



ADRA UPDATE

ROEUN GOES THE EXTRA MILE

Every trip to the edge of the field reminded Rouen of his inability to provide a safe toilet for his family. Day and night, in any season or weather, his family completed these walks of shame. Having fled to a refugee camp on the Thai border during Pol Pot's vicious regime Rouen returned to the Bakan district, Cambodia in 1993. For more than 20 years he lived without access to a toilet and a severe lack of safe water. Left with no other option he and his family, like two-thirds of all rural Cambodians, practiced open defecation.

Stop and imagine for a second – everytime nature called, you had to walk publicly to an unhygienic place that lacked any form of hand washing or sanitation facilities.

"My family had abdominal pain and diarrhoea very often," he remembers. "We spent a lot of time seeking medical care." With no access to proper sanitation facilities, disease spread quickly and recovery was slow. Typhoid and diarrhoea were common – and potentially deadly. Fortunately, Rouen hasn't had to bury a child due to water borne diseases (74% of all deaths in Cambodia result from unsafe water). For the children, this meant time away from school and the chance at a brighter future. For Rouen and his wife, sickness took them away from their vital jobs. A lack of income often meant not being able to feed their family for the day.

Things started to change for Rouen's family when ADRA began partnering with his community through the Bakan Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project. Rouen's family is one of 600 in the area that have been provided with a sanitary latrine, improved access to safe drinking water and provided with ongoing education and support to improve family hygiene practices.

"This change has helped to reduce my family sicknesses and reduce the time and money spent for being sick," says Roeun. Thanks to your support more than 3,000 families have been taught about safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices and are working together to make long-term changes to their community. The changes in his family's health are a shining example of the extraordinary things that can happen in a place like Bakan, and Roeun is now seen as a role-model in his community. He is active in encouraging others to modify their behaviours and work with ADRA to improve their lives.

None of this would have been possible without your support. But we need your help to continue doing more in the lives of families like Rouen's.

March is your chance to do something extraordinary. Did you know that one-third of your donation to ADRA before 31 March can be claimed back through your tax return? By donating more now, you can provide more for people who need it, and still end up with the same amount in your bank. For example it costs \$100 to provide a latrine for a family like Rouen's. But, for an extra \$50 given today, you can provide that family with a latrine AND access to clean drinking water - and you'll then receive your extra \$50 tax refund back after 31 March.

Please give to our 'Same, Same but More' Appeal before the end of March and help us raise the \$50,000 we need to do more extraordinary things with families like Rouen's. Donate online now at www.adra.org.nz/more, call 0800 499 911, or simply return the form included in this newsletter to ADRA New Zealand.

THINK ABOUT IT | 13,000 people have been forced to leave their homes due to damage by Cyclone Winston.

FROM THE CEO

There is something extraordinary I need to share with you, but before I do there is some sadder news you may have heard on the grapevine. Since 2012 I have been blessed to serve as the CEO of ADRA New Zealand and work with the team that makes this organisation amazing. Unfortunately, that is about to change.

I have recently been asked to take up the position of Vice President for Marketing at ADRA International, based in frosty Washington, USA. It was not an easy decision to move so far, but I believe God has opened a door and has a plan that is far bigger than just me. So the rumours are true, I am leaving New Zealand but I am not leaving the ADRA family. I'm not sure I ever will! And, I'm comforted with the knowledge that you too are part of the ADRA family and no matter where

in the world we may be we'll continue working together to help families thrive.

Now the extraordinary news: There's no such thing as a free lunch. Money doesn't grow on trees. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is. These sayings are very familiar to us. But do you believe them? I do, mostly. I say mostly because I am about to share with you an opportunity to make some free money – and possibly enjoy a free lunch too. And, the best part – it's not even illegal!

Here's the extraordinary opportunity - every tax-deductible gift made to ADRA New Zealand is eligible for a 1/3 refund from the Government.

With the end of tax-year approaching now is the time to do something extra-ordinary. As the flier in this ADRA update demonstrates, a donation of \$150 will actually only cost you \$100 (after your \$50 refund) – and allow us to do so much more (and that's even before we combine that with the government match funds we receive – up to \$4 for every \$1 you give)!

Simply complete and return the included form to us here at ADRA New Zealand and do something extraordinary for someone like Rouen (their story features on the front page).



MATT SILIGA

Matt Siliga
Chief Executive Officer

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please join with us as we pray for the following:

Syria: The Syrian conflict has now passed the five year-mark. Please continue to pray for the protection and healing of Syria.

Philippines: A three-year ADRA New Zealand funded project in the Philippines has come to its close. Join us as we pray for the families who have been impacted by this project and that they may continue to live healthier and happier lives. Please also pray for God's guidance as we plan for a new, life-changing project.

Fiji: Please pray for the families affected by Cyclone Winston and the teams on the ground working to meet their urgent needs.

