



**GIVING BACK:** Trish Rae from Waipuna Hospice and excavator Tim Graham get to work on the Lake House.

PICTURE / PHOTO: JOHN BORREN 121109JB05BOP

## Tim digs in to help out hospice

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Excavating the Waipuna Hospice empty section is more than just a job for Tim Graham. For him, it's about giving back to those who helped him when he was in need.

The 27-year-old owner of Hypace Excavation is volunteering many hours of excavating services, using diggers, trucks and other machinery, preparing the floorpad and digging the foundation of the Lake House. He said his four-day contribution was worth around \$4000.

Volunteering at the site will have some effect on Mr Graham's business, which he said was inevitable when working on a non-paying job but he said "it is very important to be here".

The Lake House is a property being built over the next three months from donated resources and volunteer work from labourers like Mr Graham. Funds raised from the sale of the house will go to Waipuna Hospice.

"I'm contributing not with

### THE LAKE HOUSE Waipuna Hospice Project



money but doing something that is achievable. It makes sense for me to help out this way," he said.

Mr Graham and his family needed Waipuna Hospice services twice this year, first for his grandfather and more recently two months ago when his 24-year-old cousin died.

Before this year, he said his knowledge of the hospice was quite limited. "I knew it was a place for final care but I didn't realise how much they actually did."

Trish Rae, Waipuna Hospice fundraising manager, said many people have a misconception about the hospice and don't really understand the services it provides. She said many people think it is just a hospital set up when in fact it does



**HOME SWEET HOME:** An artist's impression of the house that will be sold to benefit Waipuna Hospice.

PICTURE / FILE

home calls as well.

"A terminal illness can affect anyone of any age and many people don't really think about this," she said.

Mr Graham's perspective of the charity has changed since needing the service.

"You have the idea that the hospice is only for older people but really it's not," he said.

Mr Graham got involved in the project when Simon Maxwell from Grasshopper Properties approached him. Mr Graham has been working alongside Grasshopper Properties on other properties in The Lakes subdivision over the past few years.

He said when Mr Maxwell

contacted him, he didn't have to put much thought into the decision.

"I pretty much said 'yes' straight away," he said.

Of the organisation and the services they provide, Mr Graham said "It's primo — they're a really good cause".

Mr Graham is a very talented excavator and is the Waikato/Bay of Plenty 2009 executive excavating champion and runner-up national champion.

One of the skills Mr Graham had to master for the competition was lifting a manhole with a full glass of wine on it and moving it to another position without spilling any wine.