




Epic!

MINISTRIES
ANNUAL REPORT 2022





Nāu te kete,
Nāku te kete,
Ka ora ai
tātou

From your basket, from my basket, we will all prosper



VISION:

To see a generation of young people empowered to reach their maximum potential, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually so they can be contributors to a healthy community.



Managers Comment 2022

As we've journeyed through another year, EPIC's vision continues to remain the same; **To see a generation of young people empowered to reach their maximum potential; physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually so they can be contributors to a healthy community.**

A special taonga that has been gifted to EPIC is our whakatauki: **"Nāu te kete, nāku te kete, ka ora ai tātoa"** **(From your basket, from my basket, we will all prosper).** We all have resources, strengths and skills that when developed and shared, enable us to collectively prosper. When we all contribute, our wider community flourishes.

In 2022, EPIC has worked alongside youth and community partners to provide opportunities to add to their kete, whether it be; tools for resilience, mentoring and leadership development, building spaces of belonging and connection, building a sense of identity and purpose, giving back to peers and the wider community. As youth grow, develop and share their strengths and voice, we also learn from them and add to our own kete. The learning and sharing are reciprocal.

I've personally enjoyed my time with the team and youth during EPIC's transition phase.

When talking to a valued member of the wider community, he mentioned that in life we have seasons which can be likened to the oceans tide. We have times in life where the tide goes out, and with it can come a sense of grief and loss. However, along with the grief and loss, there is a clearing out that creates space and opportunities, uncovering taonga previously hidden underneath the ocean. Space, that leaves room for what is to come, for new taonga that will be swept in with the next rising tide. Future growth, stories and new beginnings.

I think this analogy can be used to narrate EPIC's story over the last two years. Experiencing the loss of the tide moving out with changes within the team, while navigating a global pandemic. But amidst this, starting to notice the space,

the growth and increased responsibility within the existing team. New youth, volunteers and staff have joined the EPIC story and have brought fresh energy and strengths and new connections and community partnerships have been formed. EPIC is moving into its future path, while carrying with it the DNA of what has gone before.

I've admired the energy, depth of practice, and care that the team invest into youth in CHB. As well as the energy, voice and potential of youth in our community. As the team has strengthened, it is now time for EPIC to move on from a transition phase, and into its future state. As we move forward into 2023, I'd like to acknowledge the appointment of EPIC's Co-Leaders Penny Single (Youth Practice) and Jackie Lowry (Finance, Funding & Admin). Penny and Jackie's Co-Leadership appointment is less of a role change, and more an acknowledgement of their existing leadership and roles within the wider team.

We are so grateful for those in the community who enable and support our work with youth in Central Hawke's Bay, including; our volunteers, community partners, and financial supporters. We can't do what we do well, without the support of the wider community.

I'd also like to thank the EPIC Trustees for their governance and oversight of the Trust. In particular, I'd like to acknowledge Sally Biss as she steps down from her role as Chair of the Trust, and thank her for her long standing service as a Trustee and supporter of EPIC.

This report helps to illustrate and celebrate the stories of the youth and initiatives across three key areas; in school, after school and camps. It also includes stories and reflections from youth and community partners who have been a part of the EPIC story in 2022.

Ngā mihi nui,

Aaron Doody
Transition Manager 2021-2022



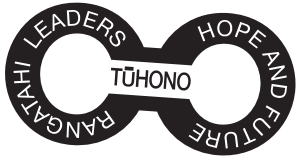
a life map for 2022

This year we have decided to use one of our mentoring tools as a theme to the report. It's what we call a life map. Below you can see an example of the life map for Tayla (staff member) who facilitates the use of the life map in the travellers mentoring group. The idea of a life map is to show one's life journey from where it started to the present day. It is a visual representation of core memories, values, strengths, challenges, different emotions and learnings along the way. Some youth choose to use lots of colours and pictures, others use words and some use a variety of symbols that only they may understand. As you can see Tayla's one has a wavy black line- this represents the road or path we travel on. It then finishes with a balloon- this is to celebrate the growth and person's individual story and journey to who they are today.

There is no right or wrong way to do a life map- for us it's all about giving our rangatahi the opportunity to put their journey on paper. When they look at it we hope they have a greater connection and understanding of all the different things that make them unique and have shaped them into who they are as an individual today. From a report perspective- we wanted to use this model to share with you the journey that we have been on at Epic over the past year. You will see our wavy line to today's balloon travelling throughout the report running alongside the adventures, values, challenges and memories we have created this year!!



reflections



CONNECT YOUTH & COMMUNITY

EPIC Youth Trust continue to be the core leaders of Youth Development activity in Tamatea Central Hawke's Bay. Our young people, our schools, whānau and our wider community are blessed to have such passionate hard-working leaders who go above and beyond in their work.

This past year EPIC have embraced change and adapting with many changes has been something they have excelled at. It's been wonderful to see a wave of new leaders coming into their own and watching them embrace their position of Youth Development leaders in our community.

-Kelly Annand:
Connect



The college has been delighted that EPIC have continued to support the rangitahi of the college once again this year. Their presence over the year has been appreciated as they continue to provide support for our future leaders and encouragement for the inclusiveness for all our students. EPIC have joined us to celebrate a number of events over the year. Pink shirt Day, Youth week and support for our Market Days have been a welcome injection of youth and enthusiasm to our break times. With the impact of COVID and the associated effects on our wider whānau, EPIC have added a slice of aroha and hauora that has truly made a difference to student well being. It has been a feature for us that we see many of our former students in leadership roles within EPIC and also how they include our current students and give them opportunities to shine.

Much of their work is designed to support our students on their future pathways and show what true commitment to others looks like. As community is one of our key school values, the ability to role model this is much appreciated. This is highlighted by EPIC's commitment to our Breakfast Club and the impact providing a good breakfast does for the students during our coldest months.

I would like to thank EPIC for their ongoing support for the youth of the CHB district and their continued efforts to guide and encourage them step outside their comfort zone. Without EPIC's help our work at college would be much more difficult and we really appreciate working in partnership with such a wonderful team.

-Lance Christiansen: CHBC Principal

Do I love EPIC? Yes. How long have I loved EPIC? For years and years and years. Will I ever stop loving EPIC? No!

I have been a social worker for Oranga Tamariki for 15 years, a school guidance counsellor for 23 years and a social worker for the Napier Family Centre for 8 years. In all of that time I have never come across an agency with more commitment to rangatahi, more transparency in the way that they work, more reach into all homes and backgrounds, more engagement, more aroha. I have been such a fan for so long I feel I should get a badge with number one fan written on it!

I have worked at CHBC college for the past 23 years. There is no way I could count the number of young people, and their whānau, who have been supported by EPIC. I really appreciate that, although they are a Christian based organisation, they never, ever push their beliefs or agendas. They are just here to help kids achieve happiness, to support them through some pretty awful situations. They are the major players in our school for forging a sense of community with all the rangatahi.

May they always be a shining light in our rohe!

