

A Legacy of Inclusion: 11 Transformative
Reasons to Support Disabled Children in
New Zealand
Leaving a Legacy

by Glen McMillan 2023

LEGACY



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LEAVING A LEGACY FOR DISABLED CHILDREN IS A COMPASSIONATE GESTURE

01

Playgrounds

For a child with disabilities, playtime is like a refreshing breeze of liberty. It's a magical escape where barriers disappear, and the world is painted with the most brilliant colours of joy, discovery, and kinship.

02

Career Options

Every person, no matter their abilities, has a special set of skills, passions, and talents. When exploring career paths for people with disabilities, we should keep these unique gifts front and center.



03

E-Books

Dive headfirst into our huge stash of e-books and PDFs, bursting with eye-opening views on all things disability. Plus, we're always adding new reads, so you'll never run out of fresh pages to explore.



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04

Leaving a Legacy

Passing on a legacy to kids with disabilities isn't just a kind-hearted act, it's a game-changer that can transform lives. By providing vital support and opportunities, we can level the playing field and give every child the chance to flourish and chase their dreams, no matter what their abilities may be.

Your legacy can be a beacon of hope that helps create a world bursting with inclusivity, where disabled children are celebrated, cherished, and given the chance to shine.

But, let's not forget, this is a group effort! Governments, NGOs, families, and communities all need to chip in to build a brighter, more inclusive future for kids with disabilities. Here are some savvy strategies that can help us get there:

<https://www.childrenwithdisability.co.nz/legacy-plans-children-with-disability-nz/>



05

Questions (FAQ)

Need answers to your burning questions regarding disabilities?

Check out

<https://www.childrenwithdisability.co.nz/> - where FAQs get answered!

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We're not your run-of-the-mill playground pioneers. We're on a mission to empower the fantastic kids in New Zealand with disabilities and shatter all the social walls that hold them back.

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At Children with Disability NZ, we're proudful as we blaze new trails with our revolutionary e-books, igniting inspiration and education for a world that embraces diversity and inclusion.



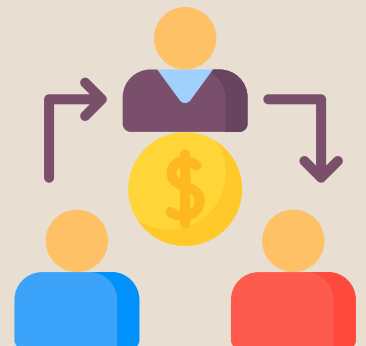
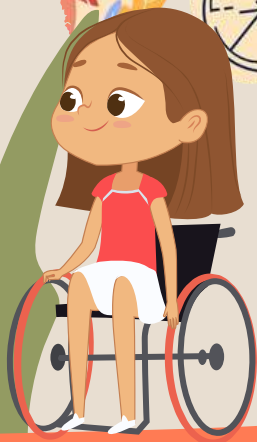
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY NZ LEGACY PLANS

Planting a Seed of Hope for Disabled Children

Crafting a legacy that benefits children with disabilities is a compassionate and impactful move that can change lives.

This generous act offers crucial support and opportunities, unlocking doors to a brighter future and enabling every child to soar towards their unique potential.

By leaving a legacy, you can help build a world that embraces inclusivity and accessibility, where disabled children are championed, appreciated, and showered with love.





A Legacy of Inclusion: 11 Transformative Reasons to Support Disabled Children in New Zealand

Introduction:

New Zealand, is a nation known for its rugged landscapes, rich Maori heritage, and the heartwarming spirit of the Kiwis. Yet, for all its beauty and culture, there remains a sector of its populace that yearns for greater attention, understanding, and support: disabled children. This book delves deep into the emotional and practical reasons for leaving a legacy that advances facilities and inclusion for these children. By the end, the hope is that you are inspired to action.

