



Children of Change.

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ISSUE 6

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Sponsor a Child' Northern Showcase

Today's children in tomorrow's world. A message relayed to businessmen and professionals during the 'Sponsor A Child' launch held at the Grand Eastern Hotel in Labasa.

Divisional Planning Officer



Mr Alipate Bolalevu

Northern, Mr. Alipate Bolalevu, who was Chief Guest for the evening delivered a moving speech highlighting investment and care for the poorest as everyone's responsibility.

"We are gathered here tonight to help bring about change. I urge you all to consider the plight of the poorest of the poor; those who merely survive on the bare minimum and often at the mercy of others. Caring for the poor is a noble undertaking. If you give them what they need most i.e. an opportunity through an education, you will see real and lasting improvement in their lives. We must remove the

poorest child caught in this vicious cycle of poverty & hopelessness".

Here's how you can give the poorest children an opportunity to grow and help themselves:

"Change your perspective and think of educating the poorest child. One of the ways in which you can make a difference in the lives of the poor is to sponsor a child."

By paying for their education you will directly address their needs and over time you will witness the change we all desire".

The program concluded with a social event and entertainment provided by Maria's dance group.



"No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure."

Emma Goldman

Christmas to make a difference-Westpac Bank.

Every year leading up to Christmas, Westpac staff donate gifts to various organizations to share the joy of the festive



season with less fortunate families. This has been a tradition since the bank was established in Fiji.

"Somehow, not only at Christmas, but all year long, the joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you". John Greenleaf Whittier.



When presenting gifts to children Mrs. Olive Whippy extended a word of encouragement to our sponsored children: "We want you to work hard & become something better."

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The Foundation sponsors close to a thousand children from the poorest of the poor families in Fiji. For these children, sponsorship is the only lifeline to continue their studies.

Fenc Fiji's National Coordinator, Mr. Irshad Ali applauded the team for their time and concern for the poorest in our community. Bringing joy to a child is satisfying when we witness the smile on their faces.

Scoring over 90% in all subjects, Gene is an excellent example of what can be achieved with a little assistance. "Living off welfare support is not easy for my family. I work on weekends to help my mother in anyway I can. My priority is education and I want to be a language teacher."

Gene is trilingual, participated in English, Hindi and Fijian language competitions. Certainly a girl on a winning streak has done us proud, bringing home several winning medals.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

17 October 2011

The International day for the Eradication of Poverty was held at USP in collaboration with other non-profit organizations.

Fenc Fiji staff and volunteers participated in the event, highlighting the plight of the poorest children and their families. As part of the program, students of USP participated in a oratory competition.

Walking away with the first prize was a first year psychology student, Musharat Natasha Begg who gave solutions and ways in which Poverty can be eradicated.

"Poverty is indeed real, there is a threat to it but instead of putting emphasis on education, there are other ways in which this issue can be met and that is to use the existing talents and resources that surround us", said Ms Begg.

Other speakers, Father Kevin Barr stressed that the fight against poverty starts today and we need to reach out and make friends with the poor in order to view what they are experiencing.

"Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity; it is an act of justice. Like Slavery and Apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great. YOU can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom."

Nelson Mandela.

The Light Shines for Future Generation.

Vodafone Fiji has made a difference in the life of a student determined to pursue her goal.

For 17 year old Gene, life has posed many challenges. With parents suffering from chronic illnesses and disabilities, Gene continues to shine at school. Recently Gene has been receiving extra tutorial sessions, the impact of which is visible in her annual

HFC - 2011 Christmas Treat.

2011 was quite a challenging year for me. I was fortunate to have come across many families with different backgrounds and with so many lifestyles as well. For the final month of the year, I was honoured to be part of a team that distributed Christmas Gift Hampers to families around Viti Levu in partnership with a team from HFC.

Most families we came across were shocked to see us at their doorstep. We were mostly greeted with tears, and of-course they were tears of joy.

"... just by seeing your caring faces at our doorstep today is more than enough..." words of a mother of four children whose dad passed away and receiving a gift for Christmas was beyond their imagination.

