



Takitaki

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ACT LOCALLY TO CHANGE GLOBALLY!!



Chief Guest Mr Rajesh Prasad emphasizing on how to plant a tree.

FRIEND has initiated community tree planting in an effort to encourage communities to plant food for local consumption to beat the growing food prices. The global concern of increase in food prices is alarming and all citizens have to act to combat this. As a GCAP activity on Stop the Food Crisis Campaign FRIEND engaged youths in planting various fruit trees in a newly subdivision in Lovu, the new HART residence- home for many disadvantage and displaced citizens. The seedlings were sourced from the Ministry of Agriculture. Mr Rajesh Prasad from the Ministry of Agriculture came as a guest and gave helpful hints on planting and care of the seedlings. FRIEND will continue to encourage communities to plant for food and for sustainability of future generations. We thank all the youths who came and planted in the hot sun and thank the sponsors for their support.



Youths take time out for a photo

FRIEND HIBISCUS QUEEN

Desdemona Rosinitoba will be representing FRIEND and poverty issues at the mother of all festivals—the Hibiscus festival in Suva this August. FRIEND is hoping to raise funds for the event and the Hibiscus Committee has been kind enough to offer that all money raised by FRIEND plus 20% will be given back to FRIEND. FRIEND hopes to put this money toward a deposit on a piece of land it wishes to purchase to build workshops for the youths.



Desdemona Rosinitoba

Dessie is a first year student at the USP Suva pursuing a bachelor of Science degree. She hails from Lawaki Village in Kadavu and comes from a family of six children. Dessie looks forward to the one week long carnival and FRIEND wishes her the best of luck.

VOLUNTEERS



Agnes King and Mei Fa Luo (from left) from USP Suva could not have asked for something better than to spend their two weeks semester break with youths in the FACE program at FRIEND. The two girls had arrived with so much enthusiasm that they just blended in well with the other youths. The youths were preparing for their first stage appearance in the Farmers Carnival and the girls had helped in their costumes, stage props and had become stage assistants for the night. Agnes and Mei also helped in the GCAP fundraising dance event.

POVERTY SHAKERS

FACE Youth group from FRIEND put on their first stage performance during the Farmers Carnival. Their poverty themed drama and dance shook the crowd as the audience clapped and stamped for more when they had bowed off stage. The youths come from different backgrounds living in various communities in Lautoka. The FACE programme continues to work with youths in communities through Art, Dance and Music.



FARE THEE WELL



Adi Vasu Chute

The love you have for your family will not take away your visions. Adi Vasu joined FRIEND team in Lautoka for 3 months as a resource person with REAL team. For the past two years she had done part time work for FRIEND in the Northern Division. Staying from home and family was difficult for Adi as she left for Labasa saying her goodbyes however promising to support the work of FRIEND. "I will always come around and hope that we will meet in Labasa" was her words on the farewell day.

FSPI/FRIEND IN GOVERNANCE

Working in partnership with other stakeholders will be a great opportunity and benefit for our communities as a whole. The Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI) has been working in partnership with FRIEND for 4 years. FSPI team was invited to review the governance program at FRIEND and we are thankful for Mr Lionel Gibson and his team which sat on a Saturday and helped us review the program, assisting in planning for the future. FSPI has also pledged its assistance in simplifying the manuals. FRIEND staff look up to FSPI team for mentoring and support in governance program.



What's Happening?

2 August
Fundraising Walkathon

13 August
Bid for a King Auction Night

18-23 August
Hibiscus week

29 August
FRIEND Birthday

1 September
GCAP Month Begins

YELLOW RIBBON CAMPAIGN



FRIEND was invited to the launching of the Yellow Ribbon event that was held in Lautoka on the 18th July, 2008 by the Tui Tavua Ratu Ovini Bokini. There story behind yellow ribbon campaign was about an inmate who wrote to his wife when he was about to be released, asking to be forgiven and if he could be accepted back in the family and community. If she accepts him back, indicate by tying a yellow ribbon at the old oak tree beside their house. The day he was released, he boarded a bus with other inmates who had also been released with him. Nearing his home he bowed his head thinking very deeply of how would he approach his family and community, thinking that his wife won't take him back. To his amazing surprise over 100 yellow ribbons were tied around the old oak tree beside the house. The rest of his fellow inmates cheered on as they too realized the meaning of the yellow ribbon. He knelt down, asking for forgiveness with the whole community waiting to welcome him back.

Hope that we will wear the yellow ribbon with a mission to Love, Accept and Support those who have done wrong to us. REAL program in prison aims to reunite inmates with their families so they don't reoffend.

YOUTHS EMBARK ON AN IGP



Pate & Emori at work

A group of ex-prisoners has taken the initiative to do screen printing as an IGP for themselves. With the help of officers at FRIEND, this group of young men has taken the task of printing out logos on calico bags and printing of T-shirts. The project has enabled these youths to earn income. At the same time they are learning the need for consistency and quality and demands of the market.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WORKSHOP

As part of on going staff capacity building Paulo Bale from Australia Community Justice Program spent 3 days with program staff on tools and processes of Restorative Justice this month. The process helped debrief staff as well as built new skills for the team. FRIEND has been bringing in different skilled resource persons to ensure staff training. Paulo's training was followed by training from Lionel Gibson and his team from FSPI reviewing governance program and working on new processes. Staff also spent time mentoring with Dr Fraser McDonald.