1. The Right to Belong: An Exploration of Inclusion in Aotearoa

The sentiment of belongingness is intrinsic to human nature. A foundational aspect of our being that has defined our evolution, development, and sustenance throughout history. Everyone wants to belong, to be accepted, and to be seen. For children, especially, this sentiment isn't just a desire; it's a fundamental right.

Aotearoa, also known as New Zealand, with its rich tapestry of cultures and traditions is steadily steering its ship towards becoming a beacon of inclusivity and diversity. This progress is not just seen in the political or social narratives but is deeply rooted in the commitment to ensuring that every child, irrespective of their abilities, feel an inherent sense of belonging.

The Inherent Value of Every Child

Every child comes into this world with unique talents, perspectives, and potential. Whether a child is neurotypical or has special needs, their value remains undiminished. This value is not a favour but an obligation. By acknowledging every child's worth, we not only uplift the individual but also enrich our communities, infusing them with a spectrum of experiences and views that ultimately nurture our collective growth.

Inclusivity: More Than Just a Buzzword

In the q creating an inclusive society, it's essential to understand that inclusivity is more than just a buzzword. It's a commitment. It's about making

tangible changes in our systems – educational, social, and cultural – to ensure they cater to everyone. In Aotearoa, this commitment is evident in various initiatives aimed at embracing all children.

Schools are increasingly adopting inclusive teaching methods, ensuring children with diverse abilities learn together in harmonious environments. Community events and activities are also becoming more accessible, ensuring that every child, regardless of their abilities, can participate and feel a part of something bigger.

Aotearoa's Cultural Tapestry: A Foundation for Inclusion

The indigenous Māori culture, with its emphasis on whānau (family) and community, provides a strong foundation for the values of inclusivity and belonging. The Māori concept of 'whanaungatanga' – emphasising relationships and interconnectedness – is a testament to the importance of community and acceptance.

By intertwining these indigenous values with contemporary efforts towards inclusivity, Aotearoa has the potential to set a global standard for how societies can genuinely include and embrace every individual.

Conclusion

The right to belong isn't just about having a seat at the table; it's about feeling valued and respected when you're at that table. As Aotearoa continues its journey towards creating an inclusive society, it's essential to remember that every effort made in this direction isn't just for the children of today but for the prosperous and harmonious future of the nation. Because when every child feels they belong, the nation itself becomes stronger, richer, and more unified.

2. A Stronger Future:

An inclusive society is a stronger society. When we uplift our most vulnerable, we build a resilient nation that can face challenges with unity and purpose.

A Stronger Future: The Power of Inclusivity

In the rich tapestry of humanity, our differences are the threads that weave a vibrant and resilient fabric. An inclusive society recognises the strength in these diverse threads and uplifts every strand to create a cohesive whole. It's



not just about fairness or equality; it's about building a stronger future for all of us.

The Strength of Diversity

Historically, nations and communities that have embraced diversity have proven to be more innovative, adaptable, and resilient. By harnessing the unique experiences, perspectives, and talents of all its members, a society can develop multifaceted solutions to complex problems.

Consider the realm of innovation, where a team made up of individuals from different backgrounds, cultures, and life experiences often outperforms a homogenous group. This is because diverse teams can approach challenges from various angles, offering a broad array of solutions.

Unity in Adversity

Challenges and crises are inevitable. But an inclusive society, which stands on the foundation of mutual respect and understanding, can face these adversities head-on with unity. By ensuring that every member of the society feels valued and heard, we foster a sense of belonging. This collective spirit is invaluable when confronting challenges that demand cooperative efforts.

Empowerment: The Ripple Effect

When we uplift the most vulnerable among us, the effects ripple outwards, creating waves of positive change. Empowered individuals contribute more effectively to their communities, fostering economic growth and social stability. They are more likely to educate their children, leading to an even brighter future for the next generation.

Moreover, inclusivity instils a sense of dignity and worth in individuals. A society that cares for its vulnerable not only enhances their lives but enriches its own moral and cultural fabric.