6-8 MARCH

QUEENSTOWN CLASSIC
SPONSOR A CYCLIST AT
WWW.ADRA.ORG.NZ/QUEENSTOWNCLASSIC

31 MARCH

TAX REBATE
SUPPORT ADRA AND RECEIVE A 3RD
OF YOUR DONATION BACK

1 MAY

CPP DEADLINE
GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN!

CONTACT US

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Royal Oak | Auckland 1023
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Paotonu

OUR WORK OVERSEAS

CYCLONE WINSTON – ADRA'S RESPONSE IN FIJI

As we go to print, ADRA is active on the ground in Fiji in response to Cyclone Winston. Below is the information as it stands. For up to date information about the response or to donate visit www.adra.org.nz/fiji

Cyclone Winston, the strongest storm to ever hit the South Pacific brought winds in excess of 300km/h and torrential rain. As a result entire communities were flattened, and homes and farms flooded. More than 60,000 people are in need of urgent assistance. Critical infrastructure including power, communication, water and roads have also received significant damage.

"ADRA staff on the ground have been busy preparing to meet people's most urgent needs," said Victoria Fray, International Programme Director for ADRA New Zealand. "We also have a trained team of international experts now on the ground."

ADRA Fiji has pre-positioned supplies on the two main islands of Fiji which will ensure they can respond quickly. Plus, staff from the agency's ongoing community development projects will begin assessments as soon as the storm has passed. "ADRA New Zealand currently supports two long-term development projects in Fiji, so our local knowledge and existing networks will really help us to respond effectively to this disaster." With homes, food sources and water infrastructure damaged the effects of Cyclone Winston are likely to be felt for months to come.



A child wanders through what remains of their house.

OUR WORK AT HOME



iTHRIST CAFE

Between the ages of 10-25 young people make some of the toughest and most significant decisions of their lifetimes. Equipped with positive skills and role-models they can be set up for a successful and productive life. Without them life often spiral out of control.

Recognising this, the leadership team at New Lynn Adventist Church (Auckland) have partnered with ADRA to develop the iThirst Café – a youth mentoring project built on ADRA's Be Somebody 2 Someone mentoring programme. "We wanted to find a way to develop our young people, but also connect with and serve our community," says Sally Lavea, a youth mentor at the New Lynn Adventist Church.

Once a month the iThirst Café would open its doors to up to 200 youth and community members. "They came to enjoy quality food and drinks, listen to some great testimonies, and fellowship together," Miss Lavea said. "As part of the program a guest speaker shared their testimony focusing on issues such as identity, living your passion, and the power of tenacity."

More than just hearing inspirational messages, the café also allowed youth from New Lynn to practice and master a range of different skills. "Whether it was serving food, dealing with funding, or running the event, each person had an area where they were needed and could belong. Everyone from the New Lynn youth group had the opportunity to be part of a team and work in an area that suited their skills and passions. These are vital steps to building resilient young people."

"In a world where broken families, poverty, homelessness, reality TV and cyber bullying are normalised, we wanted our young people to learn the value of real connection and the blessing of serving others."

Interested in making a difference in the lives of young people, and serving your community? Visit www.besomebody2someone.org.nz or contact us today!

THINK ABOUT IT | 4 million people in Cambodia don't have access to safe water.



GETTING INVOLVED

RUNNERS CHOOSE LIFE | Why would 350 people choose to compete in a fun run at the height of Rotorua's summer heat? Because they were choosing life!

The inaugural Choose Life Fun Run saw 350 people (and one assistance dog) complete either a 3km or 6km course around Rotorua's Government Gardens. "It was a great event! Everyone was encouraged to get involved in one way or another," says Karyn Newson.

Run in partnership with Adventist Health Ministries, the event was designed to promote healthy living but also

provide vital funds to continue ADRA's work supporting families in Rotorua, with more than \$1,500 raised.

Planning is already underway for the next Choose Life Fun Run. A special thanks to the volunteers who spent the hot afternoon cheering and guiding participants around the track!

Check out photos from the day (and other ADRA projects and events) on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/adra.newzealand

SANITARIUM 'BILDIMS' SCHOOLS IN VANUATU

What does an umbrella, bakeware, snack mixes, computers, and strawberries all have in common? They were just some of the ways staff at Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing raised over NZ\$60,000 to build a school in Vanuatu!

All Sanitarium companies across the Tasman united in an extraordinary effort to give back to people who needed it most. Initially setting a target of \$40,000, Sanitarium went above and beyond with every department fundraising in their own way. "It's who we are as a business, to give back to our communities at

home and abroad," says Sanitarium New Zealand representative, Kelsey O'Brien.

In Vanuatu, 20% of primary aged and 60% of high school aged children are not in school. These statistics worsened significantly after Cyclone Pam. Thanks to Sanitarium's support the completely destroyed school at Enekis can now be rebuilt – giving local children the opportunity to receive a life-changing education.

A huge thanks to all Sanitarium staff and suppliers who got behind the Bildim Schools project!

Could your company be interested in working alongside ADRA and making a life-changing difference? Contact us today to find out how!



THINK ABOUT IT | One year of primary school increases a child's future earning potential by 15%.