

# i-girlz leaderz e-newz



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*Pictures: Some of IFG's Sponsors*

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## In This Issue

Finance

Tips for  
Funding  
Applications

Receiving  
Fees from  
your Girls

GBNZ  
Fundraiser

Funding for  
Physical  
Activities



## The Finance Issue

After catching up with all the i-girlz news last month I am now back to writing to you on a specific monthly topic; this month it is money.

I have had a career in the financial services sector so it has been the norm over the years that whatever committee I went on I seemed to be appointed the treasurer. This suited me – too easy – and meant that I got out of being the secretary as I do not have the gifting to take part in a discussion and record it at the same time – too hard. Up until recently I was on the Finance Team at my church and was often frustrated by the way some of the elders' decisions adversely affected the health of the church's finances. That was until one day our Pastor spoke on how our giving to the church must have no strings attached. He said we just needed to pray that God would use our money for His purposes. After the wee quilt trip, I had the grace to accept this teaching.

And so it must be with our IFG fees – praying that the money will be used wisely to increase Christ's kingdom on earth, especially to girls, and then let it go. Rest assured however that your Ministry Team practice good stewardship, boarding on frugality, and also diligently apply for grants to fund the Ministry. Many funders expect to see some contribution from members (ie national fees).

One funder asks us to use John Wesley's teachings on money on which to base our applications and this is always a thought provoking exercise.

**[So you want to apply for funding to run your i-girlz programme? Here are some things to know to help you with your applications:](#)**

iconz4girlz is a programme of The Girls' Brigade New Zealand Incorporated. GBNZ is what is known as an Incorporated Society. (Funders often ask if you are an Incorporated Society.) The number is 221635 and the date of incorporation was 13 March 1953. If you need a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation you may find this on line at [www.societies.govt.nz](http://www.societies.govt.nz)

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GBNZ is also a Registered Charity. The registration number is CC26137. Funders like it if you are one of these. If you receive any donations from people (other than funders) you will need to issue a receipt for them to apply for a Tax Credit.

The accounts of some Units will be going through their church's books which will have a GST implication. National Fees to GBNZ are GST zero- rated. (GST Exempt).

Please only apply to local funders in your own region. If you wish to apply to a national funder your application must go through the GBNZ Support Centre. Send it to elizabethd@girlsbrigade.org.nz

You may be donated goods from local companies. Because you operate under a Registered Charity you need to write a thank you letter for the goods.



*Another of IFG's Sponsors*

Your church probably has at least one member with good connections in the world of finance who may agree to act as the financial mentor to your Unit. Have you found that person yet?

**Receiving fees from your girls**

Many Units find they get the best response to fee payments through the use of internet banking. This also saves the leaders from having to handle cash and write receipts (except for donations). Record your Unit bank account number on all your notices / newsletters as a reminder.

Church members could be invited to "adopt" a girl and, as well as praying for her, cover the cost of her fees and uniform if her family is not in a position to do so. Or a Home Group may wish to adopt your Unit and pray especially for you at their meetings as well as provide financially support.

GBNZ has a fund called the Aroha Trust which is available to help Units in financial difficulties. This shouldn't happen as your church is responsible for overseeing your finances.

**GBNZ Fundraiser**

Attached to this newsletter is a memo from GBNZ which is investigating fundraising opportunities. Please reply directly to GBNZ Support Centre elizabethd@girlsbrigade.org.nz if you have any questions about this. I have also attached a list of all the GB Area contacts. Should you wish to take advantage of this fundraiser you may find there is a nearby Area for easy pick up or you could work directly with the Support Centre. You are in no way obligated to take part in this fundraiser but I see it as a possible option for those thinking about doing some fundraising.

## Funding for Physical Activities

There was an offer of \$5 per girl to cover any sort of physical programme. With the camp coming up in October, I am resending the application form as an attachment as we have many Units who have still not taken advantage of this offer.

I know that many an eye would have glazed over as soon as the focus of this newsletter was read. However for those who are responsible for keeping their Unit on a sound financial footing I trust what I have shared has been of assistance to you.

King Solomon was extremely wealthy indeed and a wander through Proverbs reading some of the things he had to say about money certainly helps us keep a healthy attitude towards all this finance stuff.



# Chris Brunt

IFG Ministry Team Convenor

