

The "I Have a Dream"® Charitable Trust

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



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Key Events

It's been a very successful two months since our last newsletter. Key events include:

- The official launch of IHAD in NZ on May 20th was a great success
- We garnered a ton of (mostly) positive publicity
- The Dreamers enjoyed a fantastic local production of "Godspell"
- The Dreamers created a wonderful mural for a local art competition

IHAD NZ Launch Event

Words cannot do justice to this great event although there were many passionate and positive words spoken and sung that evening! The photos below illustrate some of the fun and pageantry enjoyed at this community celebration:



- The incredible cultural performances from the Dreamers were a testament to the guidance they received from Vasa and Ant, and their many hours of practice.
- The hall decorations by the Dreamers and their parents were a great example of the beauty and skills of the Pacific Island peoples. Not to mention the huge feast that followed!
- Nick Tuitasi, Brian Laing and Ant Backhouse made very powerful speeches about the benefits of the IHAD program.
- Cheers and clapping greeted the Dreamers as they introduced themselves, and their dreams.
- And there were very few dry eyes in the hall after the recitation of the Dreamer Pledge and the Parents Pledge.

We recorded the event, and have a videotape (approx 90 minutes) available. Please contact us if you could use a copy, to promote the IHAD program throughout New Zealand.

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Publicity

There has been a very welcome increase in public awareness of the IHAD program as a result of the Launch Event. We want to express our warm appreciation for the efforts of Kyra Crowther and her firm, DonovanBoyd, for the great work they did (and the discounted rates!). The following media ran stories in the 2 months following:

NZ Herald
Education Weekly
Niu FM

North Shore Times
Unlimited Magazine
Life FM

Central Leader
National Radio
TV1 Breakfast Show

Otago Daily Times
1ZB Newstalk Radio
Tangata Pasifica TV

Southland Times
Radio Rhema

No new sponsors have stepped up yet, although we received enquiries from a number of schools and citizens around the country who would love to see the program implemented in their communities.

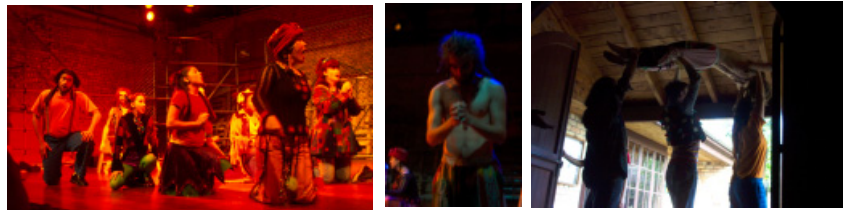
The only negative feedback received was on the subject of whether the Government should be doing this kind of program, rather than private groups. The two organizations promoting this line of reasoning are QPEC (Quality Public Education Council) and CPAG (Child Poverty Action Group). It's a worthwhile debate, which we look forward to contributing to. However, the current reality is that the Government is not doing this kind of program, and a huge need does exist. We can all just sit back and point the finger, or we can actually do something about it ourselves. Therefore, we would love to hear from anyone who is interested in sponsoring a class of Dreamers! We are willing to support anyone, anywhere in the country, to start another IHAD Project.

Volunteers

The publicity from our Launch Event, plus recent visits to the two local High Schools (Mt Roskill Grammar and Mt Albert Grammar), have resulted in a welcome upswing of volunteers for our After School Program. We also have a team of Mums, lead by Mary Gilmour, coming in on a weekly basis to conduct intensive 1:1 reading sessions with the Dreamers who are behind their age level in reading skills. We welcome these new volunteers, and any others who wish to become involved.

Field Trip to "Godspell"

The Dreamers thoroughly enjoyed seeing this musical on Wednesday June 25th at the Pumphouse Theatre in Takapuna. It was put on by a high-energy group from the Real Theatre Company, which told the story of Jesus Christ with music, drama and humour.



Westmart's BIG GREEN ART Competition

West Auckland's "Westmart Business Incubator" is holding a recycled art competition to commemorate the opening of their new Enterprise Centre. It's focused on the theme of entrepreneurship, especially growing "tall poppies" in NZ.

Ant held a competition among the Dreamers to come up with the best theme and artwork for our entry, and then had the kids collect over 3,000 bottle tops, to create the piece you can see below. Prize giving (for \$1,000 worth of prizes!) happens on July 29th, so keep your fingers crossed for our artistic and creative young people.



"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."