



Re-Source

Registered charity Re-Source (CC57616) was born from the accumulation of old baby clothes in one Hawkes Bay household. Ten years ago Nadine Gaunt, founder of Re-Source, and her family started donating their unwanted clothes to social workers to pass on to families in need. Over the years Nadine's friends learned what she was doing and began helping out.

As Nadine became more involved she saw the problems that come with donating goods. "The social workers urgently needed goods for their clients, often dipping into their own pockets but they had no storage and no time in which to manage them" Nadine says. She also noticed that poor quality donations went straight to the landfill, at the cost of the organisations receiving donations, and the environment.

Nadine saw the issues and decided to do her part. Re-Source was born. "There was a Re-Source shaped hole our community and once I saw it I just had to run to keep up", Nadine says.

Today Re-Source is a registered charity primarily run by Nadine Gaunt, Kate McDonald and Cressida Hickman, and supported by volunteers. They collect unwanted goods from homes and businesses and process them at their facility. They then supply quality donations to community and social workers who pass the goods on to their clients. "This targets the most vulnerable in our community and greatly increases their access to support", Nadine says. Donations that are unfit to pass on are repaired, recycled, upcycled or repurposed. "We can't stop poor quality goods being donated and we don't want them to go straight into the landfill so we turn them into an asset", Nadine says.

Re-Source wasn't considered an essential service at Alert Level 4, and they had to temporarily close their doors. However, this didn't stop the Re-Source team from supporting their community. "Lockdown is a delay, not a dead end", Nadine says. "Although we are unable to collect and deliver donations, we have kept ourselves busy sewing masks for homeless people and support workers in our area."

When COVID-19 hit Aotearoa it became clear that stocks of personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers were limited. Re-Source's local Primary Health Organisation asked them to find people to sew face masks. Nadine requested help on the Re-source Facebook page, and within 48 hours they had hundreds of offers of support. They even had an offer from as far as Australia! Nadine is "happy to report that the scrubs have now been made and are being worn in General Practice around the Bay. We were honoured to be a small part of this awesome project."

Re-Source is also hoping to work with the Waste Management team at Hastings District Council. The team anticipates an increase in donated goods after lockdown, so they are devising a plan to get these back into the community. This will combat a potential increase in landfill.

Once the lockdown is lifted Nadine is excited to get back into the community. "It is hard watching our waiting list grow but this time is not being wasted", she says. "As soon as we are allowed we will be back in the community providing the support that is becoming more vital every day. We are readying ourselves to hit the ground running. COVID-19 may temporarily slow us down but it will not stop us. Kia Kaha New Zealand."

You can find out more about Re-Source on their [Facebook page](#).



Re-Source on moving day. Building provided by Hastings District Council shelving provided by ACME Supplies LTD