

Fakaalofa lahi atu, ko e higoa haaku ko Ethan. I am whakapapa to Niue, Tonga, and Denmark.

I have been a co-opted board member on Volunteering New Zealand for 2 years and have been using my time in this space to understand what the purpose of the board is, what we as board members do and how we can support the Kaupapa. I plan to re-stand on the board as a general representative so that I can contribute as much as I am able to in this important Kaupapa. If I am re-elected, I plan to develop the Pasifika strategy further with our representative and that will be a huge focus for us while we are here.

I have been a Kaiārahi – Family Court Navigator for over 3 years. A big part of our role is to engage with our community organisations and to bridge the gap between the family court and the community. A lot of these organisations are volunteer based and if they didn't have volunteers, the organisation wouldn't exist. Volunteering is important for the sustainability of our community and its vital that continue to improve volunteering to keep it going. it is important that we look after our volunteers as they are the backbone of helpline organisation.

My time spent volunteering at Youthline has been so valuable to myself, the organisation, and the people that we serve. I have a particular interest in our Rangatahi Maori and Pasifika as they have more barriers when it comes to volunteering.

My background is in dispute resolution, I am an accredited mediator, and I can see huge value in people resolving their own conflict which is another passion of mine. This can be beneficial if the board doesn't agree on something, I can facilitate a discussion if needed.

Volunteering comes in many ways which I am thankful to have experienced, from can drives, to packing food boxes, from talking with someone down, to speaking at mental health panels, from cooking food for homeless people, to having a korero with them about their situation. These are only to name a few, I will all my experiences especially my volunteering experience to positively influence the direction of volunteering.

I have enjoyed my time as a co-opted board member, and I excited for the future of Volunteering New Zealand.

Fakaaue lahi for your consideration,

Ethan Tauevihi-Kahika