The Way Forward

Building an inclusive society is a journey, not a destination. It requires constant reflection, adaptation, and effort. But the rewards are immense. Inclusivity is more than just a moral imperative; it's a strategic one. A society that harnesses the collective strength of all its members is poised for greatness.

As we look towards the future, let's envision a world where inclusivity isn't just an ideal but a reality. A world where every individual, irrespective of their



background, abilities, or circumstances, has a role to play in shaping a stronger, brighter, and more resilient future.

In this pursuit, we aren't just securing a better tomorrow for the vulnerable; we're forging a path for a more prosperous, united, and formidable society for all. The future is not just about surviving; it's about thriving. And in this future, everyone has a part to play.

3. Honouring the Spirit of Manaakitanga:

Manaakitanga, a Māori value signifying respect, support, and care, becomes tangible when we cater to the unique needs of disabled children. Let this legacy be our commitment to these values.

Honouring the Spirit of Manaakitanga: Nurturing the Unique Potential of Every Child

Manaakitanga is more than just a word; it's a cornerstone of the Māori culture, embodying principles of respect, support, and care for one another. Rooted deeply in the ethos of New Zealand's indigenous people, this value serves as a reminder of the collective responsibility we all share in uplifting everyone within our community.

To truly understand and practice manaakitanga, we must extend its essence to all, especially those who are often overlooked or misunderstood. This includes the disabled children in our communities. By catering to their unique needs, we are not only providing them with physical support, but we are also conveying a message of love, acceptance, and a deep sense of belonging.

Every child is a taonga, a treasure. And just as we care for precious jewels or works of art, we should treat every child as the irreplaceable and invaluable beings they are. Disabled children may experience the world differently, but their perspectives, dreams, and aspirations are no less valid. By ensuring they have the tools, resources, and environments tailored to their specific needs, we are empowering them to blossom into their fullest potential.

Moreover, when we actively support these children, we aren't doing them a favour; we are fulfilling a communal duty. We enrich our communities, weaving a tapestry of understanding, compassion, and unity that binds us all closer together. Our charity Children with Disability New Zealand is working hard on improving understanding.



And it's not just about what we provide for them, but also about how we interact with them. Embracing these children with genuine warmth, patience, and understanding is vital. We must see past their disabilities and recognise the radiant souls within, full of hopes, dreams, and capabilities.

Manaakitanga teaches us that our legacy is not just about what we leave behind materially, but in the values, we instil, the lessons we teach, and the love we share. By committing to the spirit of manaakitanga and embedding it in our treatment of disabled children, we are passing on a legacy of profound respect, unwavering support, and enduring care.

In essence, the true spirit of manaakitanga thrives when every individual, regardless of their abilities, feels valued, cherished, and empowered. And in honouring this spirit, we not only uplift disabled children but elevate our entire community in the process.

4. Embracing Diversity:

Diversity is not merely about ethnic or cultural differences. It extends to diverse abilities. Embracing and nurturing these differences enriches our community tapestry in unexpected and beautiful ways.

Embracing Diversity: Beyond Ethnic and Cultural Differences

Diversity is like the many colours of a mosaic, each distinct and unique, but when put together, they form a picture more beautiful and intricate than any one piece on its own. While many people associate diversity primarily with ethnic, racial, or cultural differences, it is essential to recognise that the spectrum of diversity is much broader.

The Expansive Nature of Diversity

Diverse Abilities: Physical, cognitive, and mental abilities vary widely among individuals. By embracing individuals with disabilities, we get to understand their perspectives and the unique strengths and talents they bring to the table. For instance, people with autism might have exceptional skills in pattern recognition or focus. Those with physical disabilities often develop resilience, problem-solving skills, and a unique perspective on the world. Glen McMillan CEO of Children with Disability NZ and author of this book is an example of a disabled person with diverse abilities we want to help disabled kids harness their abilities and promote success by identifying strengths from an early age.

Generational Diversity: Different age groups, from Baby Boomers to Gen Z, have diverse life experiences, values, and skills. By fostering intergenerational connections, we can bridge the gap between tradition and innovation.