-Mary Kippenberger: CHBC School Guidance Counsellor



CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Central Hawke's Bay District Council is once again thrilled to partner with EPIC Ministries to help create opportunities for young people in Central Hawke's Bay. Getting a youth perspective on issues is vital and our Inspire Youth Council, coordinated by the team from EPIC Ministries, is core to ensuring that the youth voice has a platform to be heard in Tamatea/Central Hawke's Bay. Thank you EPIC Ministries for the valuable service you have provided to young people and their families throughout the year.

-Christine Renata
CHBDC Community Development Lead



We as an organisation have had the privilege of having the support of EPIC Ministries and growing a healthy partnership between our two organisations.

EPIC Ministries have helped He Taonga Tāmata in many ways such as giving us the opportunity to expand our kete of mātauranga and supporting us through our own personal and professional development. EPIC Ministries has a wide variety of resources and facilities that they have let our organisation also use which has been a huge help to us.

Being partners in our community has been a very enjoyable journey so far and I am happy we have an organisation like EPIC Ministries in our rohe. EPIC is a major pou in our community and is a place of safety and joy to our rangatahi.

He Taonga Tāmata is excited to see where this journey with EPIC goes and what the future has in store for both of us.

Ngā Manaakitanga

Hogan Hynes -
He Taonga
Tāmata
Director



I am a Police Officer in Hawkes Bay and Central Hawkes Bay. My position is a School Community Officer, which essentially means I work in all the schools in CHB running safety programmes. As result all my work time is working with rangatahi in schools. This means I have worked alongside the Team at Epic Ministries numerous times.

The Central Hawkes Bay Police staff have had a longstanding relationship with Epic Ministries going back many years, and many staff. This positive relationship has been fostered and passed down the years and staff.

I have had the opportunity to work alongside Epic for the last five years. I was first introduced to them by ex-Police Youth Aid officer Scott Webster. His positive view of Epic made it easy and encouraging to get to know the organisation and its people. Since then, I have had numerous opportunities to work with Epic engaging with the youth and their whanau.

What I like about Epic is that they are open to all youth no matter what their background, their beliefs, or their troubles. In fact, Epic is not shy in dealing with the youth that may be more challenging.

They have good structures in place, so they don't limit themselves to those who are of most need. They spread their services around the CHB schools.

There is a common thread between what Epic and Police are trying to achieve. We want the best outcomes for our youth. We both know that early intervention is key to allowing the youth to make positive changes. Epic are in the schools dealing with all age groups.

We also know that building good positive

relationships through meaningful engagements is the key to working with youth. If they don't trust you, they won't listen to you. "Connect before Correct". Epic attend all the community events putting their brand out there in the community. They are well known amongst the youth and their families. This allows them to already have that familiarity.

What I also like about working alongside Epic is although we are after the same objectives we have different ways of achieving this. Police are generally stock standard with the way we deal with all matters. The staff at Epic are engaging in a different way. They can be vibrant and youthful and go outside their comfort zone. These dual approaches work well in tandem.

I know that Central Hawkes Bay youth, their families and the community are extremely lucky to have Epic operating. They have reached so many youth over the years and presented them with opportunities they previously would not have had.

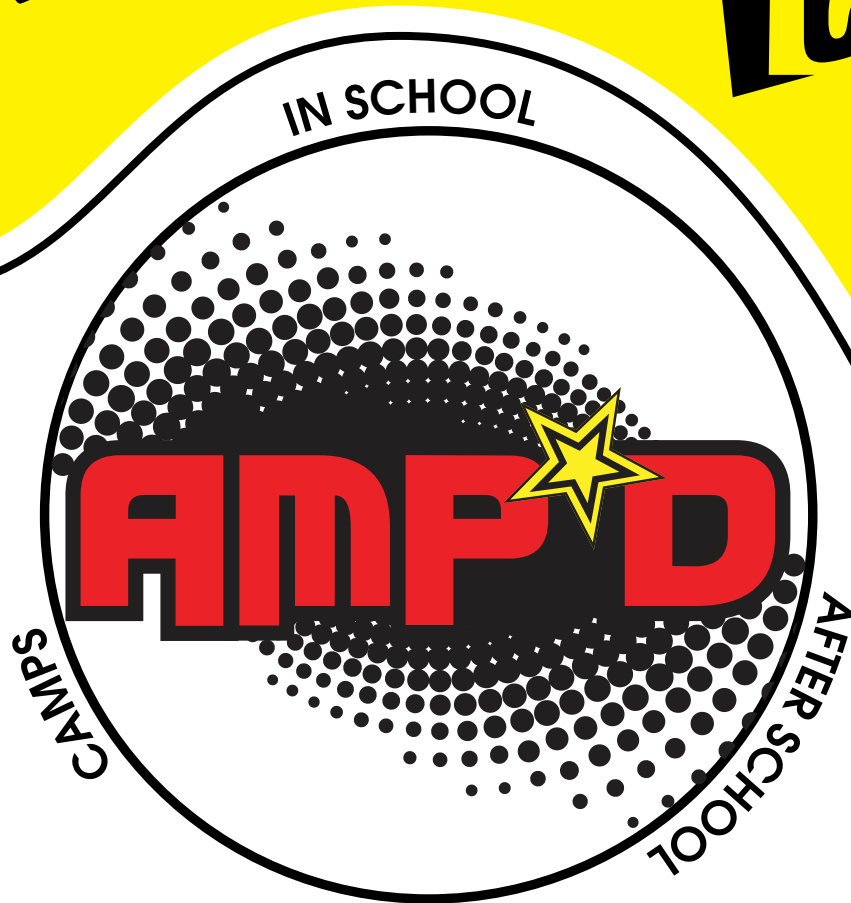
They have allowed the youth to seek assistance and support in an inviting, comfortable, and non-judgemental environment. This is hard to achieve for lots of organisations.

I think Police and Epic are a strong partnership when we work together, and we give each other credibility and acceptance within the community when working alongside each other. It is definitely a win win for both organisations.

*Senior Constable Che Lind
School Community Officer,
CHB and Hastings*

INTERMEDIATE

[epic]



Who For: Youth years 6-8

Where: Epic Ministries Hall, ST Andrews St.

Time: Friday 6 - 8pm (fortnightly)

Penny Single
Intermediate Manager
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p: 06 858 7467
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INTERMEDIATE 2022



AMP*D

AMP*D is an evening Youth group that runs fortnightly for all intermediate aged youth all over Central Hawkes Bay. At AMP*D we could be doing anything from Arts and Crafts and Movies to Haka Battles and Treasure hunts. In term 1 Covid stopped us from running AMP*D, but gave us a lot of time to prepare for the terms to come, and we absolutely smashed it!

At AMP*D we need volunteers to be able to make the nights successful. We had a relatively new team of leaders, so we decided that term 2 would be about leadership development. Each AMP*D evening prior to the youth attending we would do a leadership activity that would encourage deeper thinking around what we are doing as youth workers and volunteers.

This year AMP*D has totally, and completely AMP*D UP!! We have had a huge increase in Intermediate aged youth wanting to get amongst all the fun and chaos that is Epic. Our registrations have grown between term 2 and term 3. We have an incredible team of leaders that volunteer their time, and have become the back bones to what we are capable of doing at AMP*D. So far this year we have had some awesome events such as a Treasure hunt evening, an end of term disco, a Matariki Celebration evening, and a Fear Factor night.

