



News Release

Microsoft Triples Future Software Donations to Local Charities, Voluntary and Community Groups

New partnership with TechSoup will expand technology donations.

Auckland, New Zealand – Wednesday, August 27, 2008 – Strengthening its support of charities, voluntary and community groups, Microsoft today announced its goal to triple its annual software donations to \$4.5 million in a new partnership with TechSoup, a global organisation that is set up to provide a one stop shop for technology donations.

Last year, Microsoft donated over \$1.5 million worth of software to charities, voluntary and community groups across New Zealand including St John's Ambulance, The Royal New Zealand Plunket Society, Cystic Fibrosis Association of New Zealand, the National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges and Northland's Pa O Te Ora Charitable Trust. Microsoft New Zealand Managing Director, Kevin Ackhurst is calling on charities, voluntary and community groups to take advantage of this opportunity.

“We estimate that approximately 30,000 charities, voluntary and community groups in New Zealand are eligible to receive donated Microsoft software. By providing technology assistance and expertise, we hope to help these organisations manage their operations more productively and serve their communities more effectively.”

Tina Reid, Executive Director of New Zealand Federation of Voluntary Welfare Organisations says “we are delighted that we are able to bring this programme to New Zealand, and we will work to reach as many New Zealand charities as we can to benefit from this initiative.”

Microsoft recently donated nearly \$25,000 of software to the Women's Refuge headquarters in Wellington and its 50 independently run branches nationwide.

“The technology enables us to be much more efficient in coordinating fund raising events, as well as managing projects to support women,” said Janet Symonds, Finance Administrator for the Women’s Refuge. “We are extremely grateful to Microsoft for this donation. It will go a long way towards helping us more effectively support and provide for women in need throughout the country.”

Microsoft also recently contributed to the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust (ARHT) and its life saving missions, by donating over \$45,000 in technology. Microsoft has supported the ARHT on several occasions to assist with the management of their operations and with the monitoring of their missions.

“Our previous systems were very inefficient and time consuming,” said Jeff Nother, ARHT IT Manager. “Today the donated access database software helps us manage our fundraising efforts, which is critical to the survival of the Trust and also helps us record our missions, which is crucial to our performance. We use it every day and value it highly.”

Ackhurst believes the partnership with TechSoup enables Microsoft to demonstrate its core philosophy of providing people the resources they need to accomplish great things. “We deeply respect the organisations we support and are thrilled to be able to help their communities. We welcome all charities, voluntary and community groups eligible for the programme to seek Microsoft software donations by visiting www.techsoup.net.nz or by emailing donations@techsoup.net.nz”

TechSoup New Zealand’s launch has been facilitated by TechSoup’s Australian nonprofit partner CISA-DonorTec, in association with the New Zealand Federation of Voluntary Welfare Organisations (NZFVWO).

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About Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq “MSFT”) is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realise their full potential.

About Techsoup

TechSoup is one of the oldest and largest non-profit technology assistance agencies, TechSoup Global now offers non-profits around the world a one-stop resource for technology needs by providing free information, resources, and support.

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