Gender and Sexual Orientation: The LGBTQ+ community represents a diverse array of experiences and backgrounds. Recognising and celebrating these differences can lead to a more inclusive and compassionate society.

Socioeconomic Backgrounds: People from various economic backgrounds bring different perspectives, values, and life experiences. Engaging with individuals from different socioeconomic conditions allows for a more holistic understanding of the world.

Educational and Professional Backgrounds: Professionals from different fields and those with varying education levels contribute to the team with unique insights, problem-solving approaches, and skill sets.

Benefits of Embracing Diversity

Innovation: With a mix of different perspectives, solutions to problems are approached in multifaceted ways. This creates an environment conducive to innovation and out-of-the-box thinking.

Improved Decision Making: Diverse groups often come up with better decisions, as they consider a broader range of experiences and viewpoints.

Cultural Enrichment: Embracing diverse cultures, traditions, and practices brings vibrancy and richness to the community. It allows people to learn, appreciate, and even adopt aspects of other cultures, broadening their horizons.

Personal Growth: Interacting with individuals from diverse backgrounds challenges our biases, prejudices, and preconceived notions, leading to personal growth and development.

Conclusion

Our world is a vast tapestry of experiences, perspectives, and skills. By embracing diversity in its full breadth, we not only enrich our communities but also foster environments that are more inclusive, innovative, and harmonious. Let's celebrate diversity in all its forms and learn to see the beauty in the myriad colours of the human experience.



5. Education as a Tool for Empowerment:

With advanced facilities and inclusion, disabled children receive a quality education, which can be their ticket to a brighter and more independent future.

Glen McMillan CEO of Children with Disability NZ has authored several informative e-books on preparing schools to cater for both new entrants and following through with transitioning young disabled from school into work.

View our range of e-books here

<https://www.childrenwithdisability.co.nz/children-with-disability-ebooks/>

Education as a Tool for Empowerment: An Insight into the Importance of Education for Disabled Children

Education, in its purest form, is the key to unlocking human potential. For centuries, it has been a cornerstone of civilisation, providing people with the tools they need to engage with the world around them. For disabled children, this right to knowledge isn't just a path to empowerment—it's a lifeline to a more inclusive, understanding, and just society.

Levelling the Playing Field

Society is filled with implicit biases, many of which manifest in our approach to those with disabilities. Historically, disabled individuals were isolated or marginalised, not given the same opportunities as their able-bodied peers. Education bridges this divide. With quality instruction and an environment that nurtures their abilities, disabled children can defy societal expectations and achieve as much as anyone else.

Harnessing Individual Potential

Every child, irrespective of their physical or cognitive differences, has a unique potential. Education isn't about changing who these children are; it's about giving them the tools they need to thrive. Tailored teaching methods, assistive technology, and supportive learning environments can bring out the best in every student.

Building Self-Confidence and Independence

I matter

With education, disabled children acquire knowledge and skills that not only make them marketable in the job sector but also empower them to lead independent lives. From basic life skills to advanced professional qualifications, education gives them the confidence to navigate the world on their terms.

Driving Societal Change

By ensuring that disabled children have access to quality education, we're reshaping societal narratives. These children, once educated and empowered, become advocates for change, pushing for a more inclusive and diverse society. They become living testaments to the capabilities of disabled individuals, challenging stereotypes, and stigmas.

Fostering a Culture of Inclusion

Education for disabled children isn't just about textbooks and exams—it's about cultivating an inclusive culture. When these children learn alongside their peers, barriers break down. Mutual respect and understanding are fostered, and students without disabilities become allies, understanding the importance of inclusivity from a young age.

Conclusion

The ripples of education extend far beyond the classroom. For disabled children, it provides more than just academic knowledge; it offers a promise of a brighter future where they are empowered, valued, and treated as equals. As society continues to evolve, it's imperative that education remains at the forefront of this transformation, ensuring that every child, regardless of their abilities, has a chance to shine.

