



Towards Education Assistance



Operating out of a Temporary Headquarters

It is said that the trying times are what shows the true character of a being and the month of January verified the strength of the team at FRIEND.

Even without our own roof on our heads, the organization persevered to reach out to those in need.

Barely two workdays were lost after the destruction caused by TC Evan to the FRIEND Headquarters before the team

had relocated to the new temporary home at YWCA in Lautoka and resumed operations.

Along with visiting communities and providing assistance for rebuilding of homes totally destroyed or those who had their roofs totally blown off in the cyclone, donor reports had to be submitted, funding proposals to be written along with worrying and planning of rebuilding FRIEND village at Tuvu.

On the mat - Staff briefing@ YWCA



Families affected by cyclone Evan are in urgent need of assistance to send their children to school. More than 5000 applications seeking education assistance from the FRIEND Scholarship Scheme have been received at the start of 2013.

The Scholarship Scheme is aimed at assisting struggling families with school fees for primary and secondary education.

Director Sashi Kiran says, while the scheme has been running on the quiet assisting hundreds of children over the last 10 years through contribution of various private donors, the Scheme received a major boost last year with Air Pacific contributing \$FJD 137, 000 and this sum has now been topped up again this year with an additional FJD \$100, 000.

Handing the cheque over to Sashi in Nadi this month Air Pacific CEO Mr Dave Pflieger said, "We're delighted to continue our support for FRIEND, and ensure they continue their amazingly successful scholarship programme so that thousands of children can continue to grow and learn. We are thrilled to be one of their key partners."

Air Pacific's contribution to the Scheme comes from the airlines on-board 'Cash for Kids' and 'Wings of Hope' programmes.

The scheme has also received further funding of FJD \$10,000 from NZAID.

Vodafone ATH Foundation



Vodafone ATH Foundation availed a sum of \$FJD30, 000 towards housing rehabilitation post TC Evan.

This assistance was utilized in providing basic building material like roofing iron, timber, screws and nails to a total of 22 families in the Lautoka area.

First donor to help FRIEND



Canada Fund is the first donor that has stepped forward to assist FRIEND with its recovery after TC Evan. The grant of \$F28,800 will be utilized in resetting of work stations for staff and would go towards replacing destroyed computers, UPS, desks and chairs.

Ausaid, NZAID & the European Union continue to work through FRIEND

Donors pledged their confidence in FRIEND despite the infrastructure loss of the HQ following TC Evan. AU-SAID, FCDP, EU monitoring team and NZAID visited FRIEND to show their continued support to the organization.

While EU coordinating unit discussed strategies on how the GROW project could continue to support farmers needing assistance for crop rehabilitation after cyclone damage, NZAID and AU-SAID were keen in working through FRIEND to provide housing support to those who were in need.

“The support and the concern is much appreciated, but what is even more appreciated is the confidence displayed by the donor agencies towards FRIEND in it's ability to deliver despite it's own state of destruction.”

While the team at FRIEND provided communities with much needed assistance through the donor support, the management has been trying to raise funds to rebuild FRIEND village at Tuvalu.



NZAID- Leonard Chang and Richard Dirk



European Union- CU Team Leader Andrew Winter Taylor & Technical Manager Mohammed Habib



FCDP Team Leader Michael Brownjohn

High-Powered Health Ministry Delegation Acknowledges FRIEND Medical Work in Communities



A high level delegation from the Ministry of Health, headed by the Minister, Dr. Neil Sharma visited FRIEND to discuss and give recognition to the Sustainable Health Programme run by FRIEND in the communities over the last 3 years.

The 13 member delegation included National NCD coordinator, Dr. Isimeli Tukana, DMO Western Dr Susana Nakalevu, Senior Dermatologist Dr. Metuisela Tuicakau, Acting Permanent Secretary for Health, Dr. Joseva Koroivueta and Divisional Health Sister Western, Sr. Leslie Boyd.

The Minister discussed potential partnerships between the MOH and FRIEND to ensure delivery of a wide range of primary health care services in the communities.

FRIEND has been working on NCD management in 40 communities in the west.

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Friend Fiji Robert Oliver, you are awesome!!!! Thank you for being a global ambassador for our products 😊



Me'a Kai hey its easy...the products speak for themselves!