During our Matariki Celebration night we did some arts and craft activities, made cupcakes and wrote songs about our loved ones while learning what Matariki represents and why it is celebrated! All youth who attended that evening participated and enjoyed the night. We also did a

colouring in competition, where the winner was awarded an Epic hoodie the night of our Local Matariki Festival.

As well as this night (and many other crazy fun evenings) we have been planning AMP*D connect events where we have been joined by up to 30 youth at a time, and enjoyed Lazer Tag, Bowling, Flip out and much more!

Term 4s focus for AMP*D was a celebration of the diversity we welcome to our space each evening. Our youth who attend create an environment that is rich with knowledge and experiences. We encourage the youth to share, and develop, teach and learn strategies from each other as they go!

Next year our goal is to ensure every intermediate aged child within Central Hawkes Bay knows what AMP*D is, and knows they are welcome here. This year has been incredibly rewarding, and we are excited to see how we can add to the kete's of our young people next year!

“Mā mua ka kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua.”

“Those who lead give sight to those who follow, those who follow give life to those who lead.”

*Hei konā mai me ngā mihi,
Alexandra Ngarotata
Intermediate Youth Worker*



FUSION

Fusion is an after - school girls group that supports the development and connection of year 6-8 girls from all schools in Central Hawkes Bay. So far this year our group has seen participants from Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Takapau, Waipukurau Primary, Terrace School & Waipawa School.

people to new activities, new peers and teach them skills to help them as they grow.

One theme that we have been focusing on is how we can care for ourselves and others in a practical way. This was our theme for term 4! We decided to find different ways of expressing care to our loved ones, in ways that don't cost money. We have made bracelets, written poems & songs, and learnt new easy recipes to make at home!

I am very excited to continue this program next year and branch out into more outdoor activities with these girls! They are an extremely generous and adventurous group, who are excited to welcome new youth next year!

*Ngā mihi
Alexandra Ngarotata
Intermediate Youth Worker*

So far this year we have been bowling, walked the Tuki Tuki trail, made Disco props & created gifts and treasures for our loved ones. The purpose for this girls group is to introduce young



SHINE

WORTH. STRENGTH. PURPOSE.

Shine is an in school program that helps connect youth to their inner selves and is split into 10 lesson plans that are based on the following themes: I have worth, I have strength, and I have purpose! This year we have been able to deliver this program to year 7 & 8 girls in Terrace school, Waipukurau school, Waipawa school and Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Takapau!

Our sessions together are around 1 hour long where we focus on the topic of the day, and how we can integrate these learnings into our everyday life! Friendship has also been a huge topic within each of these Shine Girl groups.

Each group believes that the program

has bonded them in a special way, and some have even compared their new friendships and connections to a rainbow. They all bring together a melting pot of different ethnicities, religions and life experiences- But that's what makes their friendship so beautiful- They have explained that they are like a rainbow.

The goal for the Shine program is to ensure all young girls understand they have worth, strength and purpose so they can thrive in all of their future endeavors throughout college and more!

*Ngā mihi
Alexandra Ngarotata & Penny Single
Intermediate Team*



Youth Insight:

Lilly-Rose (12)

SHINE

I'm Lilly-Rose, I moved to CHB at the start of this year from Hastings. I'm the youngest of 7 siblings!

My thing I enjoyed most at Shine was writing in our Journals.

I learnt that I am unique and special. Being new at school Shine helped me to get to know the girls in the shine group better.



UNITED

United is a weekly, after school, mentoring group. We have had a mix of girls from multiple schools make up the group. Having the youth come from multiple schools gives them a chance to make some friends outside their school friends.

Over the past 2 terms we have been using the mentoring resource Epic created - My Story journal. This journal asks the girls who they really are and what does their story look like. It's a great tool for digging a bit deeper and really getting to know the girls well.

One of the activities we have done has been friendship braiding as one of the youth was really interested in it and the others wanted to learn. The girls love going down to the river and spending time there so I have planned a few outings down there as summer approaches.



Youth Insight:

Kylah-Rose (13)

United

I'm Kylah-Rose and I go to Terrace School and I'm the tallest girl in my school!

Going to the park and having out and getting to know the other girls is my favourite memory from being a part of United.

Learnt how to get to United on time - I used to always be late!

I feel I am more confident from coming to Unite. Especially because I never used to go anywhere after school.

Youth Insight:

Aliyah (13)

United

My name is Aliyah, and I have three sisters. I like sports and spending time with my friends.

At United I love when we get to go to the shop and get a milkshake or when we go to the river.

I learnt how to make friendship bracelets and I learnt how to get out of my comfort zone. What has been added to my Kete has been new friends from other schools.

LEAP

Leap camps over the year were amazing as always. As like last year we just had the girls attend, fingers crossed we can get the boys back on Leap next year.

We started our first camp at the Murphy's church view farm accomodation and had Di spend the first day with us. We are so thankful to Di for her continued support of Epic!

The first day of camp can be nerve wracking for some of the youth, it can be a bit awkward as everyone is getting to know each other and a little apprehension as they are unsure what Leap camp is like. So we take the girls for a farm walk. A walk where we will have to walk through streams, slide down grass hills and at some point slip over in some mud. This walk gives the girls an opportunity to just have some good ol' kiwi fun.

It also helps the youth to get to know one another and us leaders to chat to the youth throughout the walk.

There is always lots of laughs and memories made on this one day. We finish the walk with making our own dinner, with billies over fire. So many of the girls had never done this before and although they thought it would be 'gross' - their words not mine. They loved it!

Over the rest of the week we made sure the girls had plenty more challenges to burst comfort zones and hopefully unlock that potential we know they all have!

For our final camp of the year a few special moments stood out to me. One of our youth hates

Youth Insight:

Isabel (13)

Leap

My name is Isabel Single-Forster, I go to Terrace school and I'm Year 8.

My favourite memory from Leap this year is being on the Huka Falls Cruise and hanging with Impala and Daltar and just laughing with them.

I learnt to be more adventurous and outgoing at Leap. I was really proud of myself for doing the high ropes course and doing the Leap of Faith jump!! The year before I wouldn't even put on a harness.

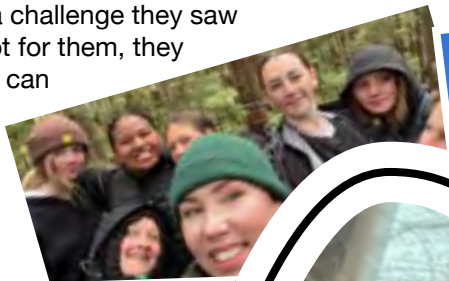


heights, she has been terrified since going abseiling last year. We took her along to a high ropes course last year and refused to put on a harness and wouldn't even come within 20 meters of the high ropes course. However, this year she put on a harness and said she was going to try, even if she just went up a few steps. She needed a little encouragement her first go, but she got up top and did the course! There were a few squeals and a couple of tears. She came down and said she was so proud of herself! She ended up going up a few more times! There is such a lesson in doing activities which challenge these youth. They realise when they accomplish this challenge, a challenge they saw was impossible, too scary, too hard, not for them, they unlock for themselves this potential we can see in them, they realise that they are capable, that they are strong, are able to push through the hard times, they become more resilient.