6. The Ripple Effect:

The benefits of an inclusive society aren't limited to disabled children alone. Such a society teaches all its members empathy, understanding, and resilience.

Absolutely. An inclusive society, especially one that integrates, and values disabled children and adults, casts a wide net of advantages. These ripple out in multiple directions, benefiting not just the directly involved individuals but the entire community. Here's a more detailed exploration of the ripple effect of an inclusive society:

Fostering Empathy: An inclusive society helps individuals understand and appreciate the experiences and challenges of others. Interacting with diverse

groups of people allows one to develop a deeper emotional understanding and connect with individuals from various walks of life. This empathy extends beyond interactions with disabled individuals to all interactions, promoting kindness and understanding in numerous situations.

Enhanced Social Skills: By mingling with people of all abilities, backgrounds, and experiences, members of an inclusive society develop superior social skills. They learn to communicate effectively, understand non-verbal cues, and handle different perspectives.

Resilience and Adaptability: Encountering and overcoming challenges is a part of life. In an inclusive society, all members witness the resilience of disabled individuals in overcoming daily challenges. This can be deeply inspiring and can motivate others to face their own challenges with courage and perseverance.

Breaking Down Barriers: Prejudice often stems from ignorance. When people are exposed to diverse groups, including those with disabilities, myths and misconceptions are dispelled. This fosters a culture of acceptance, reducing stigmatisation and discrimination.

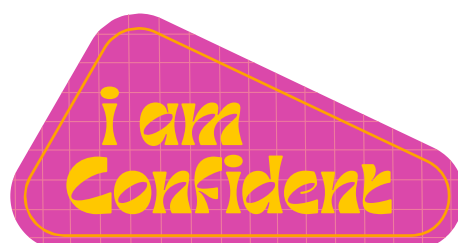
Innovation and Problem Solving: An inclusive society often finds innovative solutions to cater to the needs of all its members. This creativity isn't just limited to addressing disability-related challenges but spills over into other areas of society, promoting innovation and forward thinking.

Economic Benefits: When everyone is given an opportunity to participate and contribute, it enhances the economic vitality of a community. Disabled individuals can offer unique skills and perspectives that can be valuable in the workforce.

Strengthened Community Bonds: In an inclusive society, people come together to support one another, fostering a sense of community and interconnectedness. This can lead to a more harmonious living environment where individuals are more likely to help and uplift each other.

Holistic Growth: Children growing up in inclusive societies receive a holistic education that goes beyond textbooks. They learn life lessons about acceptance, empathy, and collaboration, which are crucial for personal and professional growth.

In summary, the ripple effects of inclusivity touch various aspects of life and society, creating a more harmonious, understanding, and thriving



environments for all its members. When we promote inclusivity, we're not just benefiting one group; we're elevating society as a whole.

7. The Triumphs of the Human Spirit:

When given a chance, disabled children often defy expectations, showcasing incredible feats of determination, courage, and talent. Their stories inspire us all.

The Triumphs of the Human Spirit: Inspirational Stories of Disabled

Children

The triumphs of the human spirit are manifested in countless ways. One of the most profound of these triumphs can be witnessed in the stories of disabled children. These young souls, despite the physical or cognitive challenges they face, often demonstrate immense resilience, determination, and talent. Their stories serve as a testament to the human spirit's ability to transcend limitations.

Derek's Dance: Derek, a young boy born with cerebral palsy, was told he'd likely never walk without assistance. Yet, with unwavering determination, he not only walked but also danced. At age ten, Derek danced in his school's annual recital, moving the audience to tears with his grace and determination.

Sophia's Symphony: Sophia, born profoundly deaf, never heard the world the way many of us do. But that didn't stop her from feeling the vibrations of music. With the help of cochlear implants and her innate talent, Sophia became an accomplished pianist by the age of twelve.

Elijah's Everest: Elijah was born without his right leg. Yet, by age fifteen, he successfully climbed a significant portion of Mount Everest. Using a specially designed prosthetic and harness system, he proved that mountains are not just scaled with feet but with heart and soul.

