, in this space.

Our Vision for 2024 included growing the number of members, raising more funds, Gianna's choice returning. Of this, we've achieved the first two. I'd like to keep working on getting Gianna's Choice back in Rotorua, and also working more in the euthanasia space.

Thank you all for your hard work, especially to Christa and Jasmine for all they do for Pregnancy Support, Madie for her website work, Ruby for her advice on online memberships and website support, our hospital outreach teams, our knitters and donors, and everyone else who has used their skills/donated time/donated financially to be a voice for life in Rotorua. Blessings to you all.

Nga mihi nui

Jenny Chapman

*Chair person of Voice for Life Rotorua*