Robert Oliver (left in photo) - Internationally renowned chef and the author of Me'a Kai Cookbook uses Friend's Fiji Style Tamarind Chutney at his cooking shows around the world.
Thank you Robert.



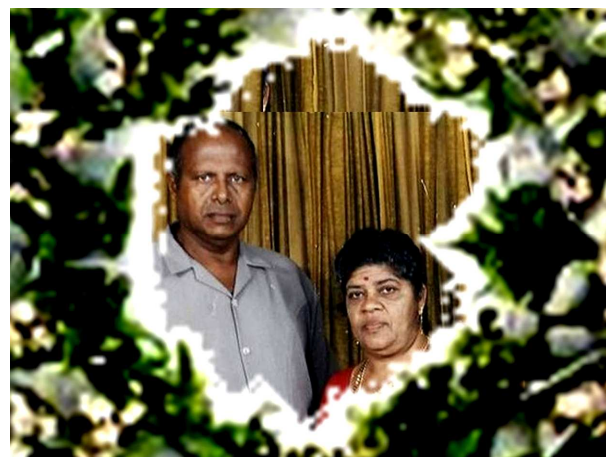
D Book is an attempt to map the various streams of work FRIEND has been doing in largely farming communities in Fiji.

Farmers, housewives, former prisoners, people with disabilities and youth tell their stories about how their lives have been impacted by FRIEND's deliberate push to either involve them in small business, teach valu-

able employment skills or lead a more active and healthier lifestyle.

In his foreword piece, Roko Tui Bau Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi says, "The cases in this book celebrate the strength of the human spirit over adversity and seemingly overwhelming odds. The passion and commitment shown is remarkable."

*Copies of D Book can be ordered online: publications@friendfiji.com
Book Price FJ\$30.00 per copy plus postage*



In fond memory

Late
Mr & Mrs Ram Deo
of Labasa

Words are inadequate to express our heartfelt loss at your sudden demise. Mr Ram Deo and Mrs Padma Deo have served the communities of North as social workers for more than 30 years. Over the last year they would sit at Civic Centre 3 days a week providing services of the Commissioner of Oaths and Justice of Peace free of charge, supporting thousands. They were great supporters of FRIEND and its work in the communities.

Thank you for all the support.



Recipe Corner - Lazy Long Loaf Brushetta with Chilli Chutney

Ingredients

4 slices Long Loaf bread, 1/2 inch thick, butter, 4 cloves of garlic, 1 large tomato sliced, coriander or mint leaves

Method

Preheat your oven.

Arrange the slices of bread in a single layer on a baking sheet. Mix together the butter and finely crushed garlic in a cup or small bowl. Brush onto the slices of bread. Cover each piece of bread with tomato slices, then sprinkle with as much cheese as you like. Sprinkle your favourite Friend's Fiji Style® Chilli Chutney. Put into hot oven for 3 to 5 minutes, until cheese is melted and bread is toasted.

January Birthdays @ FRIEND



Mashnil



Mereani



Solo

Happy Birthday

GROW YEN UPDATE

The European Union funded GROW Youth Employment Network programme has reached Ba after successfully completing sessions in Lautoka and Nadi.

20 youth members from Ba cane farming communities were screened and selected from the 60 applications received for the programme.

YEN is designed to assist and guide the youth's personal and professional development to be able to enter the job market.

FRIEND has teamed up with The University of the South Pacific, Lautoka Campus to take the skills and personal development training to youth in their own communities.

FRIEND also strives to develop leadership and social responsibility amongst participants.

FRIEND Youth Officer Mashnil Shinoy says 16 participants from the first set of 20 participants that had undertaken the programme in Lautoka have also completed their required work attachment period this month and are now preparing for their graduation in April.

The graduation will be held with the inaugural GROW Conference earmarked for 17 April 2013.

The conference is expected to see close to 300 beneficiaries from the EU-funded GROW activities of Cash Crop Farming, Poultry, Bee Keeping, Food Processing and YEN converge at the Girmit Center in Lautoka for a day of sharing and learning.



Snapshots from the field - January



Mereani takes time to meet a homeowner who lost her roof



Sashi pours herbal tea for visitors at the destroyed HQ



Ronil treads his path up to a destroyed home



Delivery team clears debris as they go into areas beyond reach.

Sandhya - Stole a power nap during a break while out in the field



Seka digs through his seed bag for food security