I hope you can tell we're incredibly

passionate about the Leap program. We are really looking forward to next year, meeting the youth and hearing their stories, being able to add to their story and them being able to add to the Epic story.

A big thank-you to my leaders Alex, Jade, Melia, Leila and Nirvana for using your holidays to spend with the Leap youth and supporting these camps!



Youth Insight:

Melia (14)

Leap Leader

I'm Melia and I am a leap leader and I am also a leader at various other things at Epic.

My favourite memory would be the car rides and singing with the kids.

I enjoy getting to see the kids grow and bringing out their confidence in stuff.

Being a leader has helped me with some of my social skills and that you don't have to be overly strict when it comes to leading as well.



Youth Practice Overview

We have had such a massive year with our youth this year! There have been moments of fun chaos, growth, lots of key mentoring moments and memory building across our in-school, after school and camp spaces.

As a team we feel that the beauty of doing in-school mahi is that we get to see our rangatahi in the space where they spend most of their time. We get to bring a different vibe into the schools and the community. The intermediate team has had such a strong presence in both Waipukurau Primary School and Terrace Primary School running the Shine program. They have really loved being given the opportunity to mentor and see confidence and resilience grow in our year 6-8 youth through this space. The team have also had a presence at multiple primary inter-school events throughout the year such as Onga 7's, Ripper Rugby, Cross Country and lots more which is always so much fun. The energy, excitement and participation of the youth really fills our cups!

For the first time our Shine program was facilitated at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Takapau by Alex. We are so excited that this connection has grown over the year with the kura because we haven't had the opportunity to run programs in Takapau for a long time.

The high school team have really tried to focus on engaging with a wider range of youth across year groups within the in school space. Between the Travellers and Explore programs we established connections with at least 25-30 youth who weren't on our radar at the start of the year. Youth weeks and lunch time activities each term lead by the youth council have created a space for leadership development opportunities and are a platform for us to continue to grow new and maintain existing connections with youth across the college. This year has included events such as athletics day, market days, pride week, year 13 camp and more. A huge

thank you to Lance and the CHBC staff for allowing us to continue our programs and events year after year.

Alex has really embraced the opportunity given to her this year to take over Amp'd - the intermediate youth group. Cove, a student at CHBC, has really jumped in with lots of passion and energy to support Alex and grow the Amp'd program more as well. It has been an incredibly successful year. Amp'd numbers have grown hugely over the year and the youth always end the night with smiles walking out the door.

Ari has done an incredible job at continuing to facilitate the Ignite high school youth group with her team of LIT's and volunteers. They have had several successful events over the year including the amazing race, late night bowling and the Activ8 holiday program.

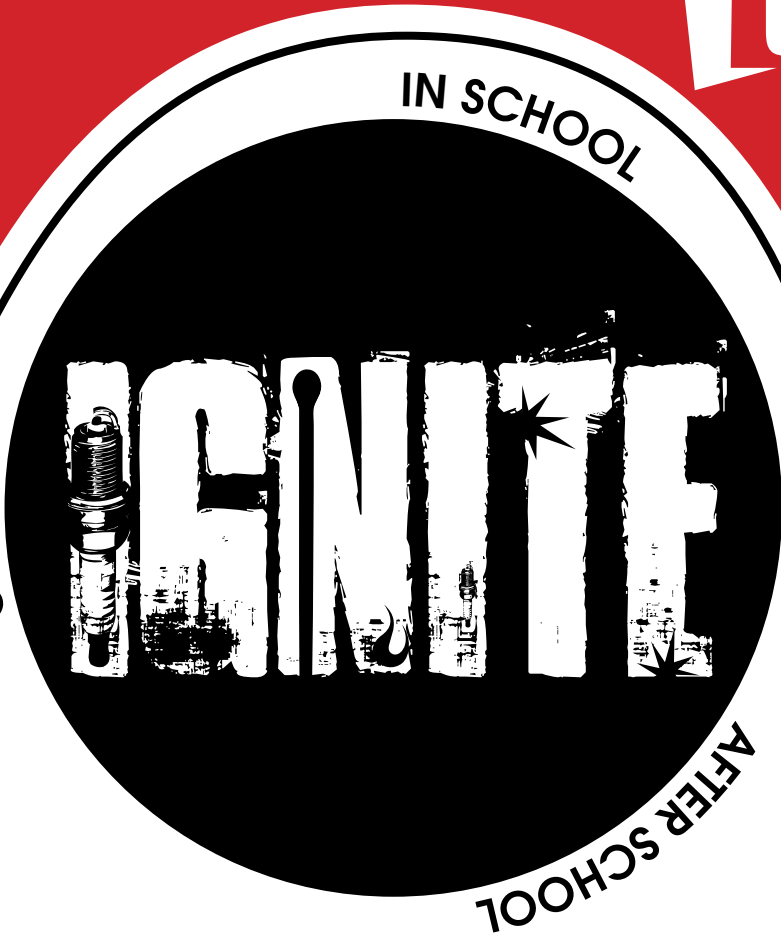
As managers it's been awesome to watch this year unfold for these guys. Seeing all their hard work and ideas come to life and seeing the joy it brings our youth is the icing on the cake! To our Leaders in Training (LIT's) and adult volunteers, we just want to take this chance to thank you for your time, energy and passion over the year. It doesn't go un-noticed, the impact you have on the youth is huge.

*Ngā Mihi
Penny Single (Intermediate
Manager)
& Tayla Morris (High
School Manager)*



HIGH SCHOOL [epic]

CAMPS



IN SCHOOL

AFTER SCHOOL

Who For: Youth years 9-13
Where: Epic Ministries Hall, ST Andrews St.
Time: Friday 7 - 9pm (fortnightly)

Tayla Morris
High School Manager
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p: 06 858 7467 m: 027 318 9318

@epicministries_



HIGH SCHOOL 2022

IGNITE

The High school team runs an after school youth group called Ignite. Ignite runs every second Friday from 7-9pm usually at the Epic

Hall, sometimes we do wide games around town. Term 1 was unfortunately put on hold as covid stopped us from having groups over 50, this gave us time to plan how we wanted term 2, 3 and 4 to look. I was able to meet with the adult leaders and L.I.T (leaders in training) about our aspirations for the year, what we want to achieve throughout Ignite.

The goal was to introduce ourselves again. It had been a while since Ignite had run and with the new year 9 cohort we wanted to welcome everyone back. Finally in Term 2 we could start again. The theme in Term 2 was Ko Wai Au? Who am I? We focused on the model Circle of courage (Belonging, mastery, independence and generosity) and each week an adult leader introduced themselves, and spoke on a section of the Circle of Courage. Not only did it connect us together by sharing about our Whakapapa/Pepeha but it connected us to a knowledge of Christ. Ignite highlights connections using amazing games and events we continue to immerse ourselves in both fun and faith.

Also in Term 2 we did a mixture of activities, such as a photo find wide game, sport night at the college gym, Matariki themed quiz night, rotation sports and a late night bowling trip.

