

Friends of St Jude's

Fighting Poverty Through Spreading Awareness

Dear Friends of St Jude's,

June 2009

After the second feature of St Jude's in "The Australian Story," the Friend's program has just exploded all over again. I received hundreds of new requests asking to join the Friends' program. I am so delighted then, that in this feature, the first that many of our new Friends will read, I have such a diverse and exciting set of events to share with you. From Dance recitals and flower sales, to one personal crusade to spread the news about St Jude's, Friends' of St Jude's are out and about, helping us all to keep the doors open, the children fed and their heads in books. I hope you enjoy these stories and feel free to email me anytime with event ideas or pictures of how you have helped get the news about St Jude's out there.

Hopefully this Newsletter will also act as a source of inspiration, as well as enjoyment, as you can see how much fun Friend's can be, and how your events can be as big or as small as you want. Enjoy!!!!



On Fri 3rd April the teachers and students from World Fusion Dance Company in Brisbane, put on a show of dances.... \$1 from each student enrolled is donated to be split between UNHCR Aust, St Jude's Tanzania and Medecins Sans Frontieres Aust. Truly Amazing!!!

A Friend for everyone...

This New Year I had a great email waiting from me from a passionate woman called Katina Karakatsanis. Katina had read about St Jude's and decided to get involved: "I would like to let you know that I have decided that St Jude's will be one of 3 charities that my dance school supports in 2009." World Fusion Dance Company teaches world dance styles to adults and hopefully soon children as well. To help raise awareness and funds, Katina allocated \$1 of each student's fee to be split between UNHCR, MSF & St Jude's. Katina went on to say that "I figure every dollar makes a difference and it's not only raising funds, but importantly raising awareness amongst my students, their families and friends." This is so true Katina!!! Every dollar makes a great difference here, and it is only through raising awareness that people around the world can and will get involved.

On April 3rd, Katina, along with her students and staff, put on an amazing dance recital to benefit St Jude's. "It was decided that all funds raised on the evening would be donated to 1 of these 3 charities. For term one 2009, it was decided that we wanted to raise enough to sponsor a child and teacher from St Jude's." Katina made a presentation about St Jude's to the over 100 guests, and all present got involved in some way to benefit those children less fortunate and so far away. While the teachers and students donated their performance, the University donated the theatre, guests donated goods for the school and the photographer and video tech donated their time and services. The event was a great success, and in the end "I have 2 boxes of goodies to send over as well as we raised enough to sponsor half a teacher and half student!!!!"



Thank you Katina. Not only did you bring a smile to every student and guest at the recital, but you also brought hope to the students at St Jude's and the news about our fight against poverty to your whole area. We really appreciate it and keep up your amazing and inspirational work!!!

World Fusion Dance is a dance company for adults in Brisbane promoting dance as an alternative form of fitness, stress-relief, social network and cultural awareness through the rhythms and movements of world dance.

A Friend for everyone...



Joyce Joyner, finally with a copy of St Jude's...right before she gave that book away as well :). Good on you Joyce! You are doing an amazing job of spreading the word. I have sent you another copy with a personal note from me, in the mail. Now this one is for you!

For the Kay family, Janene, Darren, Aimee, Jaidyn, and Brodie, helping support and spread awareness for St Jude's has almost become a family tradition.

Last year the Kay's launched a Protea sale, selling flowers, school calendars, and featuring the St. Jude's book and a book they had made about their sponsor child, Noel. The Kay children "handed out pamphlets to anyone interested in the school and talked to many people about St. Jude's and about what they are trying to do to help." Finally, the money raised was sent to Darren Kay's work, who added 50% before sending it on to the school. If this was not amazing enough, this year the Kay's did it all over again!!!

One again the "kids have done a really great job" and raised a little more than last year at \$3200. Darren's work (Dimension Data) again added 50% before sending it on to St Jude's. With these funds the Kay's covered their sponsorship of Noel, and donated the rest to helping us cover school costs. Most importantly, however, with their Protea sale, the Kay family once again spoke about St Jude's to anyone who would listen, spreading the news about St Jude's where we can not. Thank you again for your support and care Janene, Darren, Aimee, Jaidyn and Brodie. You are an amazing family!!!

A special thanks to all our Friends, old and new, for the work and dedication that you have shown in joining and supporting The School of St Jude's network. If you have held an event, big or small, formal or informal, or have a story that you would like featured, please send me some pictures. I would love to share your efforts with all our supporters.

With Love

Gemma

This next story never fails to bring me a smile. This is the amazing crusade of one determined woman to spread the news of St Jude's to anyone who will listen...or read. :)

Joyce Joyner was born in Sydney in 1916. A part of Joyce always dreamed of going to Africa as a missionary. While she never had the chance to do so, she did visit Zimbabwe in the 1980's, which forged a strong and caring bond between Joyce and Africa.

According to her daughter Sandra, Joyce became involved with St Jude's when "She heard Gemma on her little transistor radio about 3 years ago and although nearly blind wanted to get a copy of Gemma's book. So we bought one which I read to her." Once she knew the whole tale of St Jude's, she wanted another for each of her granddaughters. So after having given away those three books, she then gave hers away to a nurse in the Village. As Joyce, after buying four books, STILL did not have her own, another copy was bought. Not surprisingly, another two copies later Joyce is still bookless, having passed on the three subsequent copies and the message of St Jude's to anyone willing to read.

What inspires Joyce and Sandra? The "determination to change the lives of so many children and families which will make our world a better place." Thank you both for doing your part in the fight against poverty through education. You have spread awareness to countless people, and we over here can not thank you enough!

...A Friend for St Jude's



Aimee, Jaidyn and Brodie Kay, at their stall selling beautiful Proteas. Mom Janene felt "so proud of the time and effort our children have been prepared to invest in this venture to make it happen." We at St Jude's feel the same way. Thank you to the whole family!!!