

Top of the South Community Foundation

For the Good of Te Taihu. Forever.



Credit: [MarlboroughNZ](#)

What is a Community Foundation?

Community Foundations are local, independent, and not-for-profit. They follow a well-established model of giving that has grown worldwide for more than 100 years and is now present in 18 regions across New Zealand.

Community Foundations build long-term, reliable funding streams for their local communities by investing donations and distributing the income as grants over time.

Top of the South Community Foundation

The Top of the South Community Foundation exists to strengthen the long-term wellbeing of Te Taihu by ensuring generosity given here continues to serve the community for generations.

We partner with generous donors who want to give back to the place and people that they care about most. We take care to ensure every donation is respected, protected, and carried forward with care and integrity.

As a place-based foundation, we have deep local knowledge of the charities and community organisations working across Te Taihu. We understand local needs and priorities, and we support donors to give in ways that feel meaningful to them, whether they have a clear focus or would value guidance.

The Top of the South Community Foundation exists to assist you in making your dreams for a better Te Taihū a reality.

How Your Donation Becomes a Legacy

The Top of the South Community Foundation aims to make the process of donating as rewarding as possible. You can donate in whichever way best suits your life, whether that's a gift today to see the impact now, or a gift in your Will.

- 1. The Donation:** Donors are encouraged to set up a dedicated 'Named Endowment Fund' or contribute to existing funds that align with their passions.
- 2. The Investment:** To make your money work harder, we pool all donations together and they are invested with Professional Investment Advisors. This gives your gift the power of professional, large-scale investment.
- 3. The Growth:** We carefully manage and invest capital with the long term in mind, aiming to protect its value over time.
- 4. The Giving:** The income earned by that investment is gifted back to the community every single year. We target a minimum 4% return to ensure a steady, reliable stream of support for the community causes you love. In this way, generosity continues to strengthen community wellbeing across Te Taihū, forever.

Your Choice: Where Does Your Donation Go?

This is the heart of your dream for Te Taihū. You have total control:

Targeted Giving: You name the specific charities or causes close to your heart.

Unrestricted Giving: You trust Top of the South Community Foundation to direct your gift to where the region's need is greatest at the time.

A Mix of Both: Many donors choose to support their favourite charity while also leaving a portion to help Top of the South Community Foundation respond to future challenges we haven't even thought of yet.

A community flourishes when people plant trees under whose shade they will never sit.

Why Donors Choose Top of the South Community Foundation

- **Personal Satisfaction:** There is a unique joy in seeing your donation make a difference while you are here, and a profound peace of mind knowing your life's work will protect this region forever.
- **A gift that keeps giving:** If someone donates \$100,000 today and that gift is invested through our endowment model, over the next 50 years, more than \$262,000 will be distributed back into the community - while around \$175,000 remains invested, still working for future generations.
- **A Smarter Alternative to a Private Trust:** Setting up your own trust is expensive and a burden for your family to manage. A Fund with the Top of the South Community Foundation gives you the same impact without the legal headaches, compliance costs, or the worry of who will run it when you're gone.

All the Ways to Support Your Community

Different Ways to Give

Generosity takes many forms in Te Taihū, and every gift helps ensure our region thrives for generations to come. Whether you want to see an immediate impact today, build a permanent legacy for tomorrow, or support the professional foundation that makes local giving possible, there is a pathway that fits your goals. By partnering with the Top of the South Community Foundation, you ensure your generosity is respected, protected, and directed where it is needed most.

Living Giving (Give Today)

Make a donation now and see the impact in your lifetime. All personal donations are eligible for an immediate 33.3% tax credit.

- **Establish a Named Fund:** Create a fund of your own to benefit causes that are dear to your heart.
- **General Fund:** Contribute to our fund that supports a wide range of community groups across Te Taihū.
- **Support a Focus Area:** Such as health and wellbeing, environment and sustainability, or heritage, arts and culture.
- **Community Group Funds:** Make a one-off or regular gift to an existing fund that supports a specific local charity or organisation.
- **Payroll & Workplace Giving:** Donate directly from your pay or engage your employees to turn collective effort into significant community change.

Your generosity can become a permanent part of our landscape - a legacy that lives on for the good of Te Taihū, forever.

Different Ways to Give

Gifts in Wills (Give Tomorrow)

Include a donation in your Will to ensure your care for Te Taihū continues for generations. This visionary model transforms a gift into a permanent stream of funding for the causes you care about most.

Super Legacy (Powering the Mission)

A meaningful and practical way for those who do not rely on their NZ Superannuation to give back to the region they call home.

- **Support the Engine:** Unlike Endowment Funds, Super Legacy donations go directly toward the vital operational costs of the Top of the South Community Foundation.
- **Ensure Sustainability:** Your donation ensures we have the professional team and a secure platform here in Te Taihū to manage the region's generosity for the long haul.
- **Founding Donors:** Join our Founding Donors Circle to provide the momentum needed to grow this initiative.

Professional Stewardship & Robust Governance

Expert Management: Your donations are in safe hands. Our Investment Advisory Committee oversees all funds, working with Professional Advisors to ensure your gift is managed with the highest level of expertise.

Robust Governance: Our board is made up of highly experienced volunteers who are passionate about supporting our region. They bring strong governance expertise, along with a diverse range of skills and professional backgrounds. As committed locals, they have a deep understanding of community needs and priorities.

Transparency & Sustainability: We have the systems and processes in place to ensure your donations are managed professionally, appropriately, and for the long term. Donors receive regular reporting on their funds. Our annual financial reports are audited and our annual report is publicly available on our website.