Term 3 our goal was to continue to offer knowledge around Faith and also knowledge around Maori models and familiarising ourselves in Te Reo Maori. Our theme in Term 3: understanding Māori health 'te whare tapa whā' – the four cornerstones (or sides) of Māori health Hauora. Each week we spoke about the importance of your Hauora and ways us Adults/Youth workers can tautoko our Rangatahi in each area. Taha Hinengaro, Taha Tinana, Taha Whanau, Taha Wairua. Over 50% of our youth identify as Maori/Pasifika. We actively create a welcoming and inclusive space for all of our Rangitahi that come to Epic.

Term 3 has been full! We have done a carnival themed night, bounty hunting wide game, brought back old school Epic games and a board game night.

Youth Insight:

Jehoshua Monegro (17)

Ignite

My favourite memory from this year was the games night we had. Lots of youth participated in the games which made it really fun especially when we played mafia. It was so intense and everyone was determined to win!

The one thing that I've learnt this year is that it's okay to speak out about what's going on in your life. Epic has helped me to become comfortable with speaking to the staff about my problems and mental health which I have never done until recently.

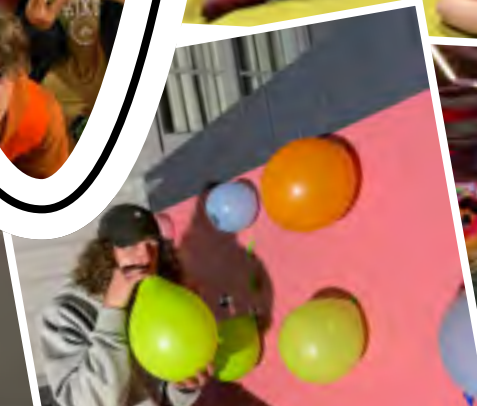
The one thing in my kete that I could pass on to other people is to probably tell them that it's alright to not be okay and that everyone has their ups and downs in life. I would also encourage people to talk to an Epic leader if they feel up to it as the staff have really helped me a lot!

Our Main event for this Term was our Ignite Amazing Race. This event was based off the TV show, we had 3 teams competing through obstacles at Dave Tilyards house, a bananagram code word hunt at Shazza's house, a rotation of activities all focused on aim, like hole in one, darts, croquet and nerf gun shooting at Zak and Mitch Jackson's house and we also used the college field for a blind fold find. We finished at Epic with a dance competition and played an all in game of volleyball while we waited for kai. I announced the winning team and they received a goody bag full of lollies, chocolate, a water gun, bubbles and a Certificate of achievement for winning the Amazing Race.

Term 4 was all about celebrating the year so far and what we have accomplished as a ropu. Our theme was inspired by the "High school musical" song "We're all in this together". Signifying the commitment from the leaders and LITs but also the rangatahi that continually turn up and participate in what we plan for each night. If it wasn't for the people we wouldn't be here sharing, laughing and connecting with each other. He aha te mea nui o te ao - What is the most important thing in the world? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata - It is the people, it is the people, it is the people. This Whakatauki is what helped us plan an awesome end of year celebration.

It is a very rewarding feeling having journeyed with young people and their whanau. Building more connection with the adult leaders and leaders in training (L.I.T). Can't wait to finish the year by sharing kai, thoughts, memories and experiences.

*Ngā Mihi
Ariana-Jean Henson
High School Youth Worker*



Evolve

Dance club

We dance at Epic Ministries every Thursday from 5:30-6:30 pm.

During our time together through mentoring, we focus on our personal development and gaining confidence.

I connect with 7 young girls aged 13-17 that attend Central Hawkes Bay College.

We are so grateful to have this opportunity to give back to our young people

and provide a space where they feel comfortable expressing their emotions through dance.

During Matariki, we performed in front of over 300 people! This was a huge experience for our young people to be involved in, not only did it help them with their stage presence but also they were able to showcase their talents to their whanau and friends. On the 26th of September, we entered a competition for local Hawkes Bay schools to enter from primary and high school.

We created an original dance to showcase different styles of dance like vogue, jazz, and Hip-hop while also using handheld fans as a new way to incorporate creativity and diversity. We challenged ourselves as we had never done a dance like this before, but received so much great feedback. We made new connections while interacting with different students from other schools.

Overall this year we have had many amazing opportunities and together we have formed a lot of positive memories.

Ngā Mihi
Ariana-Jean Henson
High School Youth Worker



Youth Insight:

Maddie Ewen (15)

Evolve

Matariki was my highlight this year. It was so fun being on stage performing in front of 300+ people who were cheering for us! Getting our hair and make up done felt really professional as well.

-What is one thing you have learnt from the group/ program that you've been involved in?

To be honest and have integrity when I'm doing things- when you're honest more people will trust you and want to hang out with you.

One piece of advice I would share with others is to play fair, be kind and to take care of the people that matter the most to you.

Travellers

Travellers is a program that runs for an 8-9 week period in terms 2 and 3 for year 9 students. The main goals of this mentor group is to build resilience, connectedness, self-esteem and self-confidence. Each week has a core theme; Life is a journey, I'm okay, Express yourself, I think therefore I am, Be your own best friend, Mobilise your team and Life is do-able. We use interactive activities, journaling and group discussion as tools for learning about the different themes. This year we had a core group of 16 students across the 2 terms (8 per group), only 2 of these students were actively involved in other Epic programs when they first started Travellers!



Some of the reflections from youth who took a part include "I loved spending time doing something different. It was a great experience and it helped a lot with my stress", "The mindfulness was really fun" and "I liked getting to know other people in my year group more". As facilitators we love hearing that the youth have connected with others, learnt new ways of emotion management and have started to build on their self-esteem.

*Tayla Morris
High School Manager
Registered Social
Worker*



E.D.G.E

This year our discipleship group have been journeying with youth as they explore God and learn rhythms of connecting with Him. We joined the AYM group down at forest lakes camp to explore these themes. This was a great camp to establish the group and and spend time in fellowship together. Every time we meet the sharing of kai is really important for us as it creates a space to connect us together as a group. We have also have had a few connect trips over the year. As we look forward to 2023 we are planning to add some more adult mentors to the group to create more diverse input and insight into all areas of faith and the journey that comes with it.



Youth Insight

Kaysha Hickey (13)
Travellers

I've really enjoyed making new friends through the program. It's been so much fun!

The main thing that I have learnt from being in Travellers has been getting a better understanding of how I can express my emotions.

Something that's been added to my kete I would share with others about this group is that it's such a good experience. You get to learn how to express yourself and how to understand what others might be feeling as well which is helpful!

Camps:

Easter Camp and Spring Break are the two main camps we run for our high school youth. Both of these camps are faith based which means youth who go, alongside fun, games and competitions, are exposed to the word of God and messages that have faith as a core focus. Our Epic kaupapa is faith based and we are proud of that. It's always a blessing for us to share faith journeys and experiences with our rangatahi.

Unfortunately EC this year was cancelled (thanks covid) so we had to get creative! Instead we had an Easter celebration night on Good Friday. Youth and leaders participated in a 'stations of the cross walk-through' where each station had reflective questions, readings and activities. Robin Coutts came to speak with us, we had a time of worship and made space for fun games as well. We shared a meal together, which was really cool! We loved having the opportunity to offer youth something as an alternative to camp but we are definitely excited to have a camp to go to in 2023!

