

The "I Have a Dream"® Charitable Trust



Welcome to the inaugural issue of the newsletter for the "I Have a Dream"® program in New Zealand. We are very excited to bring you news on our progress to become the first project outside the US for IHAD. For a quick overview of what exactly IHAD is, please see the "About Us" brochure, or the excellent web site: www.ihad.org

Key Events

Inside this issue:

<i>Key Events</i>	1
<i>N.Z's First PC!</i>	1
<i>Two Great Trustees!</i>	2
<i>The Dreamers</i>	2
<i>The School</i>	2
<i>You</i>	2

Key events so far include:

- Approval from the Staff and Board of Trustees at Wesley Primary School in Mt Roskill for us to adopt the Year 4 class in 2003. This means that all of the approx 35 children in next year's Year 4 will become the first Kiwi "Dreamers."
- Ant Backhouse has agreed to become the Project Coordinator (PC) for this first project. See below for more on Ant, and his wonderful wife, Nina.
- Vasa Key, Deputy Principal at Wesley Primary, and Senior Constable Nick Tuitasi, a policeman at Mt Roskill and developer of their Troubled Youth Program, have agreed to become Trustees of the IHAD Charitable Trust. Please see next page for more on these two fantastic people.



- The generous decision by the school (pictured above) to give us a classroom that we can dedicate to the IHAD program, for after-school activities and weekend/holiday programming. It will also be a great location for Ant to have his office - right on the school grounds!

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N.Z's First PC!

We are tremendously privileged to have a person like Ant accept this role. He is already well known to many children, families, teachers and supporters of the Mt Roskill schools, through his role with the Wesley Urban Hope Trust. Ant and Nina Backhouse started their involvement 4 years ago, by leading a contingent from their Elim Church to see what they could contribute to the community. Since that time, Ant has initiated many programs in the Wesley community such as: After-school life skills programs, Arts programs, Homework Programs, Soccer training, The All Star club etc.



From Left: Nina and Ant Backhouse

Ant was able to attend the 2002 PC Conference in Boulder, Colorado, in August, and impressed all the American PCs with his enthusiasm and energy. He established many friendships with the wonderful people he met there, and they have all been generous with their time and advice as Ant prepares for the Program's rollout in Jan 2003.



From Top:
Vasa Auva'a-Key
Nick Tuitasi

Two Great Trustees!

Vasa and Nick epitomise the term "community spirit." Vasa has been at Wesley Primary for 10 years, rising to become Deputy Principal in 1996. She is highly passionate about this community and is also a Trustee for Ant's Urban Hope Trust.

Nick is renowned throughout the country for his ground-breaking work with youth. He was awarded the QSM in 1998 in recognition for this work, and continues to kindly commit himself in response to many of the requests for his time and assistance.

We are extremely grateful for Vasa's and Nick's willingness to support the IHAD program as it enters NZ.

The Dreamers

Ant has started to meet one-on-one with this year's Year 3 class, explaining what they will be doing in the New Year. As you can see in this photo, the kids are beautiful, keen about the program, and ready to embark on their own Dreams!



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The School

Wesley Primary is a Decile 1 school in the heart of Mt Roskill, Auckland. It represents the exciting new face of NZ, in that it serves a multi-ethnic community, with over 14 countries represented in the student body from places throughout the Pacific Islands, Africa, India, Asia and the Middle East.

The principal, Brian Laing, has been an enthusiastic backer for IHAD since he first heard about it back in April of this year.

We have presented the Program to both the Staff and the Board of Trustees, and have received very positive support for implementing it at Wesley Primary. This support was recently manifested in the marvelous gesture to provide a classroom for IHAD's Dreamer Centre (pictured left). Ant has already put in some work, setting up his office and the computer/work tables. Yet to come is a storage space, some carpeting, and maybe a few chairs!



Above: The New Dreamers Centre

You

You've received this newsletter because you know Ant or Scott, or have already spoken to them about IHAD. We welcome your interest. As we implement and grow the program over the next few years, we will be looking for a number of resources, such as:

- Tutors, to help the Dreamers with reading, homework, etc.
- Mentors, for long-term relationships with individual Dreamers

- Corporate Partners, who are willing to speak to the Dreamers about careers, arrange Site Visits, etc.
- Organisations, such as the Museum, MOTAT, Kelly Tarltons, etc., who would be able to host the Dreamers on weekend trips and summer camps

Please contact us if you have any personal interest in being involved, or if you can introduce us to people that might be.

Thanks...

"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."