Maya's Marathon: Confined to a wheelchair due to Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Maya always dreamt of participating in a marathon. With her family's support and a specially adapted wheelchair, she completed a half-marathon, with thousands cheering her on.

Lucas's Literature: Lucas, diagnosed with autism at an early age, found solace in books. By age eight, he penned his first book detailing his experiences,

offering a fresh, introspective view into the mind of someone with autism. His story became a beacon of hope for many families with similar challenges.

Aisha's Art: Born without arms, Aisha used her feet for almost everything. With remarkable skill and precision, she painted intricate artworks. Her exhibitions not only showcased her talent but also the boundless possibilities that lie within us all.

Nina's Nurturing Nature: Nina, a young girl with Down syndrome, displayed an uncanny ability to connect with animals. She volunteered at local animal shelters, where her calming presence had a profound effect on traumatised and rescued animals.

These tales of triumph remind us that the human spirit is indomitable. Disabled children have a unique way of showing the world that courage, determination, and heart can overcome the most daunting challenges. Their stories stand as a beacon of hope, inspiring us to push our boundaries and redefine what's possible.

8. Economic Prosperity:

An inclusive society that invests in facilities and support for disabled children ultimately leads to increased participation in the workforce, enhancing the nation's economic prosperity.

Absolutely consider leaving a legacy for Children with Disability New Zealand. Investing in support and facilities for disabled children is not just a matter of moral obligation; it also has significant economic implications. Here's how: <https://www.childrenwithdisability.co.nz/legacy-plans-children-with-disability-nz/>

Reduced Dependency: Early and effective interventions can maximise the potential of disabled children, making it possible for them to be more independent in adulthood. Independent individuals are more likely to contribute to the economy and less likely to rely on welfare or other forms of assistance.

Workforce Participation: With proper education and support, disabled children can grow up to be skilled adults. By removing barriers to education and employment, these individuals can join the workforce, thereby increasing the nation's labour pool and productivity.

Economic Multiplier Effect: Money spent on facilities and support services for disabled children gets redistributed in the economy. For example, construction of accessible facilities creates jobs. Those employees then spend their income on goods and services, which further stimulates economic activity.

Innovation: By focusing on inclusivity, nations may spur innovation. The necessity to create accessible technologies and services can lead to the development of new industries or expansion of existing ones.

Societal Benefits: An inclusive society often has a higher level of social cohesion. This can lead to a more stable society, which is attractive for investments, both domestic and foreign.

Reduced Medical and Social Costs: Early intervention and proper support can prevent certain medical complications and additional challenges in the future. This reduces the long-term medical and social costs that a nation might have to bear.

Talent Utilisation: Everyone has unique talents and abilities. When society creates barriers that prevent disabled children from reaching their potential, it essentially wastes potential talent that could have contributed to the nation's growth.

Positive Global Image: Nations that prioritise inclusivity and equality are often seen in a positive light on the global stage. This can attract foreign investments, international collaborations, and boost tourism.

Increase in Consumer Base: Making facilities and technologies accessible can increase the consumer base, as more people can use them. This can lead to an increase in sales and revenues for businesses.

Enhanced Human Capital: Human capital refers to the skills, knowledge, and experience possessed by individuals. By investing in all children, including those with disabilities, nations enhance their overall human capital, which is a significant driver of economic growth.

In conclusion, the economic prosperity of a nation is closely linked to its inclusivity policies and practices. Disabled children, when given the right opportunities and support, can become assets to the economy and contribute significantly to a nation's growth.

9. The Love of Whānau:

Family lies at the heart of New Zealand's values. When one child succeeds, the entire whānau rejoices. By supporting disabled children, we support families in their collective journey towards a brighter future.