Spring break was held over the weekend of the 28th-30th October. Our theme this year was "Everyday Apprentice" with 4 focus areas being; rhythms, listen, tune in and plug in. We had an old school Epic youth Tommy Livingston come and share with us for some of the camp and then we explored the 4 focus



This group was a new mentor group I carried out in term 3 with 5 senior youth. We saw each other for 6 sessions over the term. Te Whare Tapa Wha (a hauora/wellbeing model) was used as a base to the program. Through group discussions and off-site experiences we explored the 4 areas of our wellbeing- tiniana (physical health), hinengaro (mental health), whanau (social wellbeing) and wairua (spiritual wellbeing) and how we can grow in each of these areas. All the youth in the group identify as Maori so it felt really important to tie in a cultural component that circulates through all areas of wellbeing as part of this process. We were lucky enough to work alongside 2 community partners Gareth Tompsen at the local Aqua Management Gym and Phillip Morris from the Ngā Ara Tipuna Trust to give the youth some experiences off-site (a high intensity gym session and excursion to Pukekaihou). These activities encouraged participation and challenged the youth to think more deeply about how these experiences could enhance their wellbeing. I have really enjoyed trying out this program and building stronger connections with the youth.

-Tayla Morris High School Manager/ Social Worker



areas through activities and small group discussions. Together we explored different ways of plugging into God and spiritual rhythms that can be used in day to day life. This included journaling, bible verse art, making prayer crosses and worship through song as well. The weekend was full of lots of laughs, competition and a fancy dinner! For our competition afternoon Jono Craig came out to run a burma trail challenge, David Whitney came and ran indoor bowls, we had an orienteering component and our usual gunge slide but with a twist as well. The whole weekend was such a blast!!

Camps always create memories that we talk about and remember for such a long time. There is huge value in spending time with our youth away from their homes and in new places. Camps are always a massive highlight for everyone and one of our favourite things to do!

Tayla Morris High School Manager

Youth Insight:

Justice Chesswas- (18)

Spring Break

My favourite part of Spring Break was being around people who wanted to explore faith together and have a fun time. I also enjoyed fighting a police officer (Scotty).

I learnt that there are many ways to worship God. Not all of them are for everyone! Also- police officers are good at fighting.

What is something that has been added to your kete that you could share with or pass on to others?

Surround yourself with people who want something similar to you and you can grow together. Also... don't fight police officers.

Te Puawaitanga O Ngā Taiohi

INSPIRE YOUTH COUNCIL

“THE BLOSSOMING OF THE YOUTH”

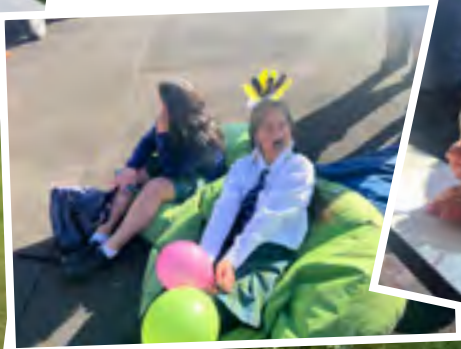
The Youth Council, which partners with the Central Hawkes Bay District Council, consists of 12 students at Central Hawkes Bay College. Cove Lambert and Hayley Webster are the lead Youth Council representatives, with support from Jade Sandford, Jehoshua Monegro, Hannah Ellwood, Keisha Hingaia, Michelle Elizabeth, Rita Simiona, Aonghus Andersen, Maia Watene, Talia Pere and Jafet Monegro.

Facilitating the youth council, I tautoko and encourage our rangatahi in running college events such as Youth Weeks, Pink Shirt Day, Lunchtime activities (fortnightly on Friday), and Breakfast Club.

Their efforts have provided a positive impact on the Youth at CHBC. Feedback from students often indicates they can't wait for the next event, along with expressing interest in sharing their ideas with the Youth Council as well. The Youth Council connected with other positive role models in the community, such as Mayor Alex Walker and Deputy Mayor Kelly Annand. Youth are inspired to use their voice and also encouraged to participate in council meetings to address issues that rangatahi see in the community. We shared a presentation at the CHBDC about what Te

Puawaitanga O ngā Taiohi - Inspire Youth council does, what our aspirations are in the future and what young people are facing in these current times.

The Youth Council have learnt to collaborate more with others this year. During Term 2 Youth week our theme was: Our voice matters



Youth Insight:

Hayley Webster (18)
Youth Council

I really enjoyed our meetings with Mayor Alex. We got to experience what it's like to be in a Council meeting and the processes of ideas and suggestions

This year I was a co-head of the youth council along with Cove. I learnt so much and we both got to expand our leaderships skills. I learnt how to lead meetings and take on everyone's ideas as well as making decisions and planning events.

I feel as though being involved this year has helped me to understand people more, I've learnt that I need to accept people's ideas and consider every option presented in order to keep the group morale and be the best leader I can.

and we deserve to be heard. We asked a student to design a mural board that represents our theme. We then used it during youth week as a paint by number. Many youth saw the message and felt empowered by it. We also reached out to He Taonga Tāmata, Hogan Hynes, Mahinaarangi Northover and Pauly Sciascia, and they helped run lunchtime activities like Ki-o-rahi and multi sport. When connecting with He Taonga Tāmata, we noticed they helped us to involve more young people in the community.

Overall this year has been challenging but satisfying! Even though in Term 1 Covid had unfortunately put a hold to many events such as the Waipawa Pool day. The Youth Council were still productive and planned for the best youth weeks possible, to connect with as many local people and students to better

understand the risks in our community faced by youth. We recently met with Mayor Alex Walker and Deputy Mayor Kelly Annand to discuss the importance of Youth Council and the up-coming elections. Meeting Kanohi ki te Kanohi (face to face) is valued by the Youth Council and we look forward to what's ahead in the next year.

Ngā Mihi
Ariana-Jean Henson
High School Youth Worker





Kia ora, I am Ari and I run the Explore program. This is an in school program that runs at the local college

- Central Hawkes Bay College. We are fortunate enough to meet at youth hub during term 2/3.



Youth Insight:

Nirvana Raheke (13)

Explore

I love to socialize with people from different year groups and get out of my comfort zone. I love it when I get to see someone smile. It's been really nice to see people who usually don't open up about things get involved and give Explore a go.

Epic is such a vibey positive place where I can just kick back and be myself. I've learnt how to accept compliments and words of encouragement about myself from other people. I've definitely opened up A LOT!

Everywhere needs an Epic! If I could pass one thing on to other people it would be that you are a beautiful and wonderful person who can do anything you set your mind to. Epic is such a wonderful place with outstanding people!

