



The "I Have a Dream"® Charitable Trust

We are pleased to bring you the fifth issue of the newsletter for the "I Have a Dream"® program in NZ.



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Key Events

It's been another great few months for the "I Have a Dream"® Project, Wesley Class of 2012.

Key events include:

- We have added two very young "honourary" Dreamers to our Project Elijah and Elyahna Backhouse were born on Sat 6th of September
- Huia Dam was the scene of our latest Field Trip
- The July & Sept School Holiday Program's were fun and instructive
- Continued responses to the publicity from our Launch Event
- ANZ computers installed in Dreamers' homes
- Academic research supports programs such as IHAD

Two Newest and Youngest (Honourary) Dreamers

Ant & Nina were blessed last month with the arrival of not one, but two bundles of joy; Elijah Yanni and Elyahna Zandra Backhouse. As you can see in this photo, they're already dreaming about their future! Mum and Dad are delighted with their son and daughter. And you have to admire their timing after all, Ant just started training a group of 36 potential babysitters!



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Field Trip to Huia Dam

The weather didn't look promising on Sunday Sept 7th, but that didn't prevent a group of 45 Dreamers, family and volunteers from boarding the bus for Huia Dam. It was a good chance to experience the beauty of Auckland's Waitakere Ranges, and get a practical example of our science discussions this term on the "Water Cycle." Plus, as you can see in this picture of Mikaele and "friend," it's amazing what kids can find at the seashore!



School Holiday Program

The school holidays in July saw a very productive week of activities and trips. One of the highlights was the day at MOTAT (Museum of Transport and Technology), kindly supported by our friends at HP. Similarly, the day spent building and then flying their kites showed that education can be fun, and fun can be educational!

For the September School Holidays we partnered with the Wesley Community Centre school holiday program where the children spent the week having fun at the movies, going ten-pin bowling, and participating in many team challenges with other children from around the Wesley Community.



Publicity

One of the most heartening things about being involved with an IHAD project is the reactions we get from the community when they hear about the program, and understand its impact. We have been blessed with many offers of encouragement and assistance, resulting from the publicity. For example:

- One lady who called to volunteer in our After School Program, Cheryl Bowie, has since decided to become even more involved, and is donating one day per week to work as our (very necessary!) Volunteer Coordinator.
- A local bookstore contacted us, and offered to provide any books we need for the Dreamers, at cost. This is a significant savings for the program.
- We have been invited to present the IHAD story to the Mt Roskill Rotary Club, the North Shore Rotary Club, the Auckland Regional Catholic Men's Breakfast, and the Hot Spot program at Massey Community Church.

ANZ Computers for the Dreamers' Homes

We have installed the 20 computers donated by ANZ Bank into the Dreamers' homes, and they have been very well-received! Microsoft donated the software for these, and the Encarta encyclopaedia is a big hit with the Dreamers and their siblings. Sadly, we have another 10 families that requested PCs, which we can't supply. Please advise if you know of any business that is upgrading their desktop PCs and might be willing to donate the used systems to this worthwhile cause.



Academic Research into the Need for, and Benefits of, IHAD

For a year now we have been active in the Wesley community in Mt Roskill, Auckland. In our last newsletter, we updated you on our launch event. Since then the public and media alike have asked us, "Why"?

- Why does New Zealand need educational charitable programs such as IHAD?
- Why does a program like IHAD work?

These are very valid questions! One of the benefits of IHAD is that it draws on 20+ years of experience, plus great connections to the academic researchers that specialize in this vital area of education. So, we have compiled a whitepaper, attached to this newsletter, to address these issues. In it, we look at some alarming statistics about educational outcomes in NZ, and consider some academic research from the United States (which offers amazing parallels to our own country), and the implications of these suggestions.

We apologise in advance for the fact that this whitepaper is fairly heavy going. But we beg you to persevere! The issues are not as simple as the people on talk-back radio suggest. And it is vital: we are talking about our children, and the future of our country.

"The "I Have a Dream"® Program helps children from low-income areas reach their education and career goals by providing a long-term program of mentoring, tutoring, and enrichment, with an assured opportunity for higher education."