The Love of Whānau: A Deep-Rooted Kiwi Value

New Zealand, or Aotearoa, as known in the Māori language, has a rich tapestry of cultures, traditions, and values. Among them, the significance of the family, or whānau, stands paramount. The Māori concept of whānau extends beyond the immediate family to encompass extended family, clan, or community. It is this broader understanding of kinship that binds the Kiwi society, infusing a collective spirit and shared responsibility for the well-being of all members.

The Collective Triumph

In the Kiwi culture, individual achievements are seldom seen as singular. They are celebrated as a collective victory, a testament to the community's nurturing and support. The rejoicing of one child's success reverberates through the entire whānau, exemplifying the interconnectedness and shared joy. It's an emblematic reflection of the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." In New Zealand, that village is the whānau.

Supporting the Vulnerable

Supporting disabled children is more than just an act of kindness; it's a societal obligation, a commitment to ensuring that every child, regardless of their abilities, gets the opportunity to thrive and lead a fulfilling life. When the community steps up for these children, it's not out of sympathy but out of the inherent belief in collective welfare. It acknowledges that every individual, with their unique strengths and challenges, contributes to the tapestry of society.

Towards a Brighter Tomorrow

In nurturing disabled children, the society is nurturing its own future. These children, when supported and empowered, can contribute immensely to the nation's socio-economic and cultural fabric. They bring diverse perspectives, resilience, and a testament to the human spirit's indomitable will.

By backing them, New Zealand not only strengthens the bond of whānau but also reaffirms its commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and shared prosperity.

In conclusion, the love of whānau is not just a sentiment; it's an ethos, a way of life that shapes New Zealand's societal dynamics. It reminds us that in unity lies

strength, in shared joys lies deeper happiness, and in collective welfare lies a brighter future for all.

10. Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges:

Every advancement in facilities and inclusion acts as a bridge, narrowing the gap between "us" and "them". This is our chance to leave a world free of unnecessary barriers.

Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Creating a Unified World

The phrase "us" and "them" has long been a divider in societies across time and space. These labels have created divisions based on race, religion, gender, nationality, and a myriad of other characteristics. But as we advance into the 21st century, we are becoming more interconnected than ever, which demands the construction of more bridges and the removal of barriers.

The Legacy of Division

Historically, barriers have been erected due to fear, misunderstanding, or a desire to maintain power dynamics. Whether through the establishment of borders, societal norms, or discriminatory laws, the world has seen centuries of divisions.

Occasionally, a disruptor emerges, a force of change that transcends the ordinary. These disruptors can be individuals, groups, or groundbreaking technological advancements, all of which boldly question the established norms. What sets these disruptors apart is their ability not just to shatter barriers but also to forge pathways, connecting us in meaningful ways.

Glen McMillan, the CEO of Children with Disability NZ, stands as a shining example of such a disruptor. Through the innovative use of technology, he challenges the status quo, striving to make valuable knowledge readily accessible. He has authored a series of enlightening e-books that serve as a testament to his commitment. Glen McMillan's work empowers both professionals and the wider New Zealand community with easily digestible, comprehensive information, fostering a more informed and connected society.

The Role of Advancement



Technological advancement plays a pivotal role in this journey. The internet, for instance, has connected the globe in ways previously deemed impossible. A person in Tokyo can easily communicate with someone in Rio de Janeiro as if they were next-door neighbours.

But beyond technology, advancements in social policy, and cultural inclusion have been instrumental. The rights of the LGBTQ+ community, gender equality, and racial and religious harmony are becoming more mainstream, painting a picture of a world that values unity over division.

Inclusion: The Real Bridge

True bridges are made when inclusion becomes the standard. Facilities and policies that cater to all – regardless of their physical abilities, age, gender, or background – are what truly embody progress. Ramps for wheelchair access, sign language in public broadcasts, or gender-neutral restrooms are not just facilities; they're a testament to a society's commitment to its entire populace.

The Challenge Ahead

While we celebrate our progress, there is much work to be done. Some barriers are deeply rooted in cultural norms or long-standing prejudices. However, by continuing to champion advancements that promote inclusivity, we can challenge these barriers and construct bridges in their place.

