

The "I Have a Dream"® Charitable Trust

Welcome to the third issue of the newsletter for the "I Have a Dream"® program in NZ. Please check out our **updated** web site (www.ihaveadream.org.nz).



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Key Events

We've had some important "firsts" in these past two months, and we've been very busy preparing for our Public Launch. Key events include:

- The first IHAD NZ **Field Trip**, to Rangitoto, was held on March 15th.
- We participated in the first International IHAD **Community Service Day**.
- Ant conducted the first **School Holiday Program** for our Dreamers
- Tuesday May 20th is the public launch of IHAD in NZ – please join us!



Field Trip

As you can see in these photos, an extended group of 87 people (Dreamers, Family Members and Volunteers) had a fantastic trip to Rangitoto Island on Saturday March 15th. We are very grateful to **Fullers Ferry**, who provided free tickets for the Dreamers and Volunteers, and facilitated what was, for many people, their first trip to the island.

We were lucky the day wasn't too hot and sunny, because it is an exhausting climb up the volcano, but well worth the view at the top! Everyone who attempted the climb made it to the top – well done! It was also a very educational walk, with excellent interpretive signs provided by DOC to explain the volcanic activity. Of course, the kids were more interested in racing to the top of the mountain, rather than stopping to read about it! Check out the informative DOC web site: <http://www.doc.govt.nz> (search for Rangitoto).

Computer Lab

With the description of our wonderful new Computer Lab in the last newsletter, we neglected to mention the great work of **EDtech**, the reseller who installed our network, server and client PCs. Not only did they do a stellar job, especially in getting it ready for the opening of the school year, but they also kindly discounted their fees for us. We apologise for not recognising their generosity and efforts in the last newsletter.

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Community Service Day

IHAD NZ joined with 1300 other Dreamers from IHAD projects across 16 states of the USA in an International Community Service Day on Saturday April 12th. The Dreamers proposed cleaning up the mess around the unused swimming pool on the school grounds. As you can see in these photos, we filled up a huge skip with junk, and thoroughly earned the barbeque lunch.

We are very appreciative of the efforts of the staff volunteers from **ANZ Bank** who came along to help. They provided great support and encouragement to the Dreamers. We are also thankful for the goods received from the **Mad Butcher Mt Roskill**, **Resene Colourshop New Lynn**, and **Auckland City Parks Services**.



School Holiday Program

The first week of these school holidays saw the Dreamers spend 4 days participating in fun activities and learning. Trips to the swimming pool and ice-skating rink were interspersed with continued life skills training, reading and writing, and preparation for the Launch Event.



May
20th

IHAD NZ Launch Event!

Please join us at 7 pm on Tuesday May 20th for the official launch of the "I Have a Dream" program, in the hall at Wesley Primary School, 24 Potter Ave, Mt Roskill. We have an exciting event planned, including performances from the Dreamers, a great Guest Speaker, and a recitation of the Dreamer Pledge. The Dreamers' parents are going all out on cultural decorations for the hall and the traditionally generous Pacific Island supper. We are expecting a big crowd for this important celebration, so please RSVP to Ant or Scott. This will help us to ensure adequate catering.

Volunteers Required.....

The fact remains that we are in desperate need of more volunteers. Ant is often running the *After School Program* on his own, which is not easy with 18+ young Dreamers requiring individual attention and assistance. We are approaching groups like the local High Schools, U3A, Probus, etc., but would appreciate any suggestions or introductions you can make for us. Please look at our web site for an overview of the various volunteer opportunities, and encourage anyone you know who might want to get involved with these wonderful kids as they embark on their Dreams.

"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."