



ACTIVITIES REPORT - DECEMBER 2011



Golden Oldies- 'Making the difference'

The Foundation for the Education of Needy Children in Fiji (Fenc Fiji) received a donation of \$1101.70 from the Golden Oldies World Netball Festival this month. The contribution comes at a time when children begin preparations for the new year.

The 'Golden Oldies' brought together like-minded enthusiasts for a week of fun activities, netball competitions and comradeship. Held at Denarau, the festival brought to our shores 653 participants from around the world.

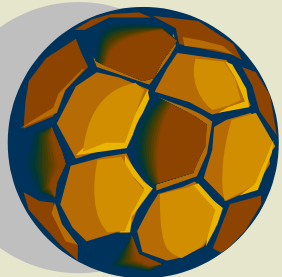
"It has changed people's lives and resulted in many of them traveling away from home for the first time. It gave us an opportunity to showcase Fiji in many ways. During the feedback session we talked about many issues and turned out collecting funds for a worthy cause." Olive Whippy.

"The virtues of donations are great because it helps the needy and at the same time it gives an opportunity to the donor to give the surplus to the people in need. It helps the needy to sustain life." Sam Veda

Mr. John Samy receiving the contribution on behalf of Fenc Fiji from the Festival Director, Mrs. Olive Whippy



"When we were thinking of an organization to make the donation, Fenc Fiji came to my mind." said Mrs. Whippy



How thoughtful of the Golden Oldies. The contribution not only makes us feel good but shows how everyone accepts a little responsibility towards the poor in our community. It will certainly go a long way to see that children of the poorest families receive an education.



Christmas treat for Children

Christmas is a time for giving and thinking of those unfortunate families living on the verge of poverty. Do you know there are many families in Fiji who may not be homeless or starving, but they're struggling? Meeting the needs of providing a normal family life can be a strain for many families. For families who have lost everything, through some unforeseen event, sustaining life can be a daunting task. The Social Committee within the Prime Minister's office experienced the real joy of Christmas as they visited children of several families under our assistance scheme. The team led by the Director for Public Relations, Mr. Joeli Besetimoala and FencFiji volunteers presented household items and groceries to four special-needs families.

"The idea is not only to provide them with an opportunity to have a joyful festive season but also a chance for us to share with them some cultural traditions related to Christmas. Each year we raise funds for some event but this year we decided to partner with Fenc Fiji and share with the families they assist. We witness for ourselves the plight of the poorest in our community," said Mr. Besetimoala.

"Christmas is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."
Dale Evans



Lata Family

Lata is a single parent, residing at a Hart settlement. Abandoned by her husband, Lata cares for her three children. She earns \$15 working as a housemaid three days a week. Her eldest son at secondary school had an accident early this year which saw a decline in his studies. Her daughter at upper primary school performed well to receive a commendation from her teacher.

"Life is better for us here at Hart housing. At least we have a place we can call 'home' and the support of neighbours. When my youngest son goes to school next year, I will work full-time. My children understand what we are going through and never demand from me". Lata



It is within the heart of a mother that we find love for children. Despite all odds, Lata never abandoned her children. Although struggling to provide for her children, she knows that education is the only hope for her children.

When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child. ~Sophia Loren, *Women and Beauty*



Hem Lata Family

Hem Lata has cared for her three children since the death of her husband in 2010. Two children attend secondary school while the youngest is at primary school. Their father worked as a taxi driver and managed to support his children over the years. His death as a consequence of a short illness left the family traumatised, homeless, without an income and the support they needed.

Mother and children were evicted from the extended family home and drifted from one family to another until Hem took up employment to support her three children. She works at a garment factory, earning approximately \$60 weekly.

"I want my children to have an education. It is the only thing that matters. My son wants to be a mechanic and so he can help me. My daughter is doing well at school and each year she comes home with prizes. Without help, my children would have dropped out of school. I thank the Prime Minister's office and Fenc Fiji for the Christmas gifts and thinking of us this season." Hem Lata



