

# Friends of St Jude's

## Fighting poverty by spreading awareness

The School of St. Jude

Dear Friend's of St Jude's,

February 1, 2009

As the world grapples with the financial crisis, I must say that on more than one occasion I have turned to St Jude and said a little prayer for hope. As people around the world struggle to keep jobs and homes, sponsorships are dropped, donations cease and visitors stay closer to home. St Jude's, with over 1100 students, and 300 staff is finding itself in deep waters and always happy for a helping hand.

I have always been told that a friend in need, is a friend indeed, and it is tough times like these that really show the love, dedication and support from all our Friends around the world. I have some amazing stories of imagination, awareness spreading and generosity to share with you. Hopefully this newsletter will put a smile on your face, as we once again get together and thank our amazing support network from around the world. Enjoy these stories and please remember to send me any pictures and events that you wish to share.



*Patrick and Audrey happy in love, have selflessly chosen to use their wedding as a means to raise awareness for St Jude's and forgo all their wedding gifts. What can we say? All you need is love...*

## A Friend in Need...

One of the most exciting times for a young couple is getting engaged and planning their wedding. It is a time of hope, as family and friends get together to celebrate the love and give the young couple a boost into their life together. Traditionally wedding gifts are designed to lend a helping hand at this new beginning, and are always a great source of comfort to any new couple setting out on their own.

How amazing is it then, when such a young couple decides that rather than accept the generosity of family and friends to benefit their new life as a married couple, they would rather this show of support go to 1148 children on the other side of the world? Personally I had never dreamt of anyone sacrificing so much at such an exciting, but also at such a nerve wrecking time. So when I got an email passed along through our Friend's Program from Patrick and Audrey asking if they could do exactly this, I was left speechless...

Patrick Schaerrer and Audrey Callus are to be wed in Dubai this April. In their late twenties and early thirties, they are working diligently to save money for a home and future together, and are celebrating their wedding with approximately 400 people from around the world. As Patrick and Audrey had spent last Christmas in Tanzania on Safari, they were both acutely aware of the struggles we face in our fight against poverty here. Thanks to this fantastic idea, however, every single guest that received an invitation to the wedding also received a letter from The School of St Jude describing our work and efforts. Besides raising awareness, Audrey and Patrick are also hoping to raise some much needed funds, and had their invitations read: "If you wish to give Patrick and Audrey a wedding gift, please pick one of the packages below, which will directly go towards providing over 1000 children with medicine, food, books and stationery supplies."

Thank you Patrick and Audrey!!! Congratulations from all of us here at St Jude's on your upcoming wedding, and thank you for your incredible generosity and good-heartedness.

## Is a Friend Indeed...



Our second story takes us to Paula and Mike Newcomb, to a country town called Robertson about two hours south of Sydney. Each month on the second Sunday of the month the town has a Market Day---Robertson Markets---where people hire a space and sell their wares.

On the 14th December, however, Tanzania came to Robertson. Paula and Mike arranged to have a space to sell goods for St. Jude's, and received a complimentary spot to make their event.

*A busy day at the market, as power team Paula and Mike Newcomb transform Robertson market day into an awareness raising event for St Jude's in Tanzania.*

The really great part of this story is that it was a group project. Many friends and family donated goods for the stall from books, clothing, soft cuddly toys, and crockery, to ornaments and any goodies they could find. Paula, Mike and their support team spent hours sorting, washing and pricing all items individually, and in the end feel a special thanks needs to go out to some of their friends: "We couldn't have done it without the help of good friends Paul and Anne Robertson, Heather Pullsford and our son Paul."

The stall was decorated with St Jude's posters, and brochures were handed out to anyone who was willing to listen. In the end, the event was a great success, as the team raised \$1302 which "we would like to use this money to sponsor half a child and half a teacher in 2009." What a great thought and effort Mike and Paula, and to all your friends and family that joined in. Asante Sana!!!!

## Looking Forwards...

Stories like these two by Audrey and Patrick, and Mike and Paula have a great impact on our success here. It is not because money was raised directly, as I am sure will be the case once the wedding of Audrey and Patrick actually takes place. Rather, it is the awareness that is spread. How many people picked up a brochure at Robertson Market that day? How many people went to the website after receiving Audrey and Patrick's wedding invitation? The answer is hundreds. Just the other day a gentlemen came to our school here in Moshono, and asked for a tour. After the tour he promptly decided to sign up and pay for four full sponsorships on the spot. We could not believe it! When we asked him how he heard about our school, he said he simply bumped into someone on the street who had bought a St Jude's shirt in order to spread awareness.

We are incredibly thankful for donations, and for sponsorships. But that unknown man who took the time to speak about St Jude's when asked has also rendered us a priceless service. He is a friend of St Jude's, and thanks to him and all our Friend's out there, the news of our work here is reaching more and more people world wide. Thank you!!

I hope you enjoyed these stories as much as me! Thank you again for your continued support, and I can't wait to hear from you!

*Gemma*

*Anne Rogers took her birthday party as an opportunity to make an informational event about St Jude's. All her friend's dressed up in Kanga's, listen to African music while they ate on the deck under the stars, and while it was "not quite the Serengeti... we imagined that the kangaroos hopping around were lions." After dinner they watched the St Jude's DVD, and now her friends are planning a visit....How wonderful Anne! Karibu anytime!!!*