The World We Envision

Imagine a world where every individual, regardless of their background, can achieve their full potential. A world where the word "foreigner" is obsolete, and we're all just global citizens. This is the world we strive to create, and every bridge we construct brings us a step closer.

Conclusion

Breaking barriers and building bridges is not just an act; it's a philosophy. It is a commitment to recognising our shared humanity and the belief that together, as a united force, we can achieve greatness. Our aim should not just be to leave behind a world free of unnecessary barriers but to foster a world where bridges of understanding, compassion, and unity is the norm.

11. A Legacy of Hope:



Hope is a powerful force. By investing in facilities and inclusion, we're sowing seeds of hope – that every child, regardless of their abilities, can dream big and achieve even bigger.

Imagine a field. At first glance, it might seem barren, with only the occasional hint of green. But upon closer inspection, one can see tiny seeds planted, all in neat rows. Each seed represents a possibility, a future, and above all, hope. Given time, nourishment, and care, these seeds will grow into lush plants, bearing fruits for the world to enjoy.

The same can be said about the seeds of hope we plant in society.

Today, we live in an era where the paradigms are shifting. Gone are the days when only a select few had access to opportunities. With the evolution of technology, and more importantly, a shift in mindset, we are at the cusp of a revolution – one that includes everyone, regardless of their abilities or disabilities.

By investing in facilities that cater to every child, we're not just building structures; we're building dreams. These aren't mere concrete and brick constructions, but bastions of hope where every child can feel seen, heard, and valued.

Imagine a child with physical disabilities entering a playground. In the past, the child might have been confined to the sidelines, watching others play. But in a world where we prioritise inclusion, that child can join in the fun, their wheelchair or walker no hindrance. They can swing, slide, and laugh alongside their peers, their face lit up with joy and the sheer thrill of participation.

Children with Disability NZ are a New Zealand-based registered charity (CC59148) we promote accessible play and have part funded a wheelchair accessible swing for Waipu and now raising funds for a wheelchair accessible seesaw for Whangārei

And it's not just about physical facilities. It's about the intangible atmosphere of acceptance. It's about teachers trained to see potential instead of limitations, classmates who extend hands of friendship instead of pity, and a world that sees ability where it used to see disability.

Inclusion is more than just a buzzword; it's a commitment. It's a promise to every child that they can dream big. Because when we equip them with the

right tools and environment, these dreams aren't just fantasies. They can, and often do, turn into reality.

And what is the fruit of this hope we're cultivating? It's the scientist who, despite her visual impairment, makes groundbreaking discoveries. It's the musician with cerebral palsy who moves audiences with his melodies. It's every individual who, despite the challenges thrown their way, shines and contributes to society.

In this grand tapestry of life, every thread, no matter how seemingly insignificant, has a role to play. By ensuring that every child has a place, a voice, and the tools to thrive, we are not just investing in individuals; we're investing in our collective future.

Our commitment to facilities and inclusion is more than just a statement; it's a testament to our faith in humanity and its potential. By sowing these seeds of hope, we are laying down a legacy – a world where every child knows that they can achieve greatness, irrespective of the hand they've been dealt.

So, let's nurture this field of dreams. Let's water it with kindness, fertilise it with understanding, and shine the light of acceptance on it. For in this field lies our future, teeming with hope, potential, and a promise of a brighter tomorrow.

Conclusion:

New Zealand's true strength lies not in its landscapes but in the hearts of its people. By leaving a legacy for the advancement and inclusion of disabled children, we don't just change lives; we craft a future where love, understanding, and unity reign supreme.

Your legacy can be the beacon that lights up countless futures. Let's together make New Zealand a shining example of inclusion and love.

Authored by Glen McMillan

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"Kindly contemplate the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy in your will, one that will profoundly impact the lives of children with disabilities in New Zealand."

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A Legacy of Inclusion: 11 Transformative
Reasons to Support Disabled Children in
New Zealand
Leaving a Legacy

An Effective Guide by Glen McMillan
2023



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