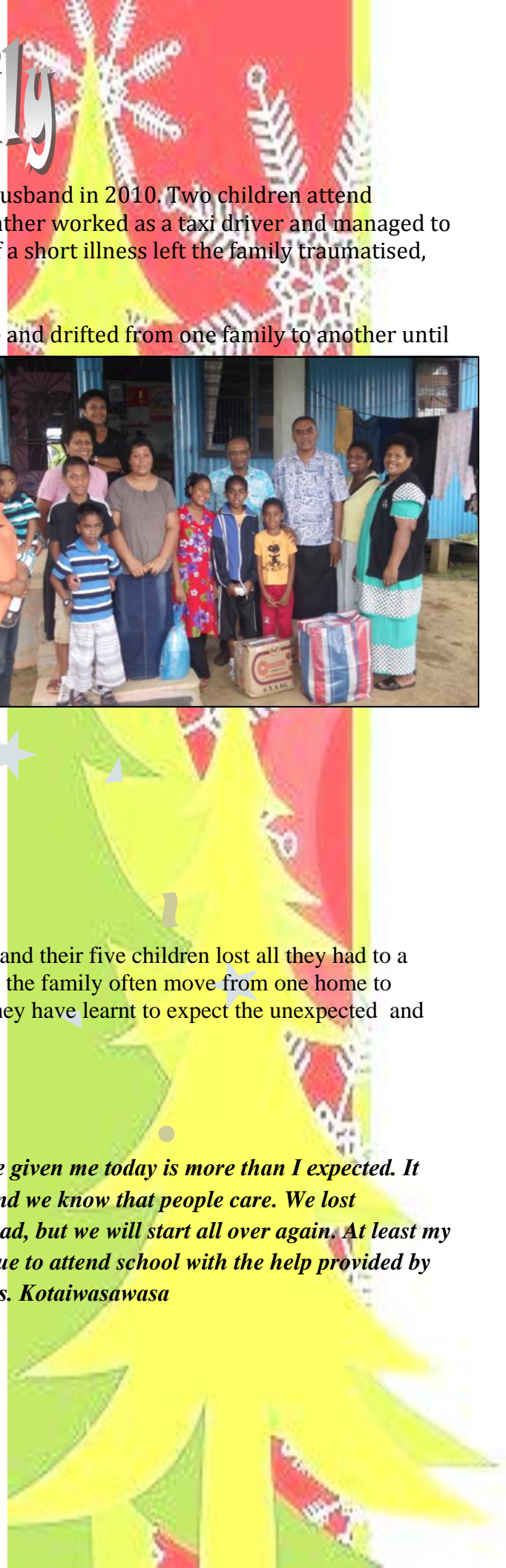
Families lose all to house fires

Kotaiwasawasa Family

A family struck by tragedy never gives up. Mr. & Mrs. Kotaiwasawasa and their five children lost all they had to a house fire recently. Homeless, and at the mercy of friends and relatives, the family often move from one home to another. Living on a daily income is quite a challenge for the family. They have learnt to expect the unexpected and live life to the fullest even if it means starting all over again.



"What you have given me today is more than I expected. It gives us hope and we know that people care. We lost everything we had, but we will start all over again. At least my children continue to attend school with the help provided by Fenc Fiji." Mrs. Kotaiwasawasa





Nadukeva Family

Many of the families come from complex situations. Getting to know them and the children is very rewarding and whatever the team presented was met with genuine appreciation. When we visit the poor it is like visiting an extension of our families. We continue to feel empathy for the poor, especially the children who live in make-shift dwellings with dirt floors and walls covered with tarpaulin. We encounter many, many beautiful children living with bare necessities of life.



A make-shift shelter in which the Nadukeva family reside



Prakash Family

A family that strives is a family that thrives!

This is the story of Prakash family, determined to improve their lives and escape from the squalor that surrounded them for many years, without running water, electricity and basics they needed for their home. Mr. Prakash suffered a massive stroke few years ago. Without an income and in need of regular medical attention, the family made choices to make ends meet.

When we first met the family in 2010, their eldest son had dropped out of school at form four and the youngest was on the verge of dropping out of primary education. Through sponsorship, the family managed to retain their youngest son at school. Sponsorship became a lifeline for the family, giving them hope and opportunity to invest in their lives.



"When my husband fell ill, life became difficult for us. I am asthmatic and my eldest son could not bear to see how we all suffered. He dropped out of school to work at a garage, fixing tires all day for only \$8. The little that we earn by selling food parcels and home-made confectionery on the roadside helps us, but our income is not regular. We do the best we can and the little that we save, we managed to install tap water and electricity. At least my children want to make life comfortable for us." Mrs Prakash

Change? We all believe that there are changes that not only we look forward to but the people of the nation look forward to. We seek change as an evolution in a better life for our children, safer community from violence, and change in the social fabric of our families. The determination and self-help approach of Prakash family is one about 'Change'.

Managing a family, caring for children and a disabled husband has taken a toll on Mrs. Prakash.

May the miracle of Christmas fill your heart with warmth and love. Christmas is the time of giving and sharing. It is the time of loving and forgiving.

Merry Christmas to Everyone!

from Fenc Fiji management, staff and volunteers.