It was surely a touching moment to see the happy faces of the children when given their gifts.

"...it is an answer to our prayers..." was all that a 14year old girl could utter as she was interviewed with her mother.

"Life has never been the same since my husband died. My children could only look at other kids enjoying the festive season. At least they can now share this

festive moment with their friends." *mother Ecelina Verevakabau*



"From home to home, and heart to heart, from one place to another. The warmth and joy of Christmas, brings us closer to each other".

Emily Matthews

The Warren Family

Every year, tourists visit our shores to experience Fiji's hospitality, beautiful white sandy beaches, mouth watering cuisine and heart-warming Fijian culture.

For the Warren family of USA, it was a totally different holiday after all. They did more than just spend time at one of the finest hotels in the region. The family of four found pleasure in lending a helping hand, visiting some of our

Sponsored children and handing out school stationery and supplies. In addition we were blessed with office stationery for our Western office. We wish the family the very best and trust that they will visit our shores again.

"We continue to believe that if children are given the necessary tools to succeed, they will succeed beyond their wildest dreams".

Warren Family



The Warren Family

Fiji Development Bank Social Club

Giving to the needy is a human impulse - it appears in the world's wisdom traditions. If you ask people why they give, the readiest answers offer clues to the mystery.

God wants me to. I feel better about myself. Others need, and I have. I want to share. It's only right.

These are good-hearted answers, and if we bring it into focus, the following seems true: Giving takes you out of yourself.

You expand beyond your limitations and feel that inner change. Others might argue that inner change precedes selfless service. 'Selfless' means that you

have been taken to a place outside yourself. Your true self is an expanded state, and you can only reach it through experience of love, joy, charity, caring and self-worth.

Someone once said that permanent joy results when you can give away your last \$. Actually, the \$ is only a symbol.

"We attended a function hosted by Fenc Fiji. It gave us an insight into the work of the Foundation. We realise that Fenc Fiji is now a significant contributor towards alleviation of poverty. This inspired us to contribute towards a cause we know will bring about change." Jay Rathod, Fiji Development Bank, Suva



Left to right: Jone, Ashna, Akulla, Aisea, Viliame and Aseri. V. Front Jay Rathod, presenting Cheque to Mr Irshad Ali.

We at Fenc Fiji applaud the FDB Corporate Division Social Club team for their time and concern for the poorest in our community.

Experience of a Volunteer.

“Volunteering is an eye opener for me. I had a glimpse of the experiences and the hardships faced by the children of unfortunate families. It touches me when I hear stories about what these children go through just to get an education. At times I feel embarrassed, knowing that the simplest educational materials that I used to take for granted can be the most priceless possession for the children that we deal with as a volunteer.”

“The experience has taught me to be grateful with what I have without complaining. It really is a life changing experience - how I see things, what I think of others has definitely made me a better person. We also get to learn new things and have tons of fun just by helping children have a brighter future.

means helping secure a child’s future, I know I have made the difference. I strongly recommend volunteerism; just the thought of putting a smile on someone else’s face will make your day.



Arieta
Volunteer

When you volunteer it means you give yourself without any regression, without condition, but with full devotion.



If being a volunteer for **FENC FIJI**

The Struggles of Luisa.

Luisa Qalilawa came to us a year ago, was widowed twice and has 12 children; four of whom are married, one attends a Tertiary institution while five children attend Primary and Secondary Schools.

Last year, we assisted five of her children—providing stationery, uniforms, payment of school levies and attended to some of their special needs. We recognized her potential and recommended her for a skills training programme at the Ministry of Labour. Since registering with us, she has completed two training courses with NEC:

- The Aptitude Test
- The Life Skills Training

This year, she intends to enroll in a Business Study Programme that is offered by NEC. Because she took the initiative to go out of her way amidst her busy schedule as a full time mother, we acknowledge her achievements. Luisa intends to start a bakery of her own to wean herself off our assistance programme in the shortest possible time. We wish her well in her studies and plans for the future.



Luisa is an excellent example of how guidance can ‘make the difference.’



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“together to make the difference”