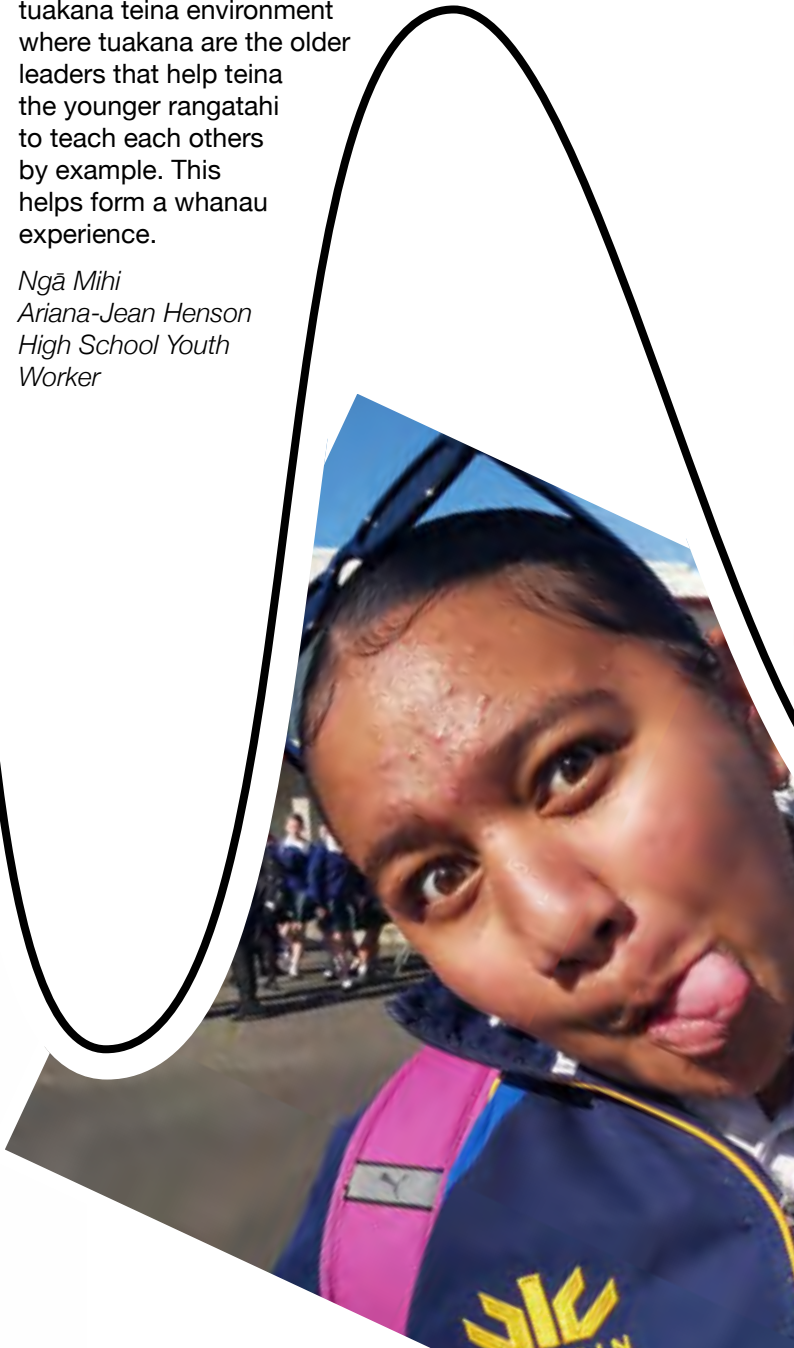
The Youth hub is based at the college. Originally this group was formed for year 9 girls with the aim to focus on exploring who you are, where you come from, and where you want to be.

Over term 2 I meet with 8 girls where we Explored our story and what has happened in our life so far, we shared with each other our story and found that helped us form connections through relatable experiences. I found that when starting the group it is really important to development trust and confidentiality before enclosing information about ourselves to each other. I loved seeing the girls form positive relationships with each other.

Term 3 our focused changed, we started to include young people who identify as they/them or are a part of the Rainbow community. Our founding was that young people in the Rainbow community need support learning about who they are - Ko wai au - and their importance of mental wellbeing. Although our focused changed I thoroughly enjoyed branching out to more young people in the community and feel as though this where the program was meant to develop.

At Explore I have 2 youth leaders that help support the young people that attend the program, they share with the group how to do the activity and also show their work as an example. In this group we follow tuakana teina environment where tuakana are the older leaders that help teina the younger rangatahi to teach each others by example. This helps form a whanau experience.

*Ngā Mihi
Ariana-Jean Henson
High School Youth
Worker*



Staff 2023 Looking forward to...



Alex:

I am looking forward to welcoming our past, present and new youth into our space at Epic. I am also excited to get into more CHB schools next year to deliver our programs.

Ari:

Next year I am looking forward to meeting all the year 9's that will be coming through to ignite. I'm also excited to connect with more rangatahi at the college through our mentoring programs and provide fun lunchtime activities and youth weeks run by Te Puawaitanga O ngā taiohi.



Jackie:

I'm really looking forward to getting into 2023 and kicking the dust off our feet leaving Covid and all its disruptive messiness behind us - we have some exciting ideas and big challenges in the pipeline, and so much to be thankful for. And yay, I can't wait to be Auntie Jack to another Morris baby. How wonderful growing up being part of the EPIC family

Tayla:

There are so many things that make me excited about the journey Epic is going to go on in 2023! I am really looking forward to continuing to grow and maintain strong community partnerships and networks! Of course I am excited to take some time away to add another little baby to my whanau- I know the team will continue to carry out amazing mahi for our rangatahi.

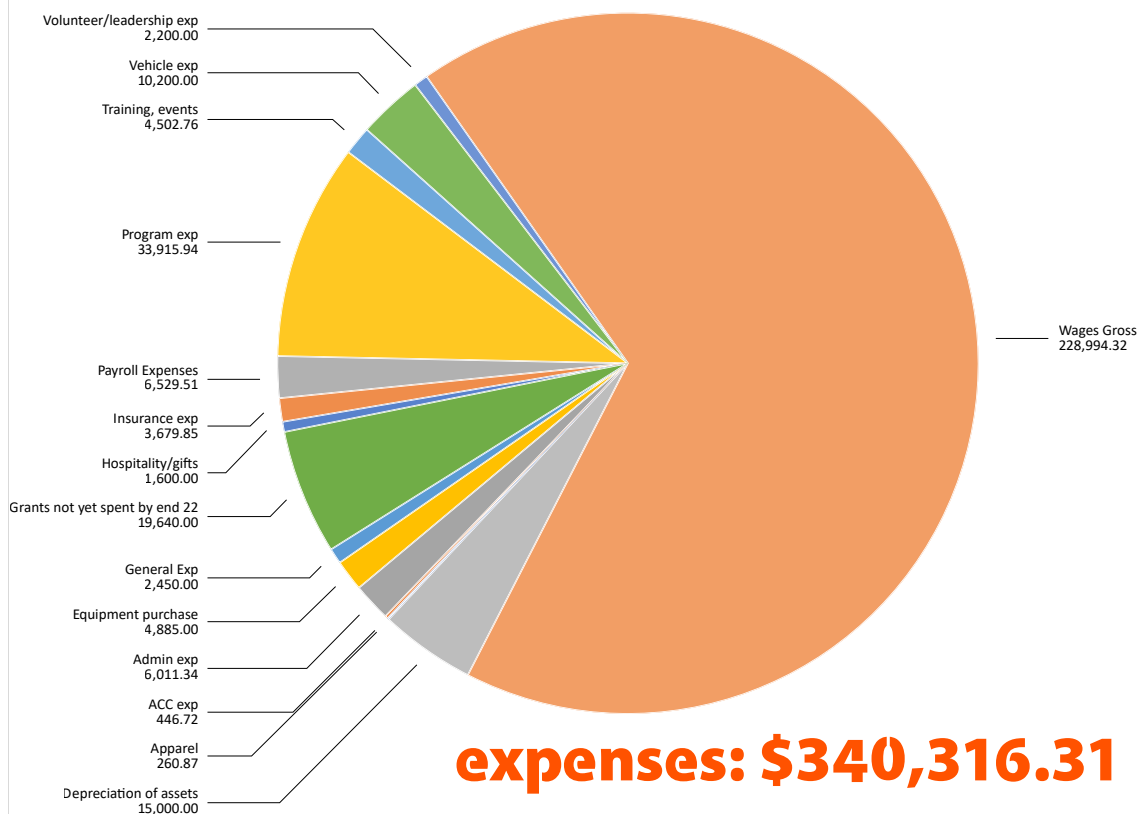
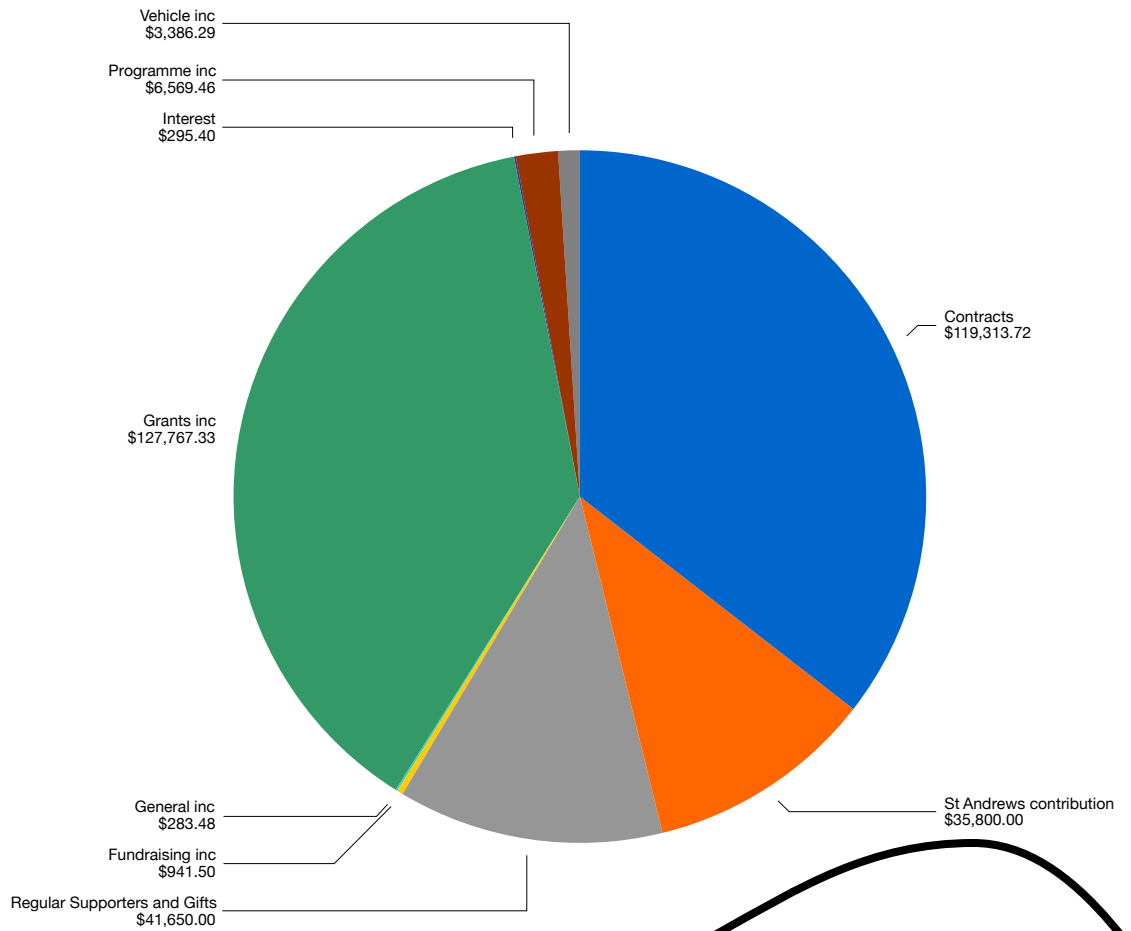


Penny:

Looking forward I'm excited to see how not only Epic team will grow over 2023 but the youth we are working with. We have some amazing plans and ideas and can't wait to see them blossom over the next year. Im looking forward to creating true depth within our programs and seeing connections develop further.

\$\$ 2022 – Where it came from and where it went

income: \$336,007.18



expenses: \$340,316.31

epic supporters support us support youth in CHB

A note from the Treasurer....

Firstly, a massive thank you to our financial supporters. And an acknowledgement that none of us have had it easy over the past three years. We appreciate your ongoing commitment to help EPIC be “difference-makers” for the young people of our community.

Our team has been actively and passionately journeying alongside youth as they work to see our EPIC vision come to life. Through your regular and one-off donations, grants and contracted services funding, we are able to employ youth workers to facilitate fun and creative youth group activities and to help our young people prepare for and potentially navigate through what can be really challenging stages in their lives. Seeing youth find their feet, their voice, their confidence and their wings - and then go on to do really good things in the world, is one of the great rewards that keep our team motivated to keep on developing, changing, advocating, caring and providing. Building those fences at the top. And having heaps of fun on the way too!!

Sourcing overall funding to provide our community with a team of professional youth workers is always a challenge. Our regular supporter income is untapped funding that stretches across gaps that could otherwise be very difficult to cover. If you would like to support us by joining our Regular A/P Supporter crew, we'd love to have you on board!

Bank account 020780-0006226-00 Epic Ministries Inc. ref: Supporter

A longer-term addition to our “sustainability dream” arsenal this year has been

the formalizing of the EPIC Endowment fund with the Hawkes Bay Foundation. Aaron was instrumental in getting this idea underway and seeing it through, and as a result, many generations of youth will benefit from its proceeds. The idea being that this fund will continue to grow for ever, as it provides us with annual grants from a portion of its investment earnings. Having the ongoing expertise of the HB Foundation's finance team provides a surety that these funds are being well managed and grown by industry specialists. We were stoked to hear that seed funding has already been gifted this year and the opportunity to donate by gift or the bequest legacy option, is also being shared within the community.

ECCT Rangatahi funding has provided a boost to our income stream over the last 12 months, along with MSD contracted Leadership & Mentoring, and Covid response funding, and a four-year agreement with Oranga Tamariki to continue providing the Travellers resilience programs for younger youth at the College. We are also the umbrella holder for ECCT grant funding for He Taonga Tamata as their organization works to establish its own Charitable Trust Board and set up the required systems to provide the necessary accountability.

As always, the team have operated on a lean, efficient and thoughtful basis, respectful of the contributions that others have invested into our work, with the end goal of maximizing the potential of every individual. Thank you for your encouragement, joining with us as we navigate this adventure!

Jackie





*Scan the QR code to check out
our 2022 Epic